CONTENTS.

1. Correspondence between the Government of India and the Secretary of State regarding the Famine in Bengal, 1874. Part I. pp. 1-115.

2. dto. Part II. pp.116-240.

3. dto. Part III. pp.241-334.

4. dto. Part IV. pp.335-430.

5. dto. Part V. pp.431-517.

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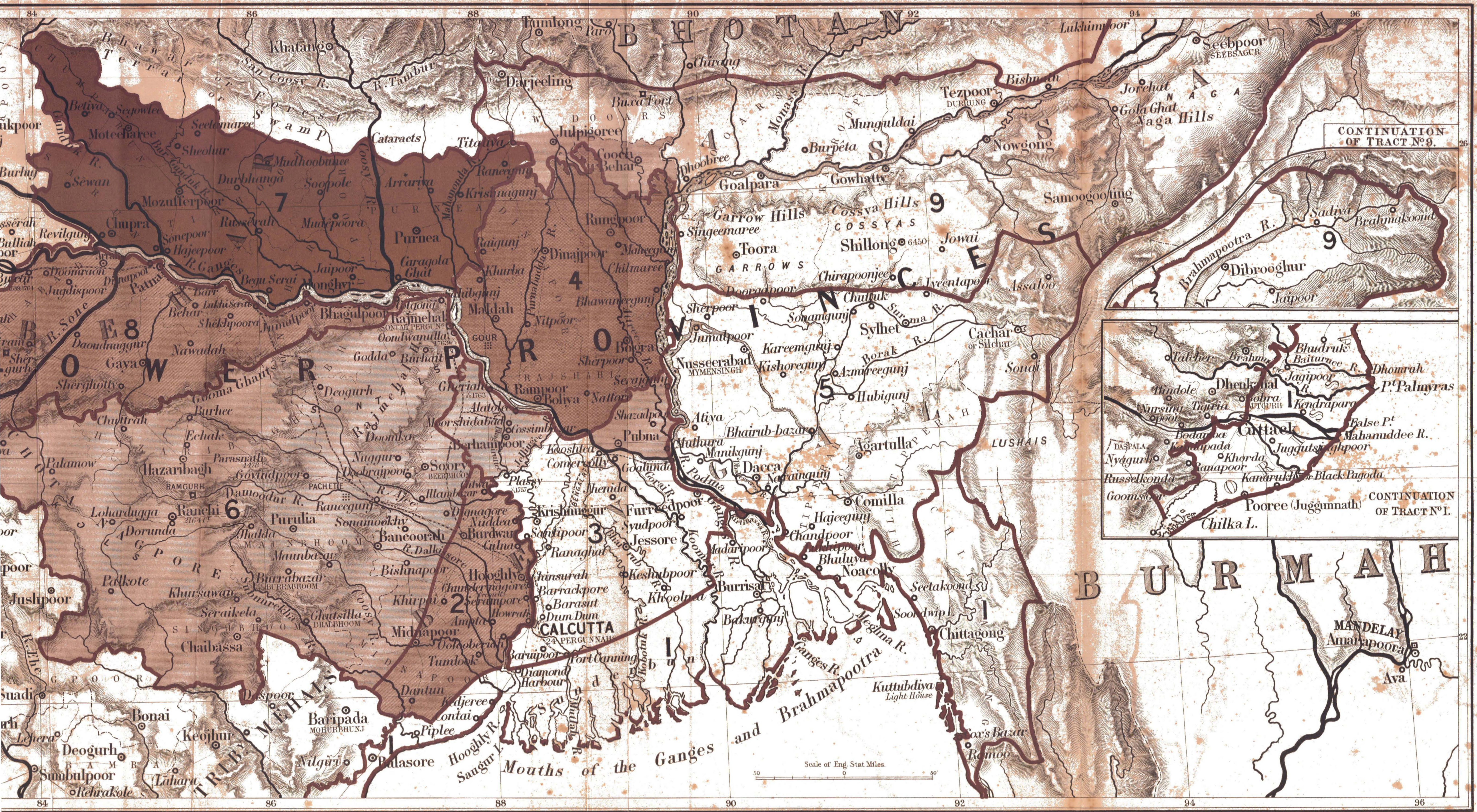
84
86
88
90
92
94
96
BHOTAN
Tumlong
Paro
Khatang
Chirang
Lukhimpoor
Seebpoor
SEEBSAGUR
Bhawar or Terrai or Forest Swamp
San Coosy R.
R. Tambur
Darjeeling
Buxa Fort
W. DOOARS
Monass R.
Bishnath
Tezpoor
DURRUNG
Jorehat
Gola Ghat
Naga Hills
NAGAS
CONTINUATION OF TRACT No. 9.
Betiya
Segowlee
Motecharee
Seetamaree
Sheohur
Mudhoobunee
Cataracts
Titaliya
Julpigoree
Cooch Behar
Munguldai
Burpeta
Nowgong
Sewan
Durbhanga
Soopole
Arrariya
Raneegunj
Krishnagunj
Coosy R.
Dhoobree
Goalpara
Gowhatty
Samoogooting
Mozufferpoor
7
PURNEA
Russerah
Mudepoora
Purnea
Rungpoor
Garrow Hills
Cossya Hills
COSSYAS
9
Sadiya
Brahmakoond
Chupra
Revilgunj
Bulliah
Sonepoor
Hajeepoor
R. Ganges
Raigunj
Dinajpoor
Maleegunj
Chilmaree
Singeemaree
Toora
GARROWS
Shillong
6450
Jowai
Brahmapootra R.
Dibrooghur
Caragola Ghat
Jaipoor
Begu Serai
Monghyr
Khurba
Purnabudda R.
4
Chirapoonjee
Jyeentapoor
Assaloo
Doomraon
Jugdispoor
Dinapoor
Patna
Behar
Lukhi Serai
Shekhpoora
Jumalpoor
Bhagulpoor
Rajmehal
SONTAL PERGUNS
Oondwanulla
1763
Maldah
Nitpoor
Bhawaneegunj
Dooradpoor
Sherpoor
Chuttuk
Sonamgunj
Surma R.
Cachar or Silchar
Sona
R. Sone
E8
Daoudnuggur
Nawadah
Gaya
Shergotty
LOWER PROVINCES
Godda
Burhait
GOUR
Sherpoor
RAJSHAHI
Bogra
Serajgunj
Rampoor Boliya
Nattore
Jumalpoor
Nusseerabad
MYMENSINGH
Kishoregunj
Kareemgunj
Sylhet
Borak R.
Azmireegunj
5
Hubigunj
Gooma Ghauts
Deogurh
Rajmehal Hills
Gheriah
Alatolee
Moorshidabad
Cossimbazar
Doomka
Shazadpoor
Pubna
Atiya
Bhairub-bazar
Agartulla
TIPPERAH
LUSHAIS
Burhee
Chuttrah
Echak
Palamow
Hazaribagh
Parasnath
1478
Govindpoor
RAMGURH
PACHETE
Nuggur
Doobrajpoor
Soory
BEERBHOOM
Berhampoor
Kooshtea
Comercolly
Goalundo
Mutlura
Manikgunj
Dacca
Narainguuj
Plassy
1757
Jhenida
Damoodur R.
Raneegunj
Illambazar
R. Ajee
Cutwa
Loharduga
Ranchi
2164
6
Purulia
Sonamookhy
Bancoorah
Dignagore
Nuddea
Burdwan
Culna
Krishnuggur
Santipoor
Ranaghat
3
Furreedpoor
Syudpoor
Jessore
Comilla
Hajeegunj
Chandpoor
Dorunda
CHOTA NAGPORE
Maunbhoom
Maunbazar
Bishnapoor
R. Dalkissore
Madaripoor
Lukhipoor
Bhuluya
Noacolly
Palkote
Burrabazar
BURRABHOOM
Hooghly
Chinsurah
Barrackpore
Keshubpoor
Burrisal
Seetakoond
BURMAH
Jushpoor
Khursawan
Seraikela
Khirpai
Chundernagore
Serampore
Howrah
2
Barasut
Dum Dum
Khoolna
Soondwip I.
Chaibassa
SINGHBHOOM
Ghatsilla
DHALBHOOM
Midnapoor
Amptah
CALCUTTA
24 PERGUNNAHS
Bakurgunj
Meghna R.
Chittagong
MANDELAY
Amarapoora
Ava
Ooloobeeriah
Tumlook
Baruipoor
Fort Canning
Ganges R.
Brahmapootra
Diamond Harbour
Sunderbun
Kuttubdiya Light House
R. Ebe
GANGPOOR
Suadi
Bonai
Dantun
Kedjeree
Contai
Dispoor
Baripada
MOHURBHUNJ
TRIB. MEHALS
Keojhur
Deogurh
BAMRA
Lehera
Piplee
Hooghly R.
Saugur I.
Mutlah R.
Cox's Bazar
Ramoo
Sumbulpoor
Lahara
Rehrakole
Nilgiri
Balasore
Mouths of the Ganges and Brahmapootra
Scale of Eng. Stat. Miles.
50
0
50
Talcher
Brahmani
Bhudruk
Baiturnee R.
Dhomrah
Jagipoor
Hindole
Dhenkanal
P.t Palmyras
Nursingpoor
Tigiria
Kendrapara
UTGURH
DASPALA
Bodamba
Cuttack
False P.t
Mahanuddee R.
Nyagurh
Kantilpada
Khorda
Juggutsinghpoor
Russelkonda
Ranapoor
Kanaruk or Black Pagoda
ORISSA
Goomsoor
Pooree (Juggunnath)
Chilka L.
CONTINUATION OF TRACT No. I.
1
22
26

THE MONTHLY REVIEWS OF THE DISTRICT REPORTS.

EXPLANATION.

1.

LOWER DELTA AND LITTORAL DISTRICTS.

Midnapore, part of
Jessore, part of
Backergunje
Noakhally
Chittagong
Cuttack
Balasore
Pooree

2.

WESTERN BENGAL (BELOW THE UPLANDS).

Burdwan
Hooghly with Howrah
Midnapore, part of

3.

CENTRAL DELTA DISTRICTS.

24 Purgunnahs
Nuddea
Moorshedabad
Fureedpore
Pubna
Jessore, part of

4.

NORTHERN BENGAL DISTRICTS.

Rajshaye
Maldah
Dinagepore
Bograh
Rungpore

5.

EASTERN BENGAL DISTRICTS.

Dacca
Mymensing
Sylhet
Tipperah
Cachar

6.

UPLAND BENGAL AND CHOTA NAGPORE.

Bancoorah
Beerbhoom
Midnapore, part of
Maunbhoom
Hazareebaugh
Lohardugga
Singhbhoom
Sonthal Purgunnahs
Bhaugulpore, part of
Monghyr, part of

7.

NORTHERN BEHAR DISTRICTS.

Tirhoot
Sarun
Chumparun
Bhaugulpore, part of
Monghyr, part of
Purneah

8.

SOUTH BEHAR DISTRICTS.

Patna
Gyah
Shahabad
Bhaugulpore, part of
Monghyr, part of

9.

ASSAM AND HILL DISTRICTS.

Darjeeling
Julpigoree
Cooch Behar
Goalparah
Kamroop
Durrung
Nowgong
Seebsaugor
Luckimpore
Naga, Kasi, and Garo Hills

REFERENCE TO THE COLOURING.

The Tracts suffering or threatened with Famine are coloured; and the Degrees of Distress are indicated by the strength of the colouring.

CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

AND

THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN COUNCIL,

RELATIVE TO

THE FAMINE IN BENGAL.

PART I.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1874.

955.] *Price* 2*s*. 6*d*.

MEMORANDUM TO PREFACE PART I.

This Collection contains all the Despatches of the Government of India in reference to the Famine, all the narratives of the Government of Bengal, and all communications that have passed between the two Governments. Many documents are referred to in these papers which are not printed on account of their enormous bulk; but any of them can be given if desired.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 9 of 1873.

Government of India.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

To His Grace the Right Honorable the Duke of Argyll, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Duke, Simla, the 30th October 1873.

We regret to have to inform Your Grace that we have received from the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal accounts which give rise to serious apprehension that the failure of the crops in a great part of that Presidency will occasion severe distress, if not worse results.

2. We enclose a copy of Sir George Campbell's letter, together with the last reports of the rainfall and of the state of the crops in Bengal, and also of the telegraphic communications which have passed between him and the Viceroy.

3. Even if the worst anticipations should not be realized, it is obvious that considerable distress will have to be encountered in the winter and spring, and under those circumstances we have thought it desirable to give instructions for the carrying on at once of some extensions of the Soane Canal, which will afford employment to the people in the neighbourhood of Patna, and also to anticipate Your Grace's sanction to the commencement of the Northern Bengal railroad, which extends through a portion of the country where the failure has been severe.

4. Your Grace will observe that Sir George Campbell, in his letter of the 22nd instant, advocates the immediate prohibition of the export of rice from all Indian ports. We have not thought it desirable to issue this order, and it appears to us to be probable that the wiser course will be to obtain any supplies of rice which may be necessary by purchase, directly or indirectly, rather than to take a step which must necessarily derange trade, give occasion to claims to compensation which it would be difficult to adjust, and which might not add materially to the stock of rice available to meet the apprehended scarcity.

5. The Viceroy has decided to proceed at once to Calcutta with Sir Richard Temple for the purpose of arranging, in consultation with Sir George Campbell, the best measures for meeting a crisis which we fear must in any case be serious. We have every confidence in the zeal, ability, and courage of Sir George Campbell, and we feel convinced that everything in his power will be done to prepare for the danger which may have to be encountered. In the meantime we have authorised Sir George Campbell, who is now at Patna, to use his discretion with respect to commencing relief works, and arranging for the importation of grain, where this may appear to him to be necessary, and where he does not expect that it will be provided for by traders. We have also telegraphed to the Governor of Madras and the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, with the view of ascertaining what amount of rice can be obtained within the next three months from Madras and from Burmah, and the manner in which it can be purchased and transmitted to Calcutta with the least interference with private trade.

6. We have also called for information from the Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Provinces and the Chief Commissioner of Oudh with respect to the surplus supply of grain which may be obtained in Oudh and in the North-Western Provinces.

We have the honour to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient humble Servants,
(Signed) NORTHBROOK.
NAPIER OF MAGDALA.
R. TEMPLE.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

ENCLOSURES of (Agriculture and Horticulture) Despatch No. 9, dated 30th October 1873.

No. 50 T, dated Hazareebaugh, the 22nd October 1873.

From H. L. JOHNSON, Esq., Private Secretary, for Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the General and Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

As long as there was any hope that the fall of rain which frequently occurs in October would very much alter the whole state of things, the Lieutenant-Governor has refrained from officially addressing the Government of India on the subject of the apprehensions which the crop reports have made manifest. Till now we could only wait and hope. But the time has come when it is the Lieutenant-Governor's very painful duty to report that throughout the greater part of these provinces the shortness and early cessation of the rains has caused irreparable injury, and that in the absence of all symptom of any return of rain up to this date, 22nd October, it is impossible to avoid the gravest apprehensions of general scarcity throughout the country, and worse evils in large parts of it.

2. The most immediate fear appears to be for the very thickly populated Patna Division. Except in the north-east portion the total rain-fall of that division has not, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, been so much below the average as in other parts of these provinces, but it has been distributed in the most unfortunate manner. Here, as elsewhere, the rains were extraordinarily late; when they came they were so heavy in some parts of the division that very great injury was reported to have been done to the early crop called locally the Bhadoee (Indian corn and the like) by excessive rain; at some places it was even said to have been entirely ruined. The late rice crop, however, seems to have been pretty well started everywhere, except in the north-east, and if the rains had lasted as long as usual, the result might have been fair. Unhappily the rains may be said to have closed before the middle of September, and the crop already very late has more and more suffered; the hope of saving it gradually diminishing as time passed without rain, and being now reduced to the lowest, since the October rains have so far failed, and seem likely to fail altogether. Not only is much of the rice crop irreparably gone, and much of the remainder almost gone, but the continued drought has given rise to the greatest fears for the cold weather crops, which are an important staple in the Patna Division. If there is no rain in the next few days, and the rubbee sowings do not give both immediate employment and hopes for the future, distress and difficulty of a serious character may be almost immediate in this division.

3. Throughout almost the whole of the remainder of these provinces the rains have been not only very late to commence and very early to cease, but have been in quantity below the average in amount to an extraordinary degree. This has been most markedly the case in the tracts north of the Ganges and near the Himalayas, which are usually great rice-producing countries, the north-east of Behar, and the north of Bengal, Dinajpore, Rungpore, and almost the whole of the Rajshahye Division. In parts of this usually moist tract the rain-fall has hardly exceeded that which is usual in the driest parts of the North-Western Provinces. It is in this tract that the greatest failure has taken place. Possibly in the moister and less populous parts even failure may not be so complete and ruinous as further west, but in the west of this tract there may be said to be already panic.

4. In Calcutta and the neighbouring districts the rain-fall has been below the average to an extraordinary degree. The tanks about the Lieutenant-Governor's residence have never once been half-filled. The rain was, however, well distributed so long as it lasted, and there have been in these parts a few irregular and partial showers here and there in the first half of October. There seems to be reason to hope that in the moister districts, *e.g.*, the 24-Pergunnahs, the crop may so far escape that, though injured, it will not wholly fail. In Western Bengal, where the soil is higher and drier, the apprehensions are of a much graver character. In Eastern Bengal, usually the granary of these provinces, we may hope that there will be no actual want of grain for local consumption, but it will be a very bad feature of the case if, as is feared, the crops are there so short that the usual exports are impossible.

In Orissa only, the scene of the last great misfortune, there has been good rain in October, and the prospects are good. But Orissa is a very small province, and its surplus supply must be in a comparatively small scale. The rice-producing district of Backergunge also seems to have had rain.

5. Hope of a late fall of rain has hitherto so much buoyed people up and kept down prices, that it is impossible yet to form a confident opinion of the actual results, but the time has come when within a very short period the fate of the crops throughout the country generally must be known. The Lieutenant-Governor has already taken every means to obtain information, and now that the issue cannot be long doubtful, he is about to go to take counsel on the spot with the Commissioner of Patna, and otherwise to make such inquiries and arrangements as circumstances may suggest.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that if, unhappily, the necessity is undoubted, he may have authority to make immediate arrangements for relief works, and any importations which may seem possible and are not likely to be effected by private enterprise. He trusts that immediate authority will be given to him to exercise his discretion in this respect.

7. The Lieutenant-Governor also begs to suggest that the export of rice to foreign countries from the Indian dominions should be stopped. In the face of a general failure in Bengal, any

supply that could be derived from British Burmah, the Godavery and Kistna Districts and Orissa would go but a very little way, and if, as is believed, the premature cessation of the rains has extended to the North-Western Provinces, we probably cannot expect help from that quarter. If any change due to an unexpected rain-fall should occur, it must be before orders can be passed on this letter, and such a measure as the stoppage of foreign exports carried into effect. If before then no rain has fallen, every grain of rice will be wanted.

Telegram, dated the 25th October 1873.

From Viceroy, Simla, to Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Hazareebagh.

Do you wish any communication made to Burmah with reference to the possibility of having to buy rice for Bengal?

Telegram, dated the 27th October 1873.

From Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, to Viceroy, Simla.

Your telegram. See my letter of the 22nd to the Agricultural Department. Things look as bad as possible. I think that the sooner we buy rice in Burmah the better. I shall be at Bankipore to-day.

Telegram, dated the 27th October 1873.

From Viceroy, Simla, to Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Bankipore,

Clear the line. Your letter 22nd and telegram 27th. Orders will be given at once to proceed with Soane Canal and Northern Bengal Railway works. You are authorised to act as you think best as to the other relief works and importations. I leave Umballa for Calcutta on Wednesday evening to meet you and arrange further measures. If you wish to join me on the way telegraph where.

Telegram, dated the 28th October 1873.

From Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Bankipore, to Viceroy, Simla.

Clear the line. I go from this to Bhaugulpore on Wednesday; will meet your Lordship at Luckeeserai or Burdwan. Please telegraph exact time. If convenient, will be glad to receive your Lordship at Belvedere. Inquiries proceeding here. On the whole I think rain within ten days or fortnight might avert great suffering here, failing that there will be much distress. State of Bengal Proper not yet realised.

Note.—The Duke of Argyll replied to this despatch on the 1st December 1873. A copy of His Grace's despatch is given on page 51 of the Abstract. [Command Paper 933 of 1874.]

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

No. A. of 1873.

To the Right Honourable the DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD DUKE, The 7th November 1873.

I HAVE the honor to inform your Grace that I arrived at Calcutta on the 31st ultimo, accompanied by Sir Richard Temple. We saw Mr. Bayley, the Commissioner of Patna, on the road. Sir George Campbell met us at Burdwan, and proceeded with us to Calcutta.

2. Since my arrival I have been in constant communication with Sir George Campbell, and have obtained from the British and Native Commercial community much useful information upon the prospects of the Province.

3. The reports from Behar, as your Grace will perceive from the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 5th instant, have by no means improved, nor are those from the rest of the Province reassuring. The failure of a large portion of the autumn rice crop is now certain. In many parts the spring crop is not yet sown, and the possibility of cultivating the land for that crop depends upon a speedy fall of rain. From further accounts received there have been some showers in Rajshahye, Moorshedabad, Hooghly, Raneegunge, Bheerbhoom, Bhaugulpore, the 24-Pergunnahs, and parts of Jessore; but it is not considered probable that any considerable fall of rain will occur in the course of this month.

4. According to our present knowledge, the condition of things throughout the Province is as follows: In Behar, comprising the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions, with a population of 20 millions, the failure of the rice crop has been very general, and the prospects of the spring crop are bad. The Division of Rajshahye, with a population of 9 millions, is affected in the same manner as Behar, but the failure of the rice crop has not been so complete, and the prospects of the spring crop are somewhat better.

5. In the Burdwan, Presidency, and Cooch Behar Divisions, with a population of 14½ millions, there has been a considerable amount of failure, but it is hoped that the results may not be very serious.

6. In the Dacca, Chittagong, Chota Nagpore, and Assam Divisions, with a population of 19 millions, there has been a failure of the rice-crop in some districts, but on the whole there may be expected to be a surplus of rice available for export, although less than in ordinary years. The district of Backergunge, in the Dacca Division, which ordinarily exports rice largely, has not materially suffered.

7. In the Orissa Division alone, with a population of 4½ millions, are the reports altogether satisfactory.

8. In the rest of India, as your Grace will see from the reports published in the *Gazette of India* of the 1st of November, the crops are generally good, with the exception of Oude, and the Benares Division of the North-Western Provinces, which have suffered in part from the want of rain which has affected Behar. Sir William Muir informs me that the Eastern districts of the North-Western Provinces, where the rains hardly ever fail, have had, on the whole, a scanty supply. The rice has suffered, and unless more rain should fall, there will be difficulty in ploughing for the autumn sowings. Some scarcity and distress is, therefore, apprehended in the Benares Division. From Allahabad northwards the prospects are better, and in the North-West they are very favourable. Sir George Couper reports that the autumn crop in Oude, owing to the paucity of rain, is not above half the average, with the exception of maize, which is plentiful, and that the usual area has not been sown for the spring crop, owing to the want of rain, so that it is to be feared that the harvest will not, even with the most favourable Christmas rains, yield much more than two-thirds of the average.

9. Your Grace will observe that so much depends upon the result of the spring crop that it is impossible at the present time to foresee the effect which the drought will have upon the food resources of the country during the coming year, and the necessary information can hardly be completely obtained before the middle of January next.

Enclosure C., page 8.

10. A memorandum written by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal on the 29th of October, after personal communication with the officers of the Patna Division, and the reports of the Commissioner and local officers, which I have the honour to enclose, will put your Grace in possession of the latest information from that Division.

11. All the recommendations of the Commissioner of Patna have been complied with, and he did not, when I saw him, anticipate any serious distress before the beginning of next year.

Enclosure D., page 10.

12. The general result of the anxious consideration which I have given to the present state of affairs is embodied in the accompanying Resolution of Government, in framing which I have had the great advantage of the assistance of Sir Richard Temple, and in which he entirely concurs.

13. I have but little to add to what is stated in that Resolution.

14. The prohibition of all export of grain from British Indian ports is strongly advocated by the native press, and is still recommended by Sir George Campbell.

It is a course which does not commend itself to my judgment. It is probable, from the experience of former years and the information which is available as to the supplies of food grain in India, that the deficiency in Bengal and Behar can be met without recourse to importations from abroad; in the term 'abroad' I include British Burma, for Burmese rice is not imported into Bengal in ordinary years.

The rise of prices which has occurred, and which, if the prospects should become worse, must increase, will, in my opinion, of itself prevent any considerable export of the common classes of grain from Indian ports proper, and if it reaches 4 rupees a maund, it would, according to the best information I can obtain, probably bring a considerable amount of Burmese rice into the Calcutta market.

Your Grace will observe from the enclosed return that the principal exports of rice from British Indian ports begins in February, before which time there will be full information as to the probable wants of Bengal, which information must necessarily operate upon prices.

15. To prohibit exports would have the effect of artificially reducing prices at the commencement of a season of scarcity, and moreover it would shake the confidence of the mercantile classes in the determination of Government to maintain the utmost freedom of trade as the best preservative against famine, and so by checking commercial operations cut off sources of supply from without which would naturally come to our aid in time of need.

16. The general principles which should guide the Government in times of scarcity were enunciated by the Government of India in 1868 after the experience of the famine in Orissa, which extended to the same districts which have suffered on the present occasion, and I have only to add that I concur generally in the opinions then expressed.

17. Experience shows that the great difficulty in India lies more in the obstacles to the transit of grain presented by the situation of some parts of the country in the case of a sudden demand, than in any deficiency of supplies in the great marts situated upon or in the neighbourhood of lines of railway or river communication. In order to guard against the people suffering in such cases, I have, as your Grace will observe from the 26th paragraph of the resolution, authorised advances to be made to Zemindars and others, who may consent to import grain from a distance into such exceptionally situated districts, and sell it to the people in their neighbourhood.

18. The Government of India and the Government of Bengal will also purchase a certain amount of grain in order to secure a supply to the labourers employed on Government works. These purchases will be made through the trade, and appear to me to be a perfectly legitimate course of action. I have been assured upon good authority that they are not likely to have an injurious effect upon the trade.

19. It may be interesting to your Grace to know that the East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways can each carry 2,000 tons of grain a day without deranging their ordinary traffic, and could increase that quantity if necessary. From the 8th to the 26th of October, 335,000 maunds, or about 12,000 tons of food grains, were despatched by the East Indian Railway from Howrah and Chandernagore to the districts where the rice crop has failed. The goods traffic of the East Indian Railway for the week ending the 25th of October was 300,000 maunds above the corresponding week of last year. There has been the greatest activity in the grain trade all over Bengal, and Sir William Muir assures me that his experience of 1868–69 showed that there would be no want of private enterprise in the transport trade, wherever there are good roads or railways.

20. Sir George Campbell thinks, and I agree with him, that it would be premature to call a public meeting, appoint a Central Relief Committee, and appeal to the public for subscriptions, until a better estimate can be formed of the amount of distress there is likely to be, which, in order to prevent loss of life, must be met by the distribution of food; but preparations will be made for the constitution of local relief Committees at once, so as to be ready when the time of action arrives.

21. Your Grace will see from the Report of the Orissa Commission and from Mr. Cockrell's report of the distress in Behar in the same year, the importance of taking the distress in time, and Her Majesty's Government may rely upon the Government of India not shrinking from using every available means, at whatever cost, to prevent, so far as they can, any loss of the lives of Her Majesty's subjects in consequence of the calamity which now threatens Bengal.

22. In conclusion I have to inform your Grace that I thought it desirable to prevent any unusual assemblages of people in the districts which may be affected by the rise of prices. I have therefore put off the Durbars at Agra and Lucknow, countermanded the Kirwee Camp of Exercise, and requested the Commander-in-Chief to reduce as far as possible the force which was to be collected at the Roorkee Camp.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servant,
NORTHBROOK.

Enclosure C. to foregoing Despatch.

Patna, Oct. 29th, 1873.

I HAVE now had the advantage of discussing the food prospects of this division with the Commissioner, with local officers of most of the districts, and with several persons, European and native, who have a good knowledge of the country.

The season may still be very materially affected by an early fall of rain, but there is so little prospect of this, that we must face the question on the supposition that there will be no rain in time for the rubbee sowings.

In this view, I fear there is entire unanimity that the prospects are extremely bad, at least as bad as, if not worse, than any year within recent memory. Except in very low-lying places, and in the lands near the course of the great rivers subject to flood, there must be very great failure of both the kurreef and rubbee crops—not mere shortness of crops, but disastrous failure; the greater part of the rice lands not producing at all, and the greater part of the rubbee not being sown or not germinating.

I don't feel that we have the means of forming even an approximate estimate of the stocks in hand, or the degree to which, if well distributed, they will suffice to keep the country alive till another harvest. All that can be said is that the general tendency of opinions on this subject is very gloomy. Yet, although the failure has now been for some weeks impending, and the people are thoroughly alive to it, there has been little symptom of panic, and the course of prices has not yet been so unfavourable as we might expect at this season when the country is alarmed to the last degree; rice in most places has not reached what can be called an actual famine price, and the cheaper grains, maize especially, have up to this time been procurable at rates which I may call surprising. Though the "bhadoee" crop, which produces these grains, has been very short in some parts of Behar, it has produced tolerably in others. In the face of the rice failure, wherever there has been much maize, it has been, and I believe is, selling at prices far better than famine prices; in some parts of the country almost cheap, the circumstances considered. I am told that planters and others who desire to lay in stocks have been able to get maize north of the Ganges, not only at comparatively cheap prices, but in considerable quantity. A great peculiarity of the present failure is that it is greatest in the parts of the country which ordinarily export the most food. We cannot tell whether actual want will be most felt in those exporting tracts, where a considerable failure would not bring the food-supply below local wants; or in those other tracts in the division which have hitherto to some extent depended on a large import now cut off. Hitherto, importation from outside has been entirely confined to the districts of the division south of the Ganges, where the shortness of the usual rainfall has been less marked, and the local failure of the crops less complete, than in the northern tracts, and even yet the usual local export from the north to the south has not quite ceased. It should be mentioned, however, that exportation from the Nepal Terai into our territories (usually a large source of supply) has been wholly stopped by the Nepal Government on account of the scarcity there. On the whole question of importing food, only this can be said, that the division, as a whole, has begun to import largely from outside, and must continue to import; but to what extent this necessity will go we cannot yet estimate, nor can we tell in what parts of the division food will be most wanted. We do not know whether it will be enough to supply from the outside those parts which usually receive supplies from *within* the division, or whether the parts which usually export very largely, and still export rather than import, must eventually be supplied. All the accounts seem to show the failure of the great rice tracts in the north to be so complete that to supply them will be a great and most difficult task, unless they have great reserves in hand, such as we cannot trace. The sale of the maize up to this moment is the only symptom which seems to militate against the belief that food in these parts must fail. I very much fear that in some large tracts, as in the north-east of Tirhoot, it is almost impossible that the food-supply can suffice, since in such tracts there is very little grown but rice, and that is a failure. I don't doubt that the tide of trade is turning, and that Durbangah and places similarly situated must import, but to what extent we cannot tell.

We cannot say how soon there may be panic in the grain trade, causing local scarcity and want in many places, long before the stocks are actually exhausted.

As long as there is plenty of rice in Calcutta and the districts from which Calcutta draws supplies, we may presume that if the greatest possible railway and other facilities are afforded, the spontaneous rice import which has already set in, will continue. The question, whether it is necessary to bring rice in great quantities from beyond sea to Patna, depends on the state of the Bengal markets, which we will deal with in Calcutta.

Already it has been arranged that Colonel Burn shall import rice from Calcutta in behalf of the Durbangah estate.

The general food-supply however apart, this is certain that if no providential rainfall comes very soon the distress among the poorer classes of this very populous division must be very great indeed, in the course of the many months which must pass before the earliest crop of another rainy season can be reaped. So much is certain. Whatever be extent of the deficiency of food in the country, and the degree to which it must be imported, it must be very dear, and the poorer classes who have no reserve either of grain or money must be unable to get it without assistance. Relief works all over the country will be clearly necessary.

So long as there is question whether the food in the country and spontaneously flowing into it will suffice if only distributed, and so long as distress has not reached a very extreme point, it may suffice to offer work and pay in money. But when it is evident that the food-supply is wholly deficient, and a large proportion of the population must receive relief, I believe that relief works are of little use unless food is supplied to the labourers. Money, then, only raises the price and affects the distribution of food without increasing the total food-supply. It might be that those who work are in this case better off than they otherwise would be; but large classes who do not go to work till they are at the last extremity, and who suffer the most of all, would suffer more than if no work was going.

The general rule I would follow would be, not to import on the part of Government to supply the general market and to compete with the traders in a part of the country where there are active traders, as is here the case, but to import for relief works, so that relief of this kind should be a relief given by a clear addition to the resources of the affected tract, and not by taking food from one man to give to another. I think that all the local officers should set themselves to devise the means by which food for the purpose I have indicated may be transported to the parts where they see the greatest prospect of a necessity for large relief works. Meantime, although, while people are occupied in the attempt to save crops still alive, and there is a possibility of rubbee sowings, there will probably be little or no seeking for labour, I much feel the truth of what the Commissioner and several officers have said, that there is much danger that people will keep away from relief works till they are half-starved, and I believe we cannot too soon open works sufficient to—

1. Accustom the people to the knowledge that work is available to them.
2. Test the state of the country.

Although the greatest distress usually does not come till a good deal later in the season, I think it very probable that as soon as all hope of farther rubbee sowings is past, there may be many people in want of work, the ordinary field-work being stopped. At any rate there always is in these parts a certain labouring population, and the extent to which works draw this population, and after them tap strata, gradually deeper and deeper, of people not accustomed to ordinary hired labour, will be the surest index to the amount of want in the country. It is an index which must be read with much care and thought. In the early times of scarcity and famine, every one person not accustomed to hired labour who comes to the works indicates the distress of ten, or it may be a hundred, who have not come. This symptom then must be very narrowly watched.

In this view I have told the district officers that they should lose no time in commencing ordinary earth-work on roads, &c. at as many places as possible. I am glad to find that their attention has been already given to the point, and they have generally work of some kind ready which can be advantageously undertaken without delay. This they will do, giving the ordinary wages of the country; and by the aid of their general information, and the index afforded by the works in hand, they will judge of the necessity of more extended works and food relief in each part of the country. I have told them that as soon as the demand for labour exceeds the resources of their local funds, money for works where relief is necessary will be supplied without stint. The great thing is that they should prepare beforehand, and peg out (by a centre line only) roads and other works on which relief labour may be expended to the permanent advantage of the country.

I have discussed with the Commissioner, and he will note some poor and isolated tracts in which there is special necessity to be prepared with work.

The canal works will afford very large employment to the people of Shahabad and Gya, and will be rapidly pushed on with that object. I have seen Mr. Levinge, and am sure that he can be depended on to do all that is possible to assist the people in this emergency. He has already done very much by giving irrigation where it had not been expected that we could do so.

The system of roads from west to east, *i.e.*, from Tirhoot towards the labour-absorbing districts of the east, which I have already indicated as a great desideratum to facilitate movements of the population, will be put in hand at once. Mr. Stevens, the Durbhangah engineer, who has a great knowledge of the country, will undertake the arrangement of these lines so far as they are within this division, and I hope that some of the engineers of the North Bengal Railway will take them up for the Government.

The Commissioner and Manager have already arranged a large scheme of minor relief works on the Durbhangah estates, and similar preparations should be made on other Wards' estates. The Commissioner will occupy himself in settling the works in the various districts that may best be undertaken. I have authorised the entertainment of special men for the design and superintendence of works. Mr. Bayley is to-day submitting a report, and I hope that his report with this note will give a sufficient summary of the knowledge which we have yet gained of the prospects of the Patna Division.

GEORGE CAMPBELL.

29/10/73.

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, Extraordinary. Published by Authority. Calcutta, Friday, November 7th, 1873.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

RESOLUTION by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

Fort William, the 7th November 1873.

The periodical reports of the state of the crops published in the *Calcutta Gazette* have shown that the autumn harvest of rice will fail to a large extent in many districts of the provinces of Bengal and Behar, and that in some districts of the province of Behar especially there is reason to fear that the harvest of the coming spring will partially fail also. These prospects may yet be modified for the better, or for the worse, by the condition of the weather during the next three months.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal brought these grave circumstances to the notice of the Government of India at the earliest possible moment. No time has been lost in devising, in concert with His Honour, the measures and the policy best adapted to avert the distress which threatens extensive and populous tracts of country, for it is certain that such losses must occur as will cause severe pressure on some classes of the population in many districts during a period of several months.

3. As some little time must elapse before the extent of the evil can be fully known, the conduct to be pursued by the Government cannot at present be exactly decided. But the Governor General, fully recognising the advantage of publicity on such an occasion, will state the views and intentions of the Government of India so far as they can now be determined.

4. Various suggestions have been received to the effect that the Government should interfere with the trade in grain, either by prohibiting the exportation of this most important article, or by undertaking the general purchase and distribution of it throughout large tracts of country, or by regulating in some manner the prices of it in the markets. Without making any pledge as to what may or may not be done, in the event of extreme necessity arising which cannot now be foreseen, the Government is not prepared to adopt any such measures, and would always avoid them, so far or so long as they could possibly be avoided.

5. The Governor General has full confidence that the energy and enterprise of those engaged in the internal trade of British India will prove equal to the occasion, and that supplies (excepting under the conditions to be noticed hereafter) will generally be at hand to meet any deficiencies of grain in different parts of the country.

6. It has been officially reported that on the very first appearance of the prospect of a short autumn harvest large quantities of grain were imported into the trade centres of Behar, and much evidence has since been received to the effect that grain is being despatched by the merchants without any delay or hesitation to the principal marts in the districts likely to be affected by scarcity. The Governor General is sanguine that the same commercial activity will prevail wherever it is needed, and that it will become greater and greater according as the demand for it may be intensified.

7. It has, however, been proved, by the sad experience of famines in India, that exceptional circumstances may arise whereby numbers of persons may be exposed to danger of starvation, or to disease arising from want of food. In all such cases, where human life may be at stake, the Government and its officers will do their utmost to apply the most effectual remedy that may be practicable, and will strive, by forethought and management, to prevent the occurrence of any such misfortunes.

8. There are certain respects and particulars in which the Government, while abstaining from interference with the ordinary course of trade, can render assistance towards mitigating the effects of scarcity.

9. In the first place the opportunity will be taken to prosecute with vigour the execution of public works in those districts where large numbers of persons are, or will soon be, in need of employment or in distress.

10. Orders have been given by the Government of India to enlarge the operations on the canal from the river Soane, and to begin the Northern Bengal State Railway in anticipation of the sanction of the Secretary of State, for both which works plans and estimates are ready, which works, too, will be carried on in the midst of the districts where want of employment must be most felt, and are calculated to benefit the country generally, and especially to prevent or lessen the occurrence of scarcity in future.

11. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has been authorised to begin immediately such public works (in addition to those already in progress) as can be usefully undertaken in distressed districts, whether from funds granted by the Government of India, or from provincial funds, or from local resources.

12. The requirements for labour on all these public works will afford employment to large numbers who, by reason of the cessation or the slackness of the usual agricultural operations in a season of scarcity, may be thrown out of work.

13. Thus considerable bodies of men will be congregated on or near the works at a distance from their homes, and often in localities remote from the established markets. It will be necessary, therefore, that sufficient supplies of food be collected for their sustenance. If the

accumulation of such supplies be left to the ordinary course of commerce, special pressure will be put on the grain trade in certain localities at the very time when all its resources are being taxed for the general supply of the province or district. And if the wages were to be paid in cash to so large an aggregate of labourers an extraordinary rise of prices would be created by the action of Government, thereby aggravating the crisis in districts already placed in critical circumstances, and so far counteracting the benefit which the works were intended to secure, namely, the mitigation of the effect of the scarcity.

14. Now, in regard to those public works carried on under the orders either of the Supreme Government or of the Local Government, the State will be in the position of an employer of labour on an unusually large scale, and is justified in doing that which all other employers do, namely, selecting the mode of remunerating its workpeople most acceptable to them and most suitable to the surrounding circumstances. Such mode of remuneration will generally be payment in kind, that is, in food grain. For this particular purpose, then, sufficient supplies of grain will be purchased and laid in both by the Government of India and by the Local Government for the public works under their charge respectively. These supplies will be obtained in such a manner as to interfere as little as possible with the trade in grain and with the supplies of food ordinarily available for consumption in the neighbourhood of the works, or within the area of the distressed districts. The Governor General relies on the carefulness of the Local Government in making provision with this view. For the works to be carried on from imperial funds, the Supreme Government has resolved, in regard to its liability for the maintenance of the labourers, to arrange for obtaining supplies from provinces beyond the limits of the territories affected by the failure of the crops in Bengal and Behar. The Government of Madras and the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah have accordingly been requested to make purchases gradually, through the agency of the trade, for this purpose.

15. The future arrangements for the supply of food grain for the labourers on the public works will be strictly limited according to the requirement and to the purpose in view.

16. Besides the works just described, which are to be undertaken by the Government, there are many public improvements which can be undertaken, either by corporations or other bodies, such as municipalities and trusts. For loans of money from the Government treasury to such corporations ample provision is made by Act XXIV. of 1871 (the Local Public Works Loan Act). In some cases, under the rules recently promulgated in accordance with the Act, the Lieutenant-Governor is competent to make the loans on his own authority from funds which have been allotted for that purpose by the Government of India. In those cases where, under the rules, the sanction of the Government of India is necessary, any judiciously matured project, any well-considered application, which may be recommended by the Local Government will meet with the immediate approval of the Government of India. If the rules in respect to preliminary inquiry and the like shall be deemed by the Lieutenant-Governor to cause delay which may be prejudicial at a critical time, His Honour is authorised to relax them temporarily.

17. For agricultural improvements the Land Improvement Act (XXVI. of 1871) provides for advances of money being made by Government to any landlord or tenant desiring to make an improvement in any land of which he is in possession or occupation. The improvements specified in the Act, that is, wells, tanks, and other works for the storage and distribution of water, works for draining, reclaiming, clearing, and enclosing lands, are well suited for employing the labour which may be unemployed in the villages by reason of the stoppage of ordinary work in the fields. The Governor General earnestly hopes that many landlords will take advantage of the provisions of the Act. The rules under this Act recently promulgated by the Local Government with the sanction of the Government of India contain many precautionary provisions which are necessary in ordinary times, but which at a time of urgency might cause undesirable delay. The Lieutenant-Governor is authorised to make such relaxation of the rules as His Honour may deem advisable under the circumstances of the districts affected by the drought.

18. In reference to the local works, the Governor General desires that the levy of the road cess may be postponed in any district or portion of a district where the Lieutenant-Governor may consider that the cess-payers are in distress. It is to be remembered that in those districts which are not so severely affected the proceeds of the road cess will afford the means of usefully employing any surplus labour that may be thrown upon the market.

19. In the next place the Government may contribute something towards facilitating the transport of grain in the interior of the country. The agents, therefore, of the Guaranteed Railway Companies, whose lines traverse Bengal and Behar, have been authorised to reduce by one-half the rates charged for the carriage of grain despatched to the districts affected by scarcity, the Government undertaking to reimburse the Companies for the difference thus caused in the traffic receipts. The precedent is followed which was established by the adoption of a similar course in 1869.

20. The Governor General is sure that the private steam flotillas on the principal rivers, and the native craft which is so abundant throughout the river system of Bengal, will bear a most useful part in the conveyance of grain to the places where it is urgently needed.

21. In those places where the means of water-carriage do not exist, the grain-traders must mainly depend on the country carriage. There may, indeed, be ground for apprehension that, as the dry season advances, mortality beyond the average must arise among the draught cattle. This subject will, doubtless, receive the anxious consideration of the Local Government and of its officers. Every aid that can be afforded by the Commissariat or other public departments

will be rendered; and inquiries are being made as to the practicability of constructing tramways in the distressed districts.

22. Should the distress become severe, and should the worst anticipations be realized, the Government will assist in the formation of relief committees, and in the organization of a system of relief for those who, despite all the operations of trade, may be threatened with death or disease from want of food. The Governor General is sure that the private benevolence, which has always been conspicuous in India, will be evoked on this occasion, according as the need for its exercise shall become apparent. A central relief committee will, as soon as the Local Government shall consider it to be necessary, be formed at Calcutta as the capital of the provinces under the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. To this committee will be entrusted the general administration of the funds for relief which may be received from private sources and from the Government, and the distribution of those funds among the relief committees which the Lieutenant-Governor will establish in the districts affected by scarcity. The district relief committees will distribute assistance to the distressed, either in cash or in grain, or in prepared food, according to the instructions which they may receive from the Local Government. Any purchases of grain which may be necessary will be made either by the central committee or by the district committees. If the committees lay in supplies of grain they will be instructed to do so in the manner best calculated to avoid undue interference with the ordinary course of trade, or with the stores available for consumption in the neighbourhood.

23. The Governor General relies upon the Lieutenant-Governor to take steps for organizing these district and local committees in seasonable time, and in sufficient number, so that the measures for relief shall be far reaching and comprehensive in proportion as the distress may become widespread. Whatever application His Honour may make for assistance from the ranks of the public service with a view to effectively constituting these committees will receive immediate attention from the Government of India.

24. Inasmuch as the prevalence of want may give rise to many forms of epidemic disease, the augmenting and the reinforcing of the medical staff of all grades in the afflicted districts will be of primary importance. Any assistance which the Lieutenant-Governor may require in this respect from the Government of India will be duly accorded.

25. The Governor General is sure that non-official gentlemen, both European and Native, resident in the districts affected by scarcity, will come forward to serve on the relief committees, and will render that assistance which has proved so valuable on former occasions of a like nature.

26. Furthermore, non-official gentlemen, European and Native, zemindars, landlords, planters, and others may at once render much service by undertaking the provision and distribution of grain in localities where, from the difficulty of transport, the absence of traders, or other local circumstances, food cannot, during the period of scarcity, be obtained by the people. In such cases the Government will be prepared to grant advances of money to non-official gentlemen who may undertake to import grain from a distance, and to distribute it at prices to be regulated according to the circumstances of the case. The condition that such grain be imported from distant places, so that the ordinary operations of the local trade may not be interfered with, must be observed. Accounts of the advances will be submitted to and passed by the Local Government; and any loss or charge which may arise upon the operations will, of course, be borne by the State.

27. The Governor General is confident also that many landholders, recognising the duty towards their tenants, their dependants, and their destitute neighbours, which is morally imposed upon them by the possession of property, will, of their own accord and from their own resources, dispense relief in the manner which they deem to be most effectual.

28. The Governor General feels assured that the Lieutenant-Governor is well aware of the necessity for preparing the local arrangements for relief beforehand, that is, before the emergency shall have actually befallen the districts in question, before the intensity of the trouble shall have begun to be felt, so that the distress may not attain such proportions that the local authorities cannot adequately deal with it, or make such progress that they cannot overtake it.

29. Hereafter, as the season shall draw near for the sowings of the next harvest, the Government will be prepared to authorise advances of money to landlords or tenants for the purchase of seed-grain wherever the Lieutenant-Governor may consider such a measure to be desirable.

30. It is to be hoped that, in the populous tracts visited or threatened by distress, unemployed labourers may emigrate to places where food is in comparative plenty, where a special demand exists for their labour, where culturable waste abounds, such as the tea districts, the Doars, the provinces of Assam, and of British Burma. If it be found possible for the Government to facilitate such emigration, directly or indirectly, the Governor General will be glad to receive any suggestions which the Lieutenant-Governor may be able to make.

31. Having given such instructions as seem to be called for at the present time, the Governor General requests that the Government of Bengal will transmit periodically, at short intervals, to the Government of India full reports on the state and prospects of the crops, the stock of food, so far as it can be ascertained, the public works in progress, the relief operations, if any, and all other circumstances relating to the scarcity. Together with these reports there should be forwarded the opinions of the district officers, formed on the most recent data obtainable. The Governor General is satisfied that these opinions will be given fully, unreservedly, and promptly, even though time may not have admitted of their being precisely elaborated, and though they may be subject to subsequent correction and verification. Full information on these matters will be published from time to time.

32. Lastly, the Governor General places full reliance upon the foresight and the energy of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to provide for and to cope with the difficulties which may spring from the drought and scarcity, and upon the zeal and experience with which His Honour's efforts will be seconded by the officers of all grades and branches of the public service. He feels the responsibility which devolves on the Government of India under the present circumstances, and he trusts with God's blessing the measures to be adopted will prove successful in averting, so far as may be humanly possible, the calamitous effects of the drought.

By order of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General.

R. B. Chapman,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

No. B. of 1873.

To the Right Honourable the Duke of Argyll, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Duke, The 12th November 1873.

In continuation of my Despatch A. of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report the further measures that have been taken for the purpose of meeting the anticipated scarcity in Bengal and Behar.

2. The reports of the state of the crops in the Province of Bengal for the past week show that no substantial alteration has taken place in the prospects of which a summary was given in my last Despatch.

3. The enclosed report of the state of the crops in the south-eastern portion of the North-Western Provinces shows that no scarcity is apprehended there, excepting in the District of Goruckpore and the southern portion of Mirzapore.

4. Sir William Muir has been authorised to undertake at once such relief works as he may consider necessary in those districts, and he has informed me that projects are being prepared for South Mirzapore, and that nothing is as yet required elsewhere.

5. In addition to the Soane Canal and the Northern Bengal Railway, I have, on the recommendation of Sir George Campbell, authorised the prosecution of certain embankments on the river Gunduck which will provide employment in that portion of Behar which has suffered most severely from the failure of the rice crop. The plans for these works are complete, and have been approved by the responsible officers of Government in the Public Works Department. Their estimated cost is 20,000*l.*, which will in the first instance be borne as an imperial charge, but may ultimately be covered in part by contribution from the landowners whose property is benefited, under the provisions of the Bengal Embankment Bill which is now before the Legislative Council of Bengal. The correspondence upon this subject is enclosed for your Grace's information. Enclosure C., page 14.

6. I am of opinion that no further measures are required for the provision of employment by means of imperial or local Public Works, which, according to the experience of former times, is the most effectual precaution that can be taken to prevent a period of scarcity from becoming a famine.

7. I enclose copies of a correspondence which has passed with the Government of Bengal with regard to the proposal of the Lieutenant-Governor that the exports of food-grains from Indian ports should be prohibited. Enclosure D., page 17.

8. Sir George Campbell having expressed to me verbally his desire that more specific information of the views of the Government of India should be given to him than was contained in the Resolution of the 7th instant, I arranged for a conference with His Honour, who was accompanied by some of his principal officers, among whom were Mr. Molony, the Commissioner of Rajshahye, one of the divisions which has most suffered, and Major Lindsay, who is in charge of the Northern Bengal railway works. I have the honour to enclose a *précis* of the proceedings, and I trust that advantage will be derived from a free discussion of the present position of affairs and of the measures which are taken or contemplated. Enclosure E., page 19.

9. Every endeavour will be made to supply the officers whom Sir George Campbell considers to be required in order to strengthen the different departments of his administration.

Enclosure F., page 23. 10. The Lieutenant-Governor has, since the conference took place, placed his views before me in a letter, of which and of my reply copies are forwarded herewith. Your Grace will observe that in compliance with the wish expressed by his Honour, I have entered somewhat fully into the details of the immediate measures which in my opinion should be taken, and given such directions as to financial arrangements as appear to be necessary for the present.

11. In these, as in all other measures that have been taken and instructions given, I have had the advantage of the advice and assistance of Sir Richard Temple, as well as his entire concurrence.

12. In accordance with the announcement made in the Resolution of the 7th instant, steps have been taken to obtain supplies of rice for the sustenance of the labourers to be employed upon Public Works, and arrangements will be made for establishing stores at the most convenient places in the neighbourhood of the works.

13. I am happy to inform your Grace that, so far as prices can be considered to afford an indication of the deficiency of supplies, the condition of affairs is not worse than it was in the year 1865, and that all the information which I have received leads me to believe that great activity prevails in the trade of grain, so that it may reasonably be expected that prices will be equalised on the great lines of communication over a large area of country.

Enclosure G. 14. The last return of the traffic of the East Indian Railway is enclosed for your Grace's information.

15. I have thought it desirable, in anticipation of the pressure upon the finances which will probably be occasioned by the scarcity, to instruct the local governments, and all Departments of the State to exercise economy in regard to their expenditure during the remainder of the current year, and in the preparation of their estimates for the coming year. I need hardly add that any assistance which your Grace can afford in regard to the home expenditure will be of material aid to the Government of India at the present time.

16. After communicating with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and Sir William Muir, I have not made any alteration in the arrangements for the Camp of Exercise at Roorkee; all the preparations had been made, some of the troops had already marched, and Sir William Muir informed me that no inconvenience would result from the assembly of troops in that neighbourhood.

17. I propose to leave Calcutta this evening for the purpose of holding a Legislative Council at Agra and afterwards visiting Lucknow, returning to Calcutta on the 11th of December. Although it is with some regret that I leave Calcutta under present circumstances, there are measures of considerable importance to be discussed at Agra as to which the advice and assistance of Sir William Muir is required, and I have business to transact with Sir Philip Wodehouse (who has arranged to meet me at Agra) and with Sir George Couper at Lucknow, so that, upon the whole, it has appeared to me to be most to the advantage of the public service that I should not abandon my original arrangements.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servant,
NORTHBROOK.

Enclosure C.

No. 2,981.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.—FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

To the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Expenditure.—Public Works.

SIR, Fort William, the 14th November 1873.

IN reply to your letter No. 3,329, dated 8th November 1873, I am directed to say that the Governor General authorises the immediate commencement of the Gundak embankments on the approved plans. The embankments may be constructed in such manner as will admit of the eventual adoption of Colonel Haig's suggested addition of an irrigation channel in rear of the embankments; but the plan and estimate of the irrigation channel should be sent, in such form as may be now ready, for consideration in the Public Works Department.

2. The work will be imperial, and will be charged as ordinary expenditure.

3. His Excellency does not think that it will be advisable to introduce any particular provisions in the Embankment Bill to provide for expenditure incurred before the Bill passes, being charged to the landholders who benefit thereby; but provision should be made for future expenditure being so charged.

4. His Excellency awaits a further report, in due course, on the proposed irrigation canal from the Gundak.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
R. B. CHAPMAN,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Copy of correspondence forwarded to the Public Works Department.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.—FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Enclosure to Letter No. 2,981 of 1873.

No. 3,329, dated 8th November 1873.

From C. BERNARD, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, with His Excellency the Viceroy.

At para. 5 of the Government of India Resolution (Public Works Department, dated 28th October 1873), it is remarked that in the north of Behar there is no large project under execution, and it is suggested that the deferred scheme for the revision of the Gundak embankment might be found a suitable source of employment for the approaching time of scarcity.

2. As it happens, these Gundak embankments are situate precisely in that part of the country where the people are poor, and where distress was keenest in 1865–66, and will, but too probably, be very keen again. I am, therefore, to describe briefly how the case stands, and to submit a recommendation that the Lieutenant-Governor may be permitted at once to carry on these works, and subject to the doubts and under the circumstances which at present surround the question.

3. In 1870–71 a large project for taking out an irrigation and navigation canal from the Upper Gundak was very carefully elaborated by Mr. Stoney, C.E.; it was to cost 107 lakhs, to command 989,000 acres, and to possess an inexhaustible supply of water. The Superintending Engineer, Mr. Levinge, wrote strongly in its favour, and the Collector, Mr. Metcalfe, who knew the district well, expressed the opinion that the people would most gladly take any water that could be given them. This Gundak irrigation scheme, however, did not go any further; and it could not now be taken up without much consideration and perhaps some re-modelment.

4. The embankment scheme was a different matter, and it provided* for extending, raising, and improving the Gundak embankments, as well as for training the river to some extent. It was anticipated that outlay would be incurred, thus:—

* See letter to the Government of India, Public Works Department, No. 189, dated 24th March 1870.

	Rs.
On the Sarun embankments - - -	1,51,377
„ Tirhoot „ - - - -	45,900
„ Chumparun „ - - -	54,738
On training walls - - - -	72,189

The work had been previously prosecuted as a relief work, and Rs. 1,24,144 had been spent thereon up to November 1869, when the work stopped.

5. The Government, when acknowledging the submission of the scheme, admitted† that the works were very necessary, and had been devised with great care and judgment; but observed that the zemindars must pay for it, and declined to sanction any further outlay on the Gundak embankments until it was "clearly explained how the amount already expended was to be recovered."

† Public Works Department, No. 1,871, dated 13th May 1870.

6. On this reference was made through the Board to the local officers and to the zemindars' engagements. It was found that the zemindars of Tirhoot and Sarun had bound themselves to pay for the cost of repairing and maintaining the existing (at 1830 and 1840 A.D.) embankments. But it was very doubtful how far this engagement would extend to new embankments, or to improvements, such as training walls or retired aligument of old embankments; it was perfectly clear, moreover, that the zemindars of the Chumparun district had entered into no such engagements, and that there had been until lately no embankments in that district. As the Embankment Bill of 1870 had then been introduced into the Bengal Council under the late Lieutenant-Governor's orders, it was decided (it is not absolutely clear when, or by whose orders) that no further steps should be taken to prosecute the Gundak

embankment scheme until such time as the new Embankment Bill should become law, and should legally lay upon the zemindars the burden (of paying for these embankments) which the Government of India had decided they ought to, and must, bear. Meanwhile, after much correspondence, it has only lately been settled that the zemindars of Tirhoot and Sarun should pay, by easy instalments, nearly the whole of the cost (Rs. 1,24,144) of the work which had been done previous to November 1869. About Rs. 2,000, which had been spent in Champarun, was decided to be payable by Government, as no obligation for embankments lay upon the zemindars of Champarun.

7. This is how the case stands at the present moment. The Embankment Bill has not yet become law; but if it should be passed, as it shortly may be, the Gundak embankments will come within its provision, subject to the provisoes (Sections 44 and 45) that the cost of the work on the right bank of the Gundak is to be allotted according to the custom of the district, and not according to the general provision of Part VI., Chapter 2. As the Bill at present stands, it would apply to *future* works only; and we could not be certain that the Legislature would give it retrospective effect to the works now to be undertaken.

8. Still the Lieutenant-Governor accepts the opinions which have been previously expressed by reliable authorities that the work is a good, useful, and even a necessary work. In its character it is specially fitted for a relief work, as it consists mainly of earthen banks The Lieutenant-Governor would engraft on the original embankment project a very practical and useful addition suggested by Colonel Haig, whereby "a channel should run alongside the "embankment, to be formed out of the excavation required by the embankments to have its "floor reduced to six inches per mile by masonry falls, to have its floor four feet below summer "level, and to be provided with a head sluice." Colonel Haig estimated that this channel, so conducted, would probably water 90,000 acres of land. Seeing how much water there is in the Upper Gundak (a snow-fed stream), and what Mr. Metcalfe says about the need for irrigation, it would be a pity not to make as much as possible of the Gundak embankment project. The extra cost involved by the proposed channel would be an imperial (Irrigation) charge, and would not be payable by the zemindars.

9. The object of the present letter, then, is to solicit permission for the Lieutenant-Governor to take up again, and at once, the unfinished Gundak embankments scheme as a work which will do great permanent good to the country, and will also afford plenty of labour of the very best kind to that part of the country where distress will, it is feared, be most keen. Sir George Campbell recommends that the permission be accorded, on the understanding that the Legislature may or may not accord its sanction to a whole or a part of the cost of the embankments being treated as defrayable by the zemindars under the terms of the future embankment law. Any portion of the outlay which cannot be so defrayed, or which properly pertains to the irrigation channel which is to be led out behind the embankment, would of course remain to be defrayed from the imperial treasury; and the Government of India would decide whether it should be taken against "Loans," or as ordinary expenditure, or how.

10. It may be well to mention that though the original estimate was for Rs. 3,24,000 in all, of which Rs. 1,24,000 only had been spent in 1868–69, yet still the Lieutenant-Governor could not absolutely undertake that the whole work, as originally projected, should certainly be finished for the remaining two lakhs. Four or five years have passed since the work was first begun, the river may have changed—some of the old work may have to be re-done. But at any rate the engineers would keep as nearly as they could to the old plans and estimates which the Government of India then (in 1870) found to be worthy of approval. The subsidiary irrigation channel would not, it is believed, very greatly add to the original cost of the project, while it would very materially increase its usefulness.

11. The question being really financial, and an immediate decision necessary, this letter is submitted to the Secretary to Government in the Financial Department with the Governor-General.

P.S.—While this letter was under despatch, the Irrigation Department of this Government has laid before the Lieutenant-Governor a fresh letter* from the Department Public Works of the Government of India, of which copy is annexed.

* No. 8,031, dated the 31st October 1873.

Colonel Gulliver's conclusion is—"I would propose that a Superintending Engineer be "appointed, with the necessary staff, to carry out the Gundak embankments and the Chumparun "embankment with the canal as rear." This is precisely what the Lieutenant-Governor has already recommended in this letter. Under the circumstances then the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that the Governor General will not hesitate to accord in the Financial Department that financial sanction which is required for works which have been already approved by the Public Works Department of the Government of India.

No. 803 I., dated 31st October 1873.

From Colonel F. H. Rundall, R.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Joint Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.

With reference to the Resolution of this Government, No. 432 B.C., dated 28th instant, and to the apprehensions of severe scarcity in the Patna Division, I am directed to enquire whether the Government of Bengal has had under its re-consideration the project for the irrigation of the districts bordering on the River Gundak.

2. In the letter from this Government, No. 22 J, dated 19th January 1870, it was observed that the Government of India "is on the whole disposed to consider that there is sufficient "evidence to indicate that the proposed works are of a nature to hold out such promise of "eventual success as will justify their sanction, subject to the further favourable expression of "local intelligent opinion;" but as no reply has been received from the Government of Bengal, and as the present appears to be the fourth year, since 1866, in which scarcity has occurred, it seems to His Excellency in Council that the irrigation project is deserving of further attention, and I am therefore to invite an expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's view on the subject.

3. In a letter lately received from the Government of Bengal, it was stated that there was no present intention of prosecuting any further works on the Gundak embankments; should, however, it be necessary to start relief works in the districts of Tirhoot and Sarun, embankments would (as already remarked in the Resolution quoted) seem to present the simplest and most easily aligned works on which to employ the laboring population. At the same time the necessity of providing a remedy against such frequently recurring scarcity appears to merit careful consideration.

Enclosure D.

No. 2,980.

Government of India. Financial Department.

Separate Revenue. Customs.

To the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

SIR, Fort William, the 12th November 1873.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 3,300 and B. dated respectively the 7th and 8th November 1873, regarding the proposals made by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor for prohibiting the exportation of food grains from British Indian ports in consequence of the threatened famine in Bengal.

2. In the letter of the 7th November, reference is made to a letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 50T, dated 22nd October 1873. In reply to that part of the letter of the 22nd October in which His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor recommended that the export of rice from the Indian dominions to foreign countries should be prohibited, and also to the letters now under acknowledgment, in which His Honor advocates the prohibition of the export of food grains from British Indian ports, and suggests that if the Viceroy should be unwilling to comply with that proposal, the export of food grains from Bengal should at least be prohibited, I am instructed to say that the Lieutenant-Governor will have observed, from the 4th paragraph of the Resolution of the Government of India of the 7th November, that the Governor General is unable to concur with His Honor upon this subject. The following extracts from a despatch addressed to the Secretary of State on the same day will explain the grounds of His Excellency's decision:—

14. "The prohibition of all export of grain from British Indian ports is strongly advocated by the native press, and is still recommended by Sir George Campbell.

It is a course which does not commend itself to my judgment. It is probable, from the experience of former years and the information which is available as to the supplies of food grain in India, that the deficiency in Bengal and Behar can be met without recourse to importations from abroad; in the term 'abroad' I include British Burma, for Burmese rice is not imported into Bengal in ordinary years.

The rise of prices which has occurred, and which, if the prospects should become worse, must increase, will, in my opinion, of itself prevent any considerable export of the common classes of grain from Indian ports proper, and if it reaches 4 rupees a maund, it would, according to the best information I can obtain, probably bring a considerable amount of Burmese rice into the Calcutta market.

Your Grace will observe from the enclosed return that the principal exports of rice from British Indian ports begins in February, before which time there will be full information as to the probable wants of Bengal, which information must necessarily operate upon prices. Enclosure E.

15. To prohibit exports would have the effect of artificially reducing prices at the commencement of a season of scarcity, and moreover it would shake the confidence of the mercantile classes in the determination of Government to maintain the utmost freedom of trade as the best preservative against famine, and so by checking commercial operations cut off sources of supply from without which would naturally come to our aid in time of need.

16. The general principles which should guide the Government in times of scarcity were enunciated by the Government of India in 1868 after the experience of the famine in Orissa, which extended to the same districts which have suffered on the present occasion, and I have only to add that I concur generally in the opinions then expressed."

3. The conclusion at which the Governor General arrived was strengthened by a careful consideration of the report and recommendations of Colonel Baird-Smith upon the famine in the North-Western Provinces of 1860 and 1861, and of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Orissa famine of 1865 and 1866 (Part III., paragraph 59); and also of the proceedings of the Government of India and of the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces during the period of scarcity in 1868 and 1869.

4. I am to add that the Governor General considers that the minor proposal to prohibit the export of food grains from Bengal is open to the same objections in principle which exist to the adoption of the larger measure, while it does not appear to offer any substantial advantage in exchange.

5. The natural effect of a rise in the price of rice must be to check and ultimately to stop altogether the export of ordinary qualities of rice from Bengal, without any interference by the Government.

6. The customs returns show that already the exports of rice from Calcutta have diminished: the amount exported in October last is not one-half of the exports of the corresponding month of last year; and the Governor General has no reason to believe that any peculiar circumstances exist to prevent the operation in Bengal of the laws which ordinarily regulate the distribution of produce.

7. The Governor General is satisfied that no instructions that have been given to the Government of Madras can have the effect which His Honor appears to apprehend.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
B. B. Chapman.
Secretary to the Government of India.

Copy of correspondence forwarded to Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce.

Government of India. Financial Department.

Enclosure to Letter No. 2980 of 1873.

No. 3300, dated 7th November, 1873.

From C. Bernard Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of India, with His Excellency the Viceroy.

In the last paragraph of my letter No. 50 T, dated the 22nd October 1873 intimating to the Government of India that failure of the food crops was apprehended over the whole of Behar and over a large part of Bengal, was expressed the Lieutenant-Governor's recommendation that the exportation of food grains from British Indian ports might be prohibited, until the Government saw whether the surplus food of our territories would probably suffice to feed the people of Bengal and Behar.

2. Since that letter was written, the prospect of scarcity, distress, and perhaps even of famine has become much more certain. The Lieutenant-Governor has been allowed the privilege of discussing these important matters with His Excellency the Viceroy; and he has submitted orally his opinion that the Government must be prepared to prohibit exportation of food from British India to other countries, unless our food stocks turn out to be larger than is generally supposed. Sir George Campbell has gathered that His Excellency the Viceroy would not be prepared to prohibit exports of food generally from British Indian ports; indeed he believes His Lordship is opposed to any such prohibition. But he desires to submit that even if it be decided not to interfere with the great export of 700,000 tons of rice which goes yearly from British Burmah, still the Government of India might very reasonably and fairly consider the expediency of interposing (by legislation if necessary) to prevent exportation of food from Bengal.

3. The port of Calcutta has in ordinary years sent away about 350,000 to 400,000 tons of food grains per annum; in the current year it may be expected that eventually common rice in Calcutta will be too dear for export, though at this moment export is going on, as much as 94,000 maunds having been exported since the first of the present month. But from the ports of Chittagong and Morellgunge, whence were exported from 50,000 to 70,000 tons of rice during the last year, and from whence common rice only is exported, large consignments of rice will continue to be exported to the Mauritius, Galle and other rice-consuming British, French and Dutch Colonies. The rise of a rupee or so per maund in price will not prevent these colonies from getting their supplies of Bengal rice just as heretofore; and the rice exported from Chittagong comes into the market far earlier than Burmah rice; in fact new rice is already coming into Chittagong. The East Bengal rice moreover being "Ballam" rice is of a kind which is much more acceptable to the people of the distressed districts than Burmah rice can be. If this rice cannot be exported, it will all find its way to the distressed districts. The West Indian and other colonies will still have many sources to indent upon; and so their populations (Indian or other) cannot suffer so long, at any rate, as Burmah exports continue.

The Lieutenant-Governor would very earnestly solicit that exports of common rice from Bengal, or at any rate from Chittagong and Morellgunge to places outside the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal be prohibited from the 1st December up to such time as His Excellency the Viceroy may see fit.

No. B, dated 8th November 1873.

From C. BERNARD ESQ., OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, with HIS EXCELLENCY the VICEROY.

In continuation of my letter of yesterday's date, inviting the consideration of the Government of India to the need for prohibiting export of grain, at any rate, from Chittagong and Morellgunge, I am directed to submit that Bengal rice is still,* during the present month, going to Madras ports and to Ceylon. The Lieutenant-Governor fears that the orders of the Government of India directing the purchase of rice in Madras will raise the price of rice there and lead to fresh exports, if the export of Bengal rice be not prohibited.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor would very earnestly solicit the attention of the Government of India to the need for acting in this matter.

*N.B.—Telegraphic advice received to day from Chittagong shows this.

Enclosure E.

MEMORANDUM of the PROCEEDINGS at a meeting held at Government House, Calcutta, on November 10th, 1873, to consider some questions connected with the measures proposed in view of the anticipated scarcity in Bengal.

Present:

His Excellency the Viceroy.
The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.
The Hon'ble Sir R. Temple.
Mr. V. H. Schalch, Member of the Board of Revenue.
Mr. R. B. Chapman, Secretary to the Government of India in the Financial Department.
Mr. C. Bernard, Secretary to Government of Bengal.
Lord Ulick Browne, Commissioner of the Presidency Division.
Mr. H. L. Dampier, Officiating Member of the Board of Revenue.
Mr. J. A. Crawford, Collector of Customs.
Colonel J. E. T. Nicolls, R.E., Chief Engineer.
Colonel H. W. Gulliver, R.E., Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department.
Mr. T. E. Ravenshaw, Commissioner of Orissa.
Mr. E. W. Molony, Commissioner, Rajshahye Division.
Major J. Lindsay, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Northern Bengal State Railway.
Captain E. Baring, R.A., Private Secretary to the Viceroy.

His Excellency the Viceroy requested the Lieutenant-Governor to state anything he might wish to say.

Sir George Campbell, referring to the resolution of the Government of India of the 7th instant, said that, without doubt, the spirit of that Resolution was to support the Government of Bengal cordially. At the same time he could not but feel that a very grave responsibility devolved upon the latter Government. Alluding especially to the 23rd and 28th paras. of that Resolution, His Honor remarked that the Government of Bengal were apparently expected to anticipate any distress which might occur, and to take such measures beforehand as would obviate its occurrence or alleviate it, if it was inevitable. This threw a heavy responsibility on the Local Government, and he should be glad if the orders of the Government of India could be expanded; he would be glad of more explicit instructions on certain points, especially whether any and what provision was now to be made for eventual charitable relief. At present great uncertainty existed; it was difficult to state where or in what degree distress would occur, and it was, therefore, difficult to take such steps now as would prevent the occurrence of distress. Was the Government of Bengal to act immediately in regard to relief centres or to defer action? Was Government to buy and store grain for charitable relief at once? This latter point was one of extreme importance, and it was very necessary to come to some early decision on this branch of the subject. An early decision was especially necessary as regards transport; the East Indian Railway were not nearly working up to their full power at present. There was perhaps no immediate difficulty in obtaining transport, but if any sudden calamity came upon them, the demands for transport would be very heavy, and it would certainly happen that the means of transport would be choked. Lastly, as regards money, His Honor wished to know something more definite as to the funds which would be placed at his disposal. He would like to spend a great deal without further delay, if he looked at the matter solely from a Bengal point of view, but it was of course for the Government of India to decide what funds would be allotted to him.

Public Works.

His Excellency the Viceroy said that perhaps the best course to adopt would be to go through all the important points raised in the Resolution of the Government of India *seriatim*. First, as regards the public works which were about to be undertaken, every one recognised the importance of putting these works in hand without delay, and His Excellency would like to be informed what had actually been done with respect to imperial works, *viz.*, the Soane Canal and Northern Bengal Railway.

Mr. Bernard said that orders had been given to commence two new branches of the Soane Canal at once. Mr. Levinge had a staff of officers with him and had full authority to act; he would commence working so soon as labour came in. Rice was being sent for the immediate supply of labourers by the Government of Bengal. As regards the Northern Bengal Railway, no commencement had as yet been made, but Major Lindsay was here; the arrangements were being actively made, and he hoped that in ten days the Engineers would be at work.

His Excellency the Viceroy then asked whether those works would be treated as relief works or as ordinary contract works, and in what manner the labourers would be employed and paid.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor observed that he thought it was impossible to make any hard-and-fast distinction between the labourers employed on relief works, properly so called, and those employed as ordinary contract labourers; the two cases ran so much into one another that the matter could only be decided from time to time according to circumstances.

Mr. Molony said that in his opinion men should, for the present, be employed as ordinary labourers on a daily wage. Railway works should be regarded as ordinary contract works. Light work on roads should be viewed as relief work. It was desirable, as long as possible, to pay in money and to let the labourers purchase grain. Ultimately it would probably be necessary to pay partly in grain and partly in money. A local market would have to be established and shelter provided for the workmen. For the present, Mr. Molony thought, and in this opinion Major Lindsay concurred, that the ordinary coolie huts would meet every requirement.

Major Lindsay then explained on what portions of the line it would be desirable to concentrate work for the present, and some conversation ensued as to the desirability of allowing the railway staff and the working parties collected under them to aid in the construction of the roads which would act as feeders to the Railway. Eventually, His Excellency the Viceroy expressed his general satisfaction with the views set forth, and directed that Major Lindsay should be instructed to aid in the construction of these roads with his staff.

In answer to an enquiry from His Excellency the Viceroy, Major Lindsay said that there would be no difficulty in separating the expenditure chargeable to relief, from that which would be properly chargeable to loan works. The distinction between the two was well understood both on the Soane Canal and Northern Bengal Railway works, and Mr. Levinge was known to be especially alive to the importance of the distinction.

His Excellency then made some enquiries as to the additional staff which might be required to prosecute the works.

Major Lindsay said that he was in no want of senior officers, but that he should require seven or eight additional assistant engineers. In answer to His Excellency the Viceroy, Major Lindsay said that young officers of the Army with some knowledge of surveying would do the work very well. His Excellency directed Major Lindsay to send in a requisition stating the exact number he would require.

His Excellency intimated that immediate authority would be given to commence the Gunduck embankment.

Secondly, as regards local works, His Excellency observed that the Resolution of the Government of Bengal of November 3rd appeared to him to give local officers every instruction which was necessary, and asked if any additional staff was required. Lord Ulick Browne said that he did not want any additional officers at present. Mr. Molony said that he would require one or two more assistant engineers. Colonel Nicolls said that 16 engineer officers would be required; young men of from five to six years' service would do the work well.

In answer to an enquiry made by His Excellency the Viceroy, Sir George Campbell said that plans for local works had been prepared in all districts.

Mr. Molony then observed that in some portions of his division,—for instance, about Maldah and Dinajpore,—it would be desirable for Government to lay in stores of grain whilst water transport was still available. In a couple of months, when the water would have sunk low, this mode of transport would be no longer available, and it might be found difficult then to collect grain in suitable quantities.

His Excellency the Viceroy observed that as regards the purchase and storing of grain by Government, the principles laid down in the Resolution were, he thought, sufficiently clear. Government would take upon themselves the duty of providing grain for the labourers employed on public relief works, so far as might be necessary. They wished to rely as far as possible on the trade to collect and distribute supplies of food for that purpose, but when any exceptional circumstances existed which would probably hinder such an accumulation of food, and when, therefore, adequate supplies would possibly not be forthcoming without the adoption of special measures, there was no intention of precluding Government officers from taking such measures as these exceptional circumstances demanded, in order to secure a supply, including a reasonable reserve of food for persons employed on relief works. On this point the local officers could alone judge. The case mentioned by Mr. Molony appeared to be one in which Government could, through its officers, act properly in purchasing and storing food. It would probably be desirable in most cases to purchase grain from distant markets through some of the leading merchants.

Thirdly, as regards loans to municipalities and other corporate bodies, Sir George Campbell said that notices would be issued with a view to facilitating such loans, and that attention would be given to takavi advances for the construction of wells.

Transport.

His Excellency next adverted to the means available for transporting grain from the railway into the interior of the affected districts, as to which he expressed considerable anxiety.

Sir George Campbell said that this was a subject of extreme importance, and it was desirable to act in the matter without delay, which might prove very prejudicial. Mr. Molony said that, in his district, pack-bullocks formed the most ready mode of transport. Mr. Bernard pointed out that if any large number of pack-bullocks were employed it would be necessary to lay down supplies of fodder at convenient places, and that already, under the orders of the Government of Bengal, arrangements had been sanctioned for laying in supplies of fodder at some roadside stations.

His Excellency the Viceroy remarked that the serious attention of the local officers should be directed to this subject; any assistance which the Government of India could give, either by utilising the Commissariat or Post Office service or in any other way, would be readily given. A communication had already been made to the Government of Bengal, stating the extent to which the Commissariat could render assistance.

His Excellency then observed that it had been suggested to him that the traffic of grain in some parts would be facilitated if the tolls were taken off the canals. The Lieutenant-Governor said that the Government of Bengal had already arranged to take off road-tolls and to reduce actual ferry tolls to a minimum all over the distressed districts; orders to this end were actually under issue. Lord Ulick Browne said that a considerable amount of rice came from the Sunderbunds into Calcutta by water, and that undoubtedly the quantity would be increased if the tolls were taken off. Mr. Bernard said that this would give additional facilities for the export of rice to foreign counties, but Mr. Schalch observed—and in this opinion Mr. Chapman concurred—that Calcutta must always be the great entrepôt through which rice would find its way up country, and that, in this view of the case, it would be advantageous to facilitate the accumulation of rice in Calcutta. After some further conversation, it was arranged that the Lieutenant-Governor should inquire into the matter and consider whether it was desirable to take any action.

Relief.

His Excellency the Viceroy then proceeded to the question of the distribution of gratuitous relief. The paragraphs in the Resolution of the Government of India which dealt with this important branch of the general subject were based upon the experience of what had taken place in former years and more especially on the reports of the Orissa Famine Commissioners and of the scarcity which prevailed in the North-Western Provinces in 1868–69.

In the 73rd paragraph of their report, the Orissa Commissioners said that "there can be no " better rule than that which has hitherto obtained, *viz.*, that Government should supply " employment by means of public works, and that the public should supply the means of " gratuituous relief to the helpless."

The Government would contribute an equal sum to that which had been collected from private individuals; this, however, would not, of course, constitute the maximum amount of relief which would in all cases be given by Government; the principles which would guide Government in this matter were the same as those which were adopted in the North-Western Provinces in 1868–69 and which are thus described on page 5 of Mr. Henvey's report:—" The equivalent of private contributions was not the maximum limit of the Government gift, " but an appropriation for disposal by the relief committees. Charitable relief must be held " primarily the care of the public, but if public charity should fail from any cause, the " Government must step in and save life." In consequence of this determination the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces issued instructions on January 2nd, 1869, in the following terms:—" It is the duty of the State to see that none of its subjects " starve for want of food, even if charitable contributions should (which His Honor has no " reason to suppose) prove inadequate. The Lieutenant-Governor will accordingly hold " every district officer personally responsible that no death occurs from starvation which could " have been avoided by any exertion or arrangement on the part of the district officer or his " staff." There was no intention of throwing upon the Lieutenant-Governor, and upon local officers in Bengal, any greater degree of responsibility than had been incurred by officers in the North-Western Provinces. His Excellency did not doubt that they would accept this responsibility cheerfully, and they would perform the duties which would devolve on them with judgment and ability. It was impossible that sitting in that room, they could lay down detailed instructions to meet every case; much of the detail must be left to the officers on the spot; all that the Government of India could do was to lay down the general principles by which it would be guided and to assure the Local Government that cordial support would be afforded to it. Nothing was more clearly shown from the experience of former famines, and on no point had the Orissa Commissioners dwelt more strongly than on the necessity of being prepared beforehand with such an organisation and administrative machinery as could be brought instantly into play so as to commence relief whenever and wherever the necessity should arise. For the present it was probably not necessary to establish relief committees anywhere, but discretion should be allowed to district officers to do so on the first breaking out of any distress.

The immediate steps necessary were that the various local officers should personally inquire into the circumstances of their districts and then send up, for the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor, detailed recommendations showing the places at which they would propose to establish relief centres, the names of those who would serve on the committees, and any other points of detail which could advantageously be considered beforehand. Thus, an organisation would be planned which could be called into active existence whenever the necessity should arise. The fullest information on all points connected with the affected districts should be obtained, and with this object, it would probably be necessary to strengthen the civil staff in some localities.

Sir George Campbell said that probably a few civil servants of a few years' standing would be required.

His Excellency the Viceroy, in continuation of his remarks, said that as regards the central committee, he agreed with His Honor that it was not desirable to call it into existence at once, because the information in the possession of Government was as yet not sufficiently detailed and complete to allow of the case being placed before the public in such a manner as would probably attract subscriptions to any great extent, but it would be well to consider in what manner the committee should eventually be constituted. When the central committee was once constituted, His Excellency proposed that it should supply grain to the district committees, and thus relieve Government of a most difficult task. As regards the importation of grain from a distance into the scarcity-stricken districts, much would depend upon the circumstances and position of each separate locality. It was difficult to lay down any general principles as to whether purchases should be made through local traders or not; when relief committees were once established, they should, as a general rule, make their own arrangements for the supply of grain. For the present Government would only provide grain for the labourers engaged on public works and would not supply grain for charitable distribution. His Excellency thought that it would now be possible for Mr. Bernard to frame, for the consideration of the Lieutenant-Governor, detailed regulations as to the best method of organising charitable relief on the basis of those which were laid down by the Orissa Commission and in the North-Western Provinces on former occasions. These regulations would deal with the separation of the able-bodied men from those who were unable from physical weakness or other causes, to perform work, the distribution of food to women and others who might be unable from sickness or infirmity to leave home, the times and occasions on which food should be distributed cooked or uncooked, and other similar points. As regards the general question of the effect which would be produced by the distribution of charity, His Excellency said that he did not anticipate any danger of pauperising the people. The experience of former years had shown that so soon as plenty returned and work could be obtained as in ordinary times, the people gladly availed themselves of it.

Sir G. Campbell enquired whether he understood His Excellency to say that for the present Government would only lay up grain for the payment of the labourers employed on the works, and not lay up grain for charitable relief. He understood His Excellency's view to be that till relief committees were formed no grain was to be provided for relief purposes other than relief works, and that the time had not come for the formation of those committees. His Excellency answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Dampier observed that the district committees, as soon as they were constituted, would ask Government to import rice.

His Excellency said that there could be no objection to the district committees drawing on the stores which Government would accumulate for the payment of labourers on the public works, or obtaining supplies of grain in such other manner as they may consider best. The action of the district committees should not be arrested pending the formation of the central committee.

Mr. Molony said that committees were not at present required. If they were empowered, when constituted, to draw on the Government stores collected to pay labourers on the public works, sufficient provision would have been made. Those stores should, of course, be ample.

Statistics.

His Excellency the Viceroy then expressed a wish that all statistical information bearing on the facts of the scarcity and the measures taken to afford relief should be kept in due form, and that periodical reports should be sent in to the Government of India.

Mr. Bernard said that this should be attended to, and that fortnightly reports should be sent to the Government of India as to the state of the affected districts.

Observations.

His Excellency the Viceroy then enquired of each officer present whether he wished to make any further remarks.

Mr. Schalch observed that the Bengalees did not like Burmese rice; they would, however, probably be obliged to eat it; he thought that Government might advantageously obtain rice from Burmah to pay labourers on the public works. Fifty thousand tons of this rice might be introduced; no great loss would probably be incurred.

His Excellency the Viceroy said that Government had announced that they would make importations of Burmese rice. In answer to Mr. Bernard, His Excellency added that he thought it would be better for the Local Government not to operate out of India; any purchases of foreign (including Burmese) rice could best be made through the Government of India.

Lord Ulick Browne said that some inconvenience arose from the necessity, under existing regulations, of one European officer being present at the head quarters of each sub-division daily to superintend the issue of stamps, and suggested that these regulations should be relaxed. The officer could probably be better employed in visiting his sub-division. After some conversation, it was arranged that Sir R. Temple and Mr. Chapman should inquire into the matter with a view to seeing whether any relaxation of the existing regulations would be desirable.

The proceedings then terminated.

Enclosure F.

No. 3003.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Expenditure, Miscellaneous.

To the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL.

SIR, Fort William, the 13th November 1873.

I AM directed to reply to your letter No. 3379, of the 10th current, respecting the arrangements to be made for averting or mitigating the effects of the scarcity in Bengal and Behar; also your letter E, of the 11th current, asking for a famine credit of fifty lakhs of rupees to be drawn against during the current official year. In these letters the Lieutenant-Governor asks, that "the principles on which immediate measures are to be taken and relief is "to be given, should be somewhat more precisely laid down," whether "grain should be "stored, poor-houses built, and the means of feeding, sheltering, and aiding the people pre-"pared," upon what principles relief is to be administered, and "how much he may spend "upon buying, transporting, and storing food in the places where it is most likely to be wanted "for relief works and relief centres," and, "generally, for some indications which would either "limit the wide responsibility of his Government or make it clear what discretion the Lieu-"tenant-Governor has."

2. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having expressed verbally a wish to be furnished with some further instructions on the topics treated of in the Governor-General's Resolution of the 7th November, a meeting was arranged on the 10th November, at which the Governor-General, Sir R. Temple, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and several of his principal officers were present.

3. A précis has been made of the substance of what passed at this conference, and a copy is forwarded herewith. It will be found to comprise the answers by the Governor-General to the various practical questions put, and to embody His Excellency's views on most, if not on all, of the points adverted to in your letter No. 3,379 under acknowledgment.

4. The various observations by the Governor-General contained in this précis are to be regarded as instructions for the guidance of the Local Government.

5. It may be desirable to observe that the policy indicated in the Resolution of the Government of India of the 7th instant does not include the general provision of supplies of food to districts which have suffered from the failure of the autumn rice crop within the operations which the Goverment are to undertake and for which they are responsible.

6. For the general distribution of supplies at the present time His Excellency has announced, in paragraphs 5 and 6 of that Resolution, that he relies with confidence upon the operations of trade, and no information that he has since received leads him to modify that opinion.

7. It was stated that the action of Government would be limited, first, to arranging, by means of advances of money, for supplies in such parts of the country as, by reason of distance from the main lines of communication, deficiencies of markets, or other exceptional circumstances, may, in the opinion of the local officers, reasonably be presumed to be beyond the ordinary operations of trade; and secondly, to securing sufficient supplies of food for the labourers to be employed upon public works.

8. Chapter XIII A of the Code of Regulations for the Public Works Department, published in 1870, to which allusion was made in the Resolution of the Government of India of the 28th ultimo, contains full instructions as to the manner in which the officers of the Public Works Department should act in regard to laying in supplies of grain. Should the Lieutenant-Governor consider that any of these instructions require modification, His Honour will observe, from the 1st paragraph, that the rules are "subject to any special orders that may be issued by the Local Government."

9. The reply, then, to the question of the Lieutenant-Governor how much it is desirable for him to do in regard to the buying and storing of food, is that the action of the Government of Bengal should for the present be limited to providing for the consumption of the persons who are likely to be employed upon the local relief works. This reply is not intended to debar the Lieutenant-Governor from acting upon his own responsibility in case of any sudden emergency, reporting the circumstances to the Government of India.

10. The information previously in the possession of the Governor-General, and that laid before him at the conference held upon the 10th instant, was to the effect that it will not be necessary to have recourse to the distribution of gratuitous relief for the present. His Excellency is of opinion that relief should not be commenced before a real necessity arises, and he

agrees with the Lieutenant-Governor that it is undesirable to "create obligations which it would be extremely difficult to meet." He explained the manner in which supplies would be obtained through the central relief committee, when appointed, and how any particular cases which might occur previously to the appointment of the central committee should be met. All that appears now to be necessary is that no time should be lost in preparing all the machinery required to set relief operations in motion so soon as the necessity shall arise.

11. The Governor-General trusts to the Lieutenant-Governor to obtain from each division and district statements in categorical form of all that is proposed to be done in consequence of the scarcity, to issue suitable instructions on each statement as soon as it is received, and to give the Commissioners and District Officers discretion to act on emergency even in anticipation of His Honour's instructions.

12. As soon as may be practicable, the Governor-General desires to receive abstracts of the district reports. The Government of India will then be able to form some judgment as to what will be the character and extent of the operations proposed, and of the funds, local, provincial, or imperial, which will be required.

13. Meanwhile I am to state that the Governor-General, although fully determined to support the Local Government with such financial means as may be necessary, considers that there would be objections to the grant of so large a famine credit as fifty lakhs of rupees beforehand. We do not know as yet that such an expenditure as this will really be needed during the current official year 1873-74; and time has not yet admitted of even approximate estimates being prepared.

14. As regards the classes of works set forth in paragraph 2 of your letter under acknowledgment, I am to observe that among the relief works already ordered the most important are the Soane Canal, the Northern State Railway, and the Gundak embankments. These works will be carried on at the charge of the imperial treasury; and all disbursements will be made from cash supplied in the usual way through the imperial Public Works Department.

15. Thus the principal storage of grain for the consumption of the labourers upon relief works will at the outset be made at the cost of the Government of India from imperial resources.

16. As regards advances to private persons for distributing grain, I am to state that money for this purpose may be obtained from the funds, 100,000*l.* (ten lakhs of rupees), already allotted for loans to municipalities.

17. In respect to grants to local committees equal to private subscriptions, I am to state that funds for such grants will be immediately supplied on information being received of such subscriptions being raised or promised.

18. Regarding provincial and local public works, the Governor-General desires that the moneys may in the first instance be disbursed from the available balance of the provincial or local funds, and may be provisionally debited to these funds. At the end of the official year the account will be subject to adjustment. That portion of the expenditure which, though incurred on provincial or local works, is yet really undertaken only for the relief of distress, will then be transferred to the head of "Famine Charges," which was reserved as imperial by Resolution No. 2,086, dated 30th March 1872. But that portion of the expenditure which represents value received by the various districts in the shape of actual works, will be left finally at the debit of provincial or local funds, unless, indeed, it be found that the aggregate of such debits is more than the provincial finances can properly bear, in which case the Government of India will be prepared to consider the grant of an additional allotment for provincial services.

19. For these reasons the Governor-General will defer compliance with the application for a general famine credit, until the requirements of the case shall be more fully known.

20. In view to the expense to be incurred on relief works, the Governor-General trusts to the Lieutenant-Governor to curtail as much as possible public works, whether at the cost of imperial, provincial, or local funds, in those districts which are not affected by scarcity, and in which there is no need to find employment for unemployed labour, in pursuance of the principle laid down for the North-Western Provinces in 1868-69.

21. The Governor-General is fully aware that any estimate which can now be formed of the extent of the distress which may arise must necessarily be uncertain. He knows the disadvantages under which the Province of Bengal is placed as compared with some other parts of India, in regard to the collection of information. And he is confident that the Lieutenant-Governor will act according to the best of his ability and judgment in fulfilling the arduous and responsible duties which will devolve upon him.

22. Furthermore, the Governor-General desires to take his full share in this responsibility, and has endeavoured to comply fully with the wish expressed by the Lieutenant-Governor that the principles and practice which the Government of India wish to be followed should be indicated as far as possible.

23. His Excellency trusts that the Resolutions of the Government of India of the 28th ultimo and 7th instant, together with the précis of the conference of the 10th, and this letter, will enable His Honour to act without delay, in the full confidence that he is carrying out the views of the Government of India, and that he will meet with their cordial support.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
R. B. Chapman,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 3,379, dated 10th November 1873.

From C. BERNARD, Esq., OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, with the GOVERNOR GENERAL.

With reference to the responsibilities of this Government, set forth in the Resolution on the scarcity in these provinces, published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* of 7th instant, and especially paragraphs 23 and 28, the Lieutenant-Governor would be glad if the principles on which immediate measures are to be taken and relief is to be given could be somewhat more precisely laid down.

2. All that Sir George Campbell has learned on this great and most difficult subject has impressed on him the following :—

I. When failure of the crops extends over a very wide extent of country and famine results, it may attain, and on occasions has attained, such proportions that no foresight, no energy, and no measures of relief which the Government can command can suffice adequately to deal with and overtake it. When the calamity is very severe and very widespreading, we can only partially mitigate it.

II. In the early, and it may be said the middle, stages of scarcity there must always be an extreme element of uncertainty. Our knowledge of the stocks of grain and habits of the people, of the actual produce of the fields, and of many things which act and re-act on the market, are not such as to enable us to calculate eventual results with any approach to certainty. Especially is this the case in these provinces where any system of agricultural statistics is in its infancy, and executive establishments in the interior of districts are but just formed on a very small scale.

This uncertainty becomes much greater in proportion as the failure of crops extends over a very large area.

Where the area of scarcity is moderate and well defined, we can calculate with some certainty on the supplies which may be poured in from the surrounding countries; but when the failure has extended over such an area that we cannot depend on the outside world to supply an extreme internal deficiency, the main element in our forecasts must be an unknown quantity, viz., the internal stocks, and the uncertainty is enormously increased.

III. While the Government by all means in its power avoids any negligence or undue shortcoming, there is, on the other hand, another difficulty into which we may fall; that is to say, if we give relief with too free a hand we raise expectations and create obligations, which we shall find it extremely difficult to meet.

Sir George Campbell has always put forward this last view of the case as well as the other. It has seemed to him that the people of this country are now by no means very prone to apply for relief, and that we could hardly by any means at our disposal give too much relief in times of scarcity, if necessity were to be measured by an English standard. When there has been much failure of the crops, and food is two or three times its usual price (not to say dearer than that), a very large proportion of the population, in fact the great majority of the population, are without sufficient food, and are in real need of assistance. But we have no poor law, no system of relief, and the people have been wont to feel that they must bear great privations. If the Government were to attempt to relieve all who suffer on every occasion of scarcity, the task would be too great.

3. Now, taking these three statements, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, with respect to the first, he may assume that the expressions in paragraphs 23 and 28 of the Resolution of the Government of India are not to be taken as literally holding this Government responsible to deal with and overtake the distress, however great it may be or might be; he assumes at once that, if we do the best we can, that is all that can be expected of us.

4. But the second and third statements, taken together, do, if they are admitted, raise practical questions of the most extreme difficulty and urgency, and it is because this Government is about to undertake a very great task under very wide instructions, and with so liberal means placed at its disposal, that the Lieutenant-Governor seeks some further guide in the application of those means.

5. All the elements of uncertainty now exist in these provinces in the most eminent degree. Our means of ascertaining the actual yield of the crops and other particulars are still very far below that possessed by the Government in any other part of India. Our information regarding stocks in hand is wholly deficient. The case of Orissa having been very peculiar, and its area comparatively very limited, we have no experience of a very general failure and of famine very widely spread in Bengal in this country, though we know that such a famine did occur in the last century. Even if we could compare that failure with this, we know that the habits of the people and conditions in regard to storing grain, export, import, and everything else, have wholly changed since 1770. The only comparison which we can to some extent effectively make is with the partial failure in Bengal of 1865.

6. Limited as are our means of knowledge, the Lieutenant-Governor is inclined to think that if we had to deal with Bengal alone with its 40 millions of people, or with Behar alone with its 20 millions of people, we could presently to some extent forecast the degree of scarcity. We could only do so within very wide limits, but still we might make some forecast. As it is, we are in this position: say we roughly forecast the degree of scarcity in Behar as we may perhaps do; if we were sure that we could buy in the Bengal markets and seaports, and pour into Behar,

we might to some extent count the cost. But as it is, we know that the crops have failed to a great degree in the Bengal districts with few exceptions, disastrously in many. It is utterly impossible to calculate with the least approach to accuracy the effect on the Bengal markets of great purchases for Behar both by private dealers and by Government for relief works and stores. We know by experience that the markets in these territories are most sensitive and sudden in their variations. There are prices that mean scarcity, and there are prices that mean famine; and we cannot tell when a demand from one province, suffering from scarcity and threatened with famine, upon another, already suffering from scarcity, may not lead to famine prices in both provinces.

7. In the North-Western Provinces, not only has there been more frequent experience of scarcity, but modern failures there have been, either not excessive in degree, or confined to one portion only of those provinces. The scarcity of 1868-69 was not excessive in degree. From Mr. Henvey's report, it appears that a large part of the khurreef crop was lost, and that the rubbee crop was not above two-thirds of an average; but "there was no general failure of "food," active absence of grain, and "the agriculturists suffered comparatively little."

The failure of 1860 was confined to the upper portion of the North-Western Provinces, and in no degree affected either Oude or the lower part of the North-Western Provinces; which on the contrary profited by an enormous exportation.

8. As an illustration of the uncertainty of these things, when the failure extends over a great area, reference may be made to the account of the Bengal Famine of 1770 as ascertained from the India Office records, and published with the "Further Report" on the Orissa Famine.

We have no means of comparing the produce of the crops of 1769 with those of the present year, and may hope that the degree of failure is not similar; but the season seems to have in some respects followed a similar course, inasmuch as the greatest scarcity was for many months supposed to be in the districts north of the Ganges and Behar, while the districts south of the Ganges, about Moorshedabad and Calcutta, were better off; yet later in the season, in the middle of 1870, these latter districts (probably in consequence of exports) suffered far greater extremities than the northern districts, where the failure had been greater.

9. So again, unexpected outbreaks of famine (compared by the Famine Commission to outbreaks of cholera) frequently take place almost without warning, in out-of-the-way and secluded corners of districts cut off from communication, in consequence of a panic.

10. The present uncertainty then being great, it seems to the Lieutenant-Governor impossible to undertake beforehand measures of relief so far-reaching and comprehensive that we can make sure of adequately dealing with and overtaking all the distress that may possibly arise, unless we carry our measures by way of precautions far beyond the necessities that we can distinctly foresee. If we would make sure, we must prepare full means of relief wherever there is a chance or possibility of distress, that is, almost everywhere. This we can hardly do. It seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that in practice we must run some risk, and a very considerable risk. While on the one hand we must observe and act on symptoms which render extreme distress probable, we cannot afford to prepare the means to meet every case in which it may be possible. We may—and if things turn out badly probably shall—be taken by surprise in some instances.

11. When it is said that timely measures must be taken, it must be fully understood that we cannot effectually guard against distress merely by organising district and local committees and such like machinery. If we are to make sure that distress shall not get beyond our means, we must not only prepare the machinery of action, but act—store grain, build poor-houses, prepare the means of feeding, sheltering, and aiding the people. These things are not done in a day; especially as we know by experience in Orissa grain cannot be transported at any time to feed a large population on a sudden crisis. Orissa was, no doubt, an extreme case; but, undoubtedly, in any part of the country beyond rivers and railways, if the strain on means of transport becomes too great next hot weather, the transport will break down. If we are to prepare for probable or possible relief in any locality, it seems most essential that food should be transported and stored in good time before the crisis and when carriage is available. The question then is, when, where, and to what extent these things are to be done when future distress is possible, or when it is probable.

12. Finally, as regards the mode and degree of relief, the questions are very difficult. The difficulties are chiefly connected with the distinction so well known in England, between in-door and the out-door relief. It may be assumed that when distress is ascertained, both work, and as far as possible, food for work, will be given to all applicants, while poor-house food, and if necessary shelter, will be given to the weak, unable to work. But beyond this comes the question of the amount of relief to be given to large classes who will suffer great extremities rather than labour on public works or accept cooked food. And very much of this question of degree of relief is bound up with the other regarding the time at which relief is given. In this country, as has been said, the people certainly do not to an unusual or unreasonable degree seek relief; on the contrary we must for the most part seek them out and offer it to them. Just in proportion as we offer relief soon and near to their homes, they will avail themselves of it. It is scarcely possible to begin relief so soon, and to carry it so far as to bring it home to all in time to avert all distress. To do all that in a limited area it is possible to do, we must not only begin on the earliest appearance of scarcity, but we must scatter relief houses broadcast so as to have one for every group of villages within reach of everyone's home. And we must give outdoor relief to all who have reasonable ground for not working or coming to a relief house. It is only in this way that, beginning as early as possible, we shall get first the beggars on the

surface; then the poorest people ordinarily self-supporting; then tap deeper and deeper strata, and really avert great distress. But it is almost impossible to get together at once the means of doing this over so wide an area as that in which distress is now possible.

13. The Lieutenant-Governor is very unwilling to seem to discuss rather than act, but it does appear to him that the general outcome of the Resolution of the Government of India is this: "We will give you (the Local Government) men, money, and everything you can use; "but on you it lies that disease and death, due to want of food, shall be averted." The Lieutenant-Governor has thought it necessary to represent that this is a burden which in its fullest extent this Government can hardly promise successfully to bear. In his opinion the area affected is so great, and the uncertainty so much precludes accurate calculation, that we cannot, with all the means at our disposal, make sure of doing all that might be done if the area were small and the degree of want could be accurately gauged. We can only take a certain amount of precautionary measures, and take them in the direction where it seems most probable that they will be needed. If happily the scarcity proves less severe, we may meet it fully, and for the most part avert very great suffering; if it unfortunately proves more severe, we must strain every nerve to do all that is possible; but we cannot hope to avert all calamity. In the uncertainty which must for some time hang over everything, the amount of precautionary measures to be adopted is a question of discretion and finance. No man can say exactly how much should be done; but some indication may be given how far the Government of India think it prudent to go without delay, and wish the Local Government to go under present circumstances.

14. In discussing these matters with His Excellency the Viceroy, His Excellency told the Lieutenant-Governor that it might be well that he should submit in writing the questions on which he felt uncertainty, and promised that, as far as possible, His Excellency's Government would indicate the principles and practice they wish to be followed. So far as the Government of India will indicate their views on the very difficult questions which form the subject of this letter, the Lieutenant-Governor will follow those views as much as he is able; and so far as the matter is left to his unfettered discretion, he will act to the best of his ability and judgment in the view that some risks must be run, but that we must apply the means at our disposal in the mode which appears on the whole most likely to be beneficial.

Some indications, which would either limit the wide responsibility of this Government, or make it clear what discretion the Lieutenant-Governor has, he would certainly like to have.

15. To bring to a short conclusion a long argument, the Lieutenant-Governor would say that, at the present moment, the question which seems to him most to press, is that of buying, transporting, and storing food in the places where it is most likely to be wanted for relief works and relief centres. As affecting both the general course of trade and the Indian exchequer, the Lieutenant-Governor would much like some decision as to what and how much it is now desirable for him to do in this respect, and how much he may spend. If he were to deal with the question solely with a view to fulfil to the very utmost the condition that distress should in no case get beyond our means without regard to the capabilities of the general exchequer, he does think that there is such a reasonable possibility of need for very widely extended relief measures, that, to be on the safe side, he would at once undertake very extensive measures indeed; in fact, he would buy grain very largely wherever it is to be had, procure and use every possible means of transport, and prepare food depôts in almost every part of the Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye Divisions, and perhaps in great part of the Burdwan Division. But he feels that if he were to act in this respect without stint or limit, he would be taking one view of the case only. If he had the whole case in his hands, his endeavour to do the very utmost to be on the safe side, as regards Bengal and Behar, would be controlled and limited by the feeling that the purchase of grain is connected with great free trade and other questions, and with large questions of imperial finance. But these great subjects are not within his control. The question of free trade or prohibition of exports has been dealt with by the Government of India. The Government of India is more fitted to deal with great trade and economic questions; the Government of India must judge how the necessities of Bengal, on the one hand, and the state of the imperial finance on the other, must regulate and control one another. The Lieutenant-Governor thus is not master of the whole case, and when a discretion is given to him it must in some way be limited. He would like, then, some general indication how far it is desirable that he should at present go in preparation for relief, and how much he may spend in the purchase of food, means of transport, &c. Perhaps it would be convenient that the sum should be named up to which he may draw on the treasury for relief purposes without farther reference.

No. E, dated 11th November 1873.

From C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Agricultural Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, with His Excellency the Viceroy.

In the last paragraph of my letter* of yesterday's date, regarding the important Resolution by the Government of India, dated the 7th November, is put the question how far, and to what extent, His Excellency the Viceroy would permit the Government of Bengal to spend money in providing against the distress that is threatening the country. I am now to solicit that the Government of India

* Now under issue.

may be pleased to grant to the Government of Bengal a famine credit to be drawn against during the current year.

2. The ways in which the money, if granted, would be spent, are—

(1.) Relief works;
(2.) Purchase of grain for storage at relief works;
(3.) Advances to private persons, under paragraph 26 of the Resolution;
(4.) Making grants to local relief committees, equal to the private contributions they may collect.

Some few of the larger relief works will indeed be imperial undertakings, for which the Local Government would not have to find the money. But there will be other minor relief works all over the country; the provincial Public Works Department grants for 1873–74 (which were very liberal grants) are by the last accounts being fully worked up to; the local funds are not large anywhere, and their income this year will be much curtailed by the stoppage of the road cess in some districts, and by the temporary cessation of road and ferry tolls on all roads by which grain is being transported. The provincial and local resources, therefore, for meeting the cost of relief works are not large, and as "famine" was, by the Resolution of December 1870, distinctly reserved as an imperial charge when the provincial system was started, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that a grant, or a credit, may now be sanctioned against which this Government may draw for famine relief works.

3. There is no doubt that it will be necessary for this Government to buy and store grain largely and immediately at several points in the districts of Tirhoot, Gya, Bhaugulpore, Monghyr, Purneah, Dinagepore, and Bograh, over and above the stores which may be established for the Soane Canal works. The discussion at Government House, at which the Lieutenant-Governor and his officers were permitted to attend yesterday, made it very clear that questions of transport, of price, of possible suddenness of demand, all made it imperative that we should be beforehand with our supplies of grain for relief works. The Lieutenant-Governor cannot say precisely how much grain Bengal officers may be able to store before the 31st March next, but he would be very glad if he could see his way to storing anything like the amount named by Mr. Schalch at yesterday's discussion, namely, 50,000 tons. Moreover, though this amount may not be stored by the 31st March, still in some districts it will be possible to make advances for delivery of the rice directly the new (winter) crop comes into the market in February next. So that, if Government and its officers really can do as much as they would wish to do, very considerable sums will be required for the purchase of grain.

4. As to advances to planters and others who may be willing to lay in store and to take Government advances for such a purpose, the Lieutenant-Governor would hope to leave very full discretion to local officers. The more money that can be properly and early spent in bringing grain from a distance for private storage in the distressed districts the better.

5. The private contributions to be raised in districts by relief committees will, the Lieutenant-Governor apprehends, be small. Already accounts are coming in of cases in which zemindars, village headmen, and others have begun to help and support their people; and any private charity will find a very ready outlet in such like directions. Still, some funds will be required to meet the private contributions.

6. In view of all these wants, I am to solicit that a famine credit of fifty (50) lakhs of rupees may be granted to the Government of Bengal for the service of the remainder of the year 1873–74.

No. 3,004.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.—FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Expenditure.—Miscellaneous.

To the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL.

SIR, Fort William, the 14th November 1873.

IN continuation of my letter No. 3,003 of the 13th instant, conveying the Governor-General's views and wishes regarding the scarcity in Bengal, there is one special matter on which His Excellency desires to make some suggestions, and that is the prevention, so far as may be possible, of mortality among cattle in the districts affected by drought.

2. His Excellency has learnt that at present the cattle are probably allowed to graze in the fields of the withered crops the stubble of which supplies abundant fodder. But such fodder will doubtless be soon consumed and must be exhausted by January at the latest. After that time the parched ground will nowhere afford pasture, and by degrees want of fodder will cause disease and death among the cattle. The records of past famines in India show the loss of cattle to have been always so severe as to amount to a serious diminution of the agricultural capital of the districts, and even to cripple the sowing operations of the ensuing season.

3. And under the circumstances as it is to be feared they will be during the coming hot season, one main difficulty will probably be want of draught animals for the transport of food grains to the interior of the districts.

4. These considerations are well known to the Lieutenant-Governor, and will doubtless have formed the subject, among many other things, of His Honour's forethought.

5. But the Governor-General would specially suggest for the Lieutenant-Governor's early or immediate attention that the present consumption by the cattle of the withered rice stubble will, if not watched, be very wasteful. Quantities of fodder, in the absence of precautions, might be lost, which, if saved by management and stored for use some months hence, might prove a valuable resource at the most critical period of the scarcity.

6. It appears to the Governor-General that the Lieutenant-Governor might be able to issue such instructions to the local officers as might cause a large part of the rice stubble to be husbanded, stacked, or stored for future use, without at all preventing the cattle from consuming such part as might be needed at the present season. And the cutting and stacking might afford employment to those who are out at work from the cessation of the harvesting operations.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
R. B. CHAPMAN,
Secretary to the Government of India.

(Copy.) No. 1 C.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

To His Grace the DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD DUKE, Camp Agra, the 21st of November 1873.

WE have the honor to forward special narrative of the drought of 1873 to the 14th of November.

2. During the absence of the Governor-General in Council from Calcutta, the Lieutenant-Governor has been requested to transmit for your Grace's information copies of the weekly special narrative, in which the proceedings of the Government of Bengal in connection with the drought will be recorded. On our arrival at Calcutta, the special narrative will be forwarded through the Government of India in accordance with the usual practice.

3. The special narrative now enclosed contains no information of a later date than that which was conveyed to your Grace in the Viceroy's Despatch B. of November 12th, with which despatch copies were enclosed of the official correspondence with the Government of Bengal on the subject of the prohibition of exports, and of the instruction given to the Lieutenant-Governor in reply to His Honor's letter of November 10th, No. 3,379.

4. The information received by the Viceroy and Sir R. Temple from the Commissioners of Bhaugulpore and Patna, whom they saw when passing through Behar, was to the effect that any extreme distress would be confined to the following districts: Tirhoot, Sarum, Gya; the remaining districts of the Patna Division in a somewhat less degree, half of Monghyr, the northern half of Bhaugulpore, less than half of Purneah, and more than half of the Sonthal Pergunnah.

5. We enclose a copy of the last report of the prospects of those districts of the N.W. Provinces where the rice crop has failed; the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor of the N.W. Provinces is that no considerable difficulty is likely to be experienced in dealing with those districts. His Honor has taken all the precautionary measures which the situation requires.

6. The Viceroy proposes to leave Agra on the 25th, and after visiting Futtehghur, Lucknow, and Allahabad, to arrive at Calcutta on or about December 10th. In the interim the Government of India will proceed to Calcutta, and we shall nominate the Hon. Sir Richard Temple the President of the Council during the absence of the Viceroy, under the provisions of the 6th section of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, in order to prevent any delay in issuing such orders as may be required.

7. We have communicated with the Scinde, Punjab and Delhi, G. T. P., and Oudh Rohilcund Railway Agencies with the view of reducing the rates for the carriage

of food grains conveyed to Behar and Bengal, as has been done upon the East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways.

We have, &c.
(Signed) Northbrook.
R. Temple.
H. W. Ellis.
H. W. Norman.
Arthur Hobhouse.
E. C. Bayley.

Camp Agra, the 21st November 1873.

Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873, to 14th November 1873.

1. During three consecutive years, the weather in Bengal has been abnormal. In 1871 the rainfall was excessive—24 inches at Calcutta above the average of previous years. In spite, however, of an excessive rainfall, the crops were very good. It was said in the annual report for the year, that "the season 1871–72 " was comparatively unfavourable for what are called dry crops; but as rice is " the main staple of these provinces, the general result of the season was certainly " good."

In 1872, on the other hand, the rainfall was deficient—29 inches at Calcutta below the average of previous years. In spite, however, of this deficiency, the crops were very good in Bengal, and not bad in Behar. Although extraordinarily scanty, the rain was happily distributed both in time and place.

The year 1873 has again been dry, and dry almost beyond precedent. Not only has the rainfall been deficient, but what rain there has been, has been unfortunately distributed. The hilly country south of the Ganges along its whole line has had more than an average fall; indeed, so heavy were the rains at one time in this part of the country, that the early rains crop was much damaged by excess of rain. Even in Gya and Patna, the early rains crop suffered heavily from rain and floods, which came at an unfortunate time.

This excessive fall did not extend north of the Ganges. On the contrary, in North Behar and almost the whole of Bengal the rain has been far below the average, the greatest deficiency being in the districts north of the Ganges both in Bengal and Behar. For instance, the fall of rain from the 1st January to date in parts of the Rajshahye Division and in North Tirhoot, with an average for the same period, of 84 and 44 inches respectively, has only been 26 to 30 inches. In Calcutta, the fall to date has been 44 inches against an average of 68 inches.

Throughout the country, the absence of storms and showers in April and May, and the late commencement of the rains, deferred the preparation of the lands and the sowing and planting out of the crops till some apprehension was felt regarding the success of those operations. On the 1st July the rainfall from 1st January, at the chief centres of Calcutta, Patna, and Dacca, had been, as compared with the average of previous years, as follows:—

	Up to 30th July 1873.	Average of previous years.
Calcutta - - -	11·10	24·80
Patna - - -	4·71	9·86
Dacca - - -	18·65	33·19

The season was abnormally hot. There was registered in Calcutta a higher temperature than had been registered during many previous years.

2. But late seasons are not always bad seasons for the crops; and though complaints of want of a sufficient quantity of rain continued to be made from certain districts, the general aspect of affairs, from the commencement of the rains in the latter end of June up to the middle of September, was on the whole not unpromising. The dryness of the season and the lateness of the sowings formed the subject of demi-official communications between His Excellency the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor. The latter anticipated that if the usual rain fell no irreparable damage would be done by the singular lateness of the rains. Such seasons had not been uncommon, and wherever the rains subsequently ran their usual course had not proved unpropitious. This anticipation was verified by the result to a

certain point, for up to the middle or end of September the prospect was not at all gloomy, taking the country as a whole.

3. In the last days of June and the early days of July the Lieutenant-Governor visited Northern Bengal, travelling by boat down the Teesta and Brahmapootra from Julpigoree to Goalundo. The state of the crops in that part of the country was not during his progress made the subject of complaint until his arrival at Goalundo, where he found everything very backward.

4. But though the general aspect of the crops was not unpromising, the accounts from Behar did not become more favourable till the middle of July; while from Purneah and Dinagepore unfavourable reports continued to be made up to the second week in August.

From Purneah, in beginning of August, bad accounts were received. The Magistrate reported that the outturn of the *bhadoi* (or September) crop would be bad, and that unless heavy rain fell within the next three weeks there would be a failure of the rice crop in the sub-divisions of Arrarean and Kissengunge. He was directed to keep himself thoroughly well informed of the condition of the people of his district, and prepare himself to meet any distress which might arise, if the contingency anticipated of no rain falling within three weeks should actually occur. Rain however came, and the aspect of affairs improved greatly.

5. With the beginning of September came the harvest of the *bhadoi* crops in Behar, chiefly Indian-corn and *murwa* (a small millet); and of the *aus* crop in Bengal, almost entirely rice. Neither of these crops was an entire failure anywhere, and in many districts the outturn was tolerably good. In parts of Behar injury had been done by heavy rains and floods in the beginning of August; in parts of Bengal scarcity of water affected the outturn; but in some districts, such as Nuddea, where this crop supplies a large proportion of the food of the people, the outturn was good; and in North Behar scanty rain seems to have been not altogether unfavourable to the early crop. This early crop is, however, almost everywhere except in Nuddea a comparatively small crop. During September the accounts of the late rice known as *aghani* in Behar, *amun* in Bengal, continued favourable. With the last week of September came complaints of want of water from several districts, but such injury was not generally done that the usual October rain would not have remedied.

6. The position, then, at the end of September was this: the rains had commenced late, and had not been as heavy as usual. The early rains crop had been below the average on the whole, but by no means a failure. The late rains crop was late but on the whole promised fairly; in some districts it promised so very well that the ryots reckoned on a bumper crop, and sold off their old stocks. The rains had ceased for a time—not an unusual occurrence, and the people were looking forward to a full downfall in October. Although experience of former years had taught them that serious scarcity and distress, if not famine, would be the result of a total cessation of the rains, yet they had been so often saved from ruin by falls in October, that they were not very apprehensive of disaster. Prices had not as yet risen; indeed, were lower than in the same month of the year preceding.

7. But as the days of October wore on, and no rain came, apprehension increased. While anxiously watching the rain and crop reports, the Lieutenant-Governor was loath to give unnecessary alarm. When a considerable portion of October had passed without rain he became alarmed. He thought the time had come when it was necessary to take more than ordinary precautions, to obtain the best information, and ordered a circular which was issued on 13th October, and which directed that the crop and prices-current returns regularly submitted should be supplemented by further reports giving fuller details of the food-supplies of the country.

Circular No. 70, dated the 13th October 1873.

The following were the specific questions contained in the circular:—

(1.) Whether the district (or tract) is devoted to food-growing crops, and what proportion (if considerable) of its land is taken by any staples other than food.

(2.) Whether it exports or imports food; and if it imports, from where.

(3.) What are the main food-staples of the people; and, roughly, in what proportion they are consumed.

(4.) What are the various rice crops of the district or tract (such as *aus*, or *amun dhan*, &c.); at what season are they reaped; and, roughly, what proportion of the whole rice produce each crop represents in an average year.

(5.) The estimated outturn for the present year of each important food-crop which has reached or approached maturity (the different rice crops being distinguished):

(a.) As compared with an average year (*e.g.*, half or three-quarters, as the case may be).

(b.) As compared with any previous short year which can be named.

(6.) State and prospects of the ensuing cold weather food-crops, and the degrees to which people may be expected to derive support from them.

(7.) Date, under favorable circumstances, of sowing and reaping of the earliest rice-crop of 1874, and the extent to which the cultivation might be increased to meet a pressing demand.

8. On the 16th of October the Lieutenant-Governor demi-officially communicated to the Viceroy his fears that the consequences would be very serious if the rains should not return. He said—" The reports we have from Northern and Central " Bengal and the whole of Behar are as bad as they can be; from East, West, and " South Bengal they are bad. There is an area north of the Ganges, comprising " most of the Rajshahye Division, Purneah, and North Tirhoot, in which the rain " has been extraordinarily short, and in which, I fear, nothing can now save us " from great dearness and distress. If the next two or three weeks should pass " without good rain the consequences in these districts would be painful; and I " may say the same of all Behar, where the *rubbee*, or cold weather crop, which is " there an important resource, could not in that case be sown. Rain cannot be " withheld unless we are really doomed to such a year as only occurs once in a " very long period."

At the same time the Board of Agency of the East Indian Railway were requested to keep the local officers, through whose jurisdiction their railway passes, informed of the movements of grain upon it. It has been ascertained that during the latter half of October very large consignments of rice were sent up by the East Indian Railway from Bengal to Behar; but that on the last two days of October the rice-market of Calcutta became much unsettled; prices rose greatly and fluctuated somewhat; and the upward rice trade is still slack.

9. Meantime the reports from the Commissioners became more alarming. The Commissioner of Patna telegraphed and wrote that there was no rain, nor sign of rain. The Commissioner of Rajshahye reported a panic in the district of Bograh, where rice had risen from 24½ to 12½ seers to the rupee within two days. It fell, however, to 18 seers within two or three days afterwards. The Commissioner of Rajshahye added—" Now I fear rain would do little good, and there is no probability of any " further fall."

Letter No. 50 J, dated Hazareebaugh, the 22nd October 1873.

10. When it became clear that, whether rain fell or not, there would be serious deficiency in the crop, while in the absence of rain the consequences might be still more serious, it seemed that the time had come when the Government of India should be officially warned of the disaster which might be impending. Accordingly, on the 22nd October, the Lieutenant-Governor wrote to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Agricultural and Commercial Department, that " it was now impossible to avoid the gravest apprehensions of " general scarcity throughout the country, and worst evils in large parts of it." Of the Patna Division, he wrote: " Not only is much of the rice crops irreparably " gone, and much of the remainder almost gone, but the continued drought has " given rise to the greatest fear for the cold weather crops, which are an important " staple in the Patna Division. If there is no rain in the next few days, and the " *rubbee* sowings do not give immediate employment and hopes for the future, " distress and difficulty of a serious character may be almost immediate in this " division." Of Northern Bengal and North-East Behar he wrote: " In parts of " this usually moist tract the rainfall has hardly exceeded that which is usual in " the driest parts of the North-West Provinces. It is in this tract that the " greatest failure has taken place. Possibly, in the moister and less populous parts " even failure may not be so complete and ruinous as further west; but in the " west of this tract there may be said to be already panic." Of Eastern Bengal he said: " It will be a very bad feature in the case if, as is feared, the crops are there " so short that the usual exports are impossible." Of the Western Bengal districts, the Lieutenant-Governor was unable to give any favorable report. Of Orissa and the southern seaboard districts of Bengal only could he entertain good hope of a favorable outturn. He asked for authority to make immediate arrangements for

relief works, and to import grain for the laborers where necessity arose. He also recommended strongly that the export of grain to foreign countries should be prohibited. Copy of this letter is annexed.*

11. At the same time the Lieutenant-Governor had determined to visit the most threatened divisions and personally confer with the local officers. On his way to Patna, on the 27th October, the Lieutenant-Governor received a telegram from His Excellency the Viceroy, to which he replied that he thought things looked as bad as possible. On the receipt of this telegram and of the letter of this Government of the 22nd October above referred to, His Excellency the Viceroy decided to return to Calcutta at once, and telegraphed to the Lieutenant-Governor at Patna to this effect.

12. The Lieutenant-Governor reached Patna on the 27th October, and there conferred with the Commissioner and local officers and gentlemen of local experience. He had here an opportunity of consulting: all the district officers, with the exception of the Magistrate-Collector of Chumparun; Mr. Levinge, the Superintendent of the Soane Irrigation Works; Messrs. Fox and Milne of the firm of Messrs. Thomson and Fox, large landholders in the Shahabad district; the Manager and Assistant Manager of the Durbungah Estate; and European and Native gentleman from both sides of the Ganges. The result of the Lieutenant-Governor's inquiries are embodied in a note which he recorded on the 29th October, of which a copy is annexed.† All that could be learned regarding the crops was very unfavourable, as the Lieutenant-Governor said "the general tendency of "opinions is very gloomy." But he added this gleam of comfort, "There has been "little symptom of panic. Rice in most places has not reached a famine price."

The Lieutenant-Governor recorded his views on the subject of relief works and the importation of grain as follows:—

"The general rule I would follow would be, not to import on the part of "Government to supply the general market and to compete with the traders in a "part of the country where there are active traders, as is here the case; but to "import for relief works, so that relief of this kind should be a relief given by a "clear addition to the resources of the affected tract, and not by taking food from "one man to give to another. I think that all the local officers should set "themselves to devise the means by which food for the purpose I have indicated "may be transported to the parts where they see the greatest prospect of a "necessity for large relief works. Meantime, although, while people are occupied "in the attempt to save crops still alive, and there is a possibility of *rubbee* "sowings, there will probably be little or no seeking for labour, I much feel the "truth of what the Commissioner and several officers have said, that there is much "danger that people will keep away from relief works till they are half-starved, "and I believe we cannot too soon open works sufficient to—

"(1.) Accustom the people to the knowledge that work is available to them.

"(2.) Test the state of the country."

Authority was accordingly at once given to open works wherever it might be needed, the plans having been already prepared, in accordance with previous precaution, under orders issued in June 1872.

The conditions under which, and the objects with which, work was to be undertaken are set forth in the note.

On the whole, the result of the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Bankipore was by no means reassuring.

13. On the 29th October the Lieutenant-Governor proceeded to Bhaugulpore, where he met the district officers and such other officers of the division as on short notice could be collected. The result of his inquiries was much the same as that of the Bankipore consultation, as recorded in his note of the 29th; and instructions of a similar import were given verbally, and were afterwards repeated in writing in the letter of the 3rd November, after the Lieutenant-Governor had received the Commissioner's report and suggestions, which that officer prepared after the meeting at Bhaugulpore on the 30th October.

14. The Lieutenant-Governor was unable to prosecute his tour to Moorshedabad as he had at first proposed, on account of the return to Calcutta of His Excellency the Viceroy. But he had an opportunity of conferring with the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Burdwan on his way down, before the arrival of the Viceroy, whom he accompanied from Burdwan to Calcutta. The instructions given to these Commissioners were in substance the same as those given to the Commissioners of Patna

* Page 4.

† Page 8.

and Bhaugulpore, and recorded in the note of the 29th. His Excellency the Viceroy, accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor, reached Calcutta on Friday the 31st.

15. While he was at Patna, the Lieutenant-Governor received telegraphic information that the Government of India had sanctioned, by the Resolution* of Public Works Department, No. 431 B.C., dated 28th October 1873, the active prosecution of the Soane Canal project and the commencement of work upon the Northern Bengal Railway. He was able to arrange at once with Mr. Levinge for the authorised extension of the former project, and to telegraph instructions to the engineers charged with the latter. The resolution above referred to suggested the advisability of reducing the rates of freight on the Bengal railways for the carriage of food-grains. It also referred to the Gunduck embankment scheme as one which might now be taken up as a relief work. One of the first things done by His Excellency the Viceroy on his arrival was to arrange for the reduction of the railway rates for food-grains to ⅙ pie per maund per mile, the Government recouping to the Railway Company the difference between the ordinary and special rate. On examining the Gunduck embankment scheme the Lieutenant-Governor recommended that project, and it has been sanctioned.

* Page 37.

In prosecution of the instructions issued to the Commissioners with whom he had conferred, and in pursuance of the authority for the prosecution of public works in the distressed districts, conveyed by the resolution of the Government of India of 28th October above mentioned, the Lieutenant-Governor, on 3rd November, recorded and circulated a resolution, of which a copy is annexed.† It will be seen that these orders convey authority for the fullest extension of public works in the distressed districts as soon as work is wanted by the people—that being the mode of relief which, in the present stage of affairs, has commended itself to the Governments of India and Bengal

† Page 38.

16. On the 7th November His Excellency the Viceroy published in a *Gazette Extraordinary* a resolution reviewing the orders which had already been passed in connection with the impending scarcity, and expressing the views of the Government of India on the policy to be adopted in the crisis which had occurred. A copy is annexed.‡

‡ Page 10.

17. Before this resolution was published, the Lieutenant-Governor had again, in his letter, No. 3,300,§ dated November 7th, pressed upon the Government of India his view that all exportation of food-grains from at least Bengal ports should be prohibited. The Lieutenant-Governor showed that the annual export from Calcutta of rice alone is 350,000 to 400,000 tons; that as much as 94,000 maunds had been passed for export from Calcutta between the 1st and 7th November 1873; and that the annual export from the ports of Morrellgunge and Chittagong was fully 70,000 tons. Since sending this letter the Lieutenant-Governor has received intimation that 11,000 maunds of rice were exported from Chittagong between 8th and 11th November, and that the exportable surplus of the Balasore district (about 22,000 tons a year) is being bought up by Madras merchants for export to the Maldive and Laccadive islands, Ceylon, and the Madras Presidency. While this narrative was passing through the press, the orders of the Government of India have been received, to the effect that His Excellency the Viceroy cannot agree to prohibit exportation from Bengal ports, and that he looks to the high prices to check exportation, to bring Burmah rice to Bengal, and in fact practically to stop the export of the commoner sorts of rice.

§ Page 18.

18. On some points the Lieutenant-Governor felt obliged to solicit more definite instructions than were contained in the Resolution of the Government of India of the 7th November. He wished instructions as to the extent to which he should make preparations for relieving distress possible but not certain. There were elements of uncertainty regarding the future which it was impossible to ignore, and it was necessary to decide whether the worst which might possibly happen should be provided for. In the event of its being decided that the Lieutenant-Governor was to make preparation to meet the worst that might befall, then it was pointed out that he was hardly sufficiently master of the situation to be able to act as it would be necessary to act. He asked to be instructed how far it was desirable that he should at present go in preparation for relief, and how much he might spend in the purchase of food, means of transport, &c. On consideration, the Lieutenant-Governor applied for a famine credit of 50 lacs of rupees (500,000*l.*), against which this Government might draw. Copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's letter, No. 3,379, of 10th November, is annexed.||

|| Page 25.

The reply of His Excellency the Viceroy is not yet in the hands of this Government; but the Government of India has not thought proper to give this Government any famine credit, deeming that the expenditure must in the first instance be debited to provincial funds. As regards preparations for possible relief, the view of His Excellency the Viceroy is that, except in the event of extraordinary local emergency, such preparations should be confined to relief works, and that stores for eventual charitable relief need not yet be made.

19. The Lieutenant-Governor had been in frequent personal communication with His Excellency the Viceroy, and on 10th November, by His Excellency's desire, he waited on His Excellency at Government House with several of the principal officers of this Government, and a meeting was held at which the various measures to be adopted towards averting impending distress were fully discussed. It is understood that the result of these discussions is about to be communicated to this Government along with a reply to the letter, No. 3,379, dated 10th November, mentioned above. Having settled so much, His Excellency the Viceroy left Calcutta on the 12th instant. The further orders which the Lieutenant-Governor has felt authorised to issue are now in course of preparation, and will be detailed in the next weekly narrative.

20. It will be convenient at this point to review the weather and its effect upon the crops from the middle of October, when the accounts sent to the Lieutenant-Governor were such as to create his serious apprehension.

In the latter part of September and first part of October up to the 18th, there had been nothing but very partial showers in Bengal, and next to none in Behar. In fact, in Behar in the last half of September there had only been showers in one or two very limited spots, and none at all in October.

Clouds had continually gathered, especially in Bengal, and given hope of rain, but those hopes were as continually disappointed.

When the Lieutenant-Governor wrote in October, a north wind had driven away all prospect of rain, and there was every appearance of the dry cold weather having been set in.

Yet again in the latter part of October, and even in the beginning of November, the clouds gave hope of rain, and some showers fell in Bengal. The showers in October were extremely light and partial. On the 3rd and 4th November we had better hopes. From several places reports of rainfall, almost considerable, were received. Though there was no rain in Calcutta, heavy showers fell at several places in the neighbourhood, and it was at one time hoped that the fall might prove to be pretty general.

These hopes were, however, for the most part disappointed. It proved that the showers were everywhere local and partial, and that they did not extend to Behar. Even where the amount of rain was appreciable, the local authorities would not admit that it was enough very materially to benefit the late rice. Still, undoubtedly in several parts of the Presidency and Dacca Divisions there was rain of some benefit, and there was also some showers at places in the Burdwan and Rajshahye Divisions. Not more than a few drops fell in the eastern border of Behar.

Even if the showers in various parts of Bengal did not suffice to improve the rice, it is admitted that they may benefit the sowings for the cold weather crops. On the whole, it may be said that in the last three weeks the prospects in Bengal generally have a little improved, while in Behar and the northernmost part of Bengal there has been nothing to mitigate the drought, and the failure of the hope of rain has so far verified gloomy anticipations.

The latest Weekly Report of the weather and crops is sent with this narrative.

21. It is at present not possible to give an accurate estimate of the loss of crops through drought. Some answers to the Circular, No. 70, dated 13th October, above (paragraph 7) referred to, have been received, but their contents have not yet been sufficiently digested. Suffice it now to say that, "roughly speaking," extreme failure of crops will probably be confined to—

(1.) All the districts of the Pâtna Division;

(2.) All the districts of the Bhaugulpore Division, except the Sonthal Pergunnahs;

(3.) The districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, Bograh, and parts of Rajshahye, Maldah, and Moorshedabad in the Rajshahye Division.

In other districts there will be short crops, but in the districts above named the whole yield of all the food-crops of 1873–4 are estimated to be (unless copious rain falls at a very early date) less than three-eighths of the yield of an ordinary average crop, and relief works on a more or less extended scale will be required soon. There are other districts or parts of districts where the crop has been short, and where relief works may be eventually required; such, for instance, as the Maunbhoom district, much of the Burdwan Division, and some limited portions of the Presidency Division. But in all these districts it is hoped that the harvests all round will give half an ordinary year's yield. In Dacca, Mymensing, and Tipperah the crop is still reported much below an average, but it is not probable that the agriculturists will be reduced to want. Sylhet, Chittagong, Noakhally, Backergunge, and Orissa have fair average crops, and will, as usual, have a large exportable surplus, which might be diverted to other districts of Bengal. Already intelligence has been received that Assam, which usually imports, is now exporting rice to Bengal. It may be noted that the population of tracts (above noted) where the failure of crops will be extreme is about 25 millions.

22. The above is a brief review of the general action taken by the Government of Bengal in face of the impending scarcity of food. Some minor measures remain to be noted. The temporary abolition of all road toll-bars and tolls on ferries which can in dry weather be crossed by a ford or causeway has been ordered; while, where boats must be used, the tolls are to be reduced to the lowest tariff which will remunerate the boat-men. Further, the Government has put a steamer and flats to ply in the Ganges from Kooshtea to Rajshahye; has ordered a small light draught steamer, with flats, to ply on the inland waters of Rajshahye; and has directed the formation of bullock trains on certain traffic routes in Rajshahye for the carriage of railway material and of food-grains to depôts. Various minor road works which it is unnecessary to particularize have been sanctioned in different districts. On other occasions when parts of Bengal have been afflicted by famine, the want of subordinate native establishments, such as exist in other Indian provinces, had been greatly felt. The Lieutenant-Governor had made some attempt to supply this want in his scheme for subordinate establishments lately sanctioned by the Government of India. He now warned local officers that the new establishments should be fully utilised in works connected with the impending scarcity.

23. In regard to the food-supply of the distressed districts, His Excellency the Viceroy has laid down the general rule that Government must trust to the trade and to the improved means of communication for the natural flow of food from other parts of India to make up the deficit in Behar and Northern Bengal. At the same time His Excellency has authorised the Lieutenant-Governor to arrange for supplying and storing food at centres of relief works where many labourers are likely to be gathered together, and where the local supplies must be insufficient to bear any extra strain. The Government of India is operating in the Burmah and other markets outside India, while the Government of Bengal and its officers are buying some grain and contracting for much more to be stored at centres in the distressed districts for use on relief works. The restrictions on the manner of procuring these supplies are that the grain must be brought from a distance outside the distressed districts, and that Government officers must work through the local traders as far as possible. As yet an expenditure up to almost 23 lakhs of rupees (230,000*l.*) has been sanctioned for this object; but it is expected that Bengal officers will not expend this large sum for some time. The sources of supply are expected to be Backergunge, Sylhet, Chittagong, and Orissa for rice, and Northern and Central India for wheat and other grains. Arrangements for storing these supplies are at once to be made at selected centres near the larger relief works.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 14th November 1873.

No. 431BC, dated Simla, the 28th October 1873.

RESOLUTION—By the Government of India, Public Works Department.

The Governor-General in Council has learned with deep regret that the prospects of the crops in parts of Bengal are such that it will no doubt be necessary shortly to find work for the people as a means of relief. Where such relief becomes an urgent necessity, works must be undertaken for the purpose, if there are no well considered projects already under execution, or in such a state of preparation that they can be at once set in hand.

2. The parts of the country reported to be in the most urgent need are the Patna Division and the Rajshahye Division.

3. In the southern part of the former of these tracts, the Soane Canal project is in course of execution, and the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is authorized to extend active operations at once to all the branches where relief works are required, working on the rough estimates where detailed estimates are not ready. But where there are detailed estimates for works sufficiently near, such works should be preferred to those for which estimates are not yet ready.

4. In order to strengthen the engineering staff of the Soane Canals, the Government of the North-Western Provinces will be requested to hold in readiness a Superintending Engineer and the establishment of the Eastern Ganges Canal survey, to proceed to Behar on the requisition of the Government of Bengal, and the Government of the Punjab will likewise hold in readiness the engineers of survey division of the Baree Doal Canal.

5. In the northern part of the Patna Division there is no large project in course of execution, and works, if required, must be selected from local projects, unless the lately deferred scheme for the revision of the Gunduck Embankment (Bengal Government letter No. 4640, dated 13th September, 1873) should be found a suitable source of employment.

6. In the Rajshahye Division, the Northern Bengal Railway project has lately been completed, and was referred to the Secretary of State for sanction in the Government of India's despatch, No. 204R of the 15th instant. In anticipation of the approval of Her Majesty's Government, the Governor-General in Council is now pleased to sanction the immediate commencement of work on this railway. To strengthen the engineering staff, the greater part of the engineers now employed under Mr. Collet in surveying for the projected Western Rajpootana Railway will be withdrawn and attached to the Northern Bengal Railway.

7. Such funds as may be required for the Northern Bengal Railway and for relief works, and such additional funds as may be required for the more active prosecution of work on the Soane Canals, should be applied for at once by the Government of Bengal. For the Railway and the Soane Canal works, the funds will be assigned under the extraordinary grant; for the other works not classed as loan works, the charge will fall on the provincial revenues, or, if necessary, on the imperial revenues of the year.

8. In the spring of 1869, when great scarcity existed in Upper India, the Government of India considered it right to endeavour to equalize the supplies of food-grains over a large area by arranging with the Guaranteed Railway Companies that they should lower their rates for the carriage of such grains to ⅛th pie per maund mile (which was believed to be approximately the actual cost of carriage), and charge the loss that the railways would thus incur to the Government. It may possibly be again necessary to resort to this measure in some parts of the country; and should this be the case, the Government of India will be prepared to incur the same liability. In this view the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways at Calcutta should be directed to place himself forthwith in communication with the Government of Bengal, and to do everything in his power to give effect to such instructions as he may receive from the Lieutenant-Governor. The Governor-General in Council will await an expression of His Honor's opinion on this point before taking final action in the matter.

9. In making provision for this possible contingency, the Governor-General in Council relies on the hearty co-operation of the representatives of each Railway Company, and feels that the Government may rest assured that this will be given.

10. For further instructions for general guidance, the Governor-General in Council desires that the attention of officers in the Public Works Department may be drawn to the Resolution of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, No. 248–59J of 24th September, 1868, which should be republished with the present Resolution.—Chapter XIIIA of the Public Works Department Code contains a revision of the rules originally published with the Resolution of 1856.

Government of Bengal in the General Department.
" " " Irrigation Department.
" " " Public Works Department.
Consulting Engineer for Guaranteed Railways, Calcutta.

ORDER.—Ordered that the above Resolution be communicated to the Governments, Departments, and Officers named in the margin for information and guidance.

And to the Financial, and Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce Departments for information.

Also, that these proceedings be reported to the Secretary of State and published in the "Gazette of India."

C. H. DICKENS, Colonel, R.A.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

A. St. L. B.

RESOLUTION.

Statistical Department.

Calcutta, the 3rd November 1873.

Read—

A Resolution of the Government of India, Public Works Department, No. 431 B.C., dated the 28th October 1873, on the subject of the provision of work in these Provinces for the people who may be thrown out of employment by the expected failure of the crops in many districts.

1. The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to direct the publication of this Resolution.

2. Orders for carrying out the instructions of the Government of India in regard to the Soane Canal and Northern Bengal Railway works will be issued in the proper departments.

The Gunduck Embankment Scheme is one which involves very difficult considerations, but it will be again carefully examined.

The proposed lowering of the railway fares has been arranged.

3. As regards works other than those above mentioned, the Lieutenant-Governor has received full authority to undertake such relief works as may seem to be necessary in various parts of the country. His view is that, to render effectual aid to the people, it is of all things most necessary that work should be offered in good time, so that the existence of public works may be known to the people at large, and those who stand in need of work may find their way to the work, and be suitably provided for, before the greatest stress comes. All experience shows that work is wanted to avert starvation rather than to save people already half-starved and unfit for work, and that it takes time to draw to public works people who are not accustomed to labour for hire. In this view, in case of reasonable apprehension of scarcity, we can hardly begin too soon.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor also believes that there can be no so sure test of the state of the country—no barometer, as it were, by which the condition of the people can be better gauged—than the degree to which they seek employment on public works. As such works are found more and more to attract classes usually self-supporting, so we may judge that there is want in the country; that is, provided that this test is established in sufficient time.

5. It is impossible yet to tell the degree to which there may be scarcity in the country. We yet trust to the mercy of Providence to avert the worst. But there can be no doubt that unless there is some very decided improvement in present prospects, there will be such shortness of crops that as soon as all hope of further employment in watering crops still alive, and sowing cold weather crops, comes to an end, the need for employment will be much greater than usual. The immediate course, then, which the Lieutenant-Governor has thought best, is to extend and enlarge the scope of the usual district works undertaken at this season in various parts of each district. He has already settled schemes of such works with the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore, and has authorized the local officers to undertake them and carry them on, wherever and whenever there is a demand for employment. In every part of the country, where the conditions seem to be such as to render the need of employment probable, works will be opened and employment offered. It will not be attempted in such cases to draw together foreign labour by any extraordinary means, but all labour locally offering will be accepted. The works (so far as beyond ordinary means and requirements) are undertaken in order to give labour: we do not seek labour for the sake of the works. The local officers have been assured that if the labour thus employed absorbs their local means, these will be supplemented from the general treasury.

6. General instructions, in the spirit of those given to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore, have also been given by the Lieutenant-Governor to the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Burdwan, and all Commissioners are now authorized to act in the spirit of these instructions wherever there may be need of such measures.

7. The Northern Bengal Railway runs through districts where there has been the greatest failure of rain, and where there is the greatest apprehension regarding the crops; but the people of those districts are wholly unaccustomed to labour for hire, and it may be doubtful whether they will go far from their homes for work till they are very hard pressed indeed. It may be a question, then, whether we can rely on a single line of railway for the relief of that country generally. Deeming that roads connecting the various parts with the railway—feeder roads as they are usually called—are a necessary part of the railway system, the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to spread more widely the opportunities of employment by undertaking at the same time roads leading to the principal railway stations. The civil authorities will at once set themselves to devise the lines which will best subserve the traffic of the country, and the engineering staff of the Northern Bengal Railway will be requested to lay out and superintend these lines, which may connect the railway with the Berhampooter river system on the one side, and with the Mahanuddee on the other.

8. The note of the Lieutenant-Governor, published in the Supplement to the *Gazette* of the 10th September 1873, explained His Honour's views regarding the great importance of improving the means of communication between the populous districts of the west and the insufficiently-peopled districts of the east, and pointed to a scheme of roads from west to east. The north-eastern portion of the Tirhoot district, and the north part of Bhaugulpore, by which such roads would pass, is the very country where the people will be most in need of employment, and these roads should certainly be undertaken at once. Durbhangah may be taken as the point of departure from roads already made, of the great Behar populations which tend to the east

in search of labour. Fortunately Mr. Stevens, the able and energetic Engineer of the Durbhangah Estate, is well acquainted with this country, and has already devised the lines of road which he thinks the best. The Lieutenant-Governor has arranged with the Commissioner of Patna and Mr. Stevens, that the latter officer should lay out two lines from Durbhangah to the Koosee river, one in the direct line to Purneah, and the other by Natpore to the north towards Titaliya. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore is to arrange for the junction of these two lines with Purneah and Titaliya. From Purneah the present metalled roads leads to Dengraghat on the Mahanuddee; whence to Dinagepore a line of road is already marked out, which will be taken up as a relief work. From Titaliya the road to Julpigoree may be improved, and thence there is a line by Cooch Behar to Berhampooter. By these lines, and others in connection with the Northern Bengal Railway, complete means of communication from west to east will, it is hoped, be established north of the Ganges. Further to the south, the line from Rajmehal to Dinagepore should also receive attention.

9. In Burdwan a work already discussed, viz., the connection of the Damoodah with the Kana Nuddee, has already been put in hand, partly in the hope of obtaining an immediate supply of water, and partly in order to give employment.

In this same part of the country there has been much complaint of the want of good tanks for drinking water, of petty drainage channels, and such like improvements. There can be no doubt that petty works of this kind are at least as useful as larger works, and they certainly bring employment more effectually to the homes of the people. But, on the other hand, it would be impossible for Government to undertake and superintend such works of local improvement on private property. The Lieutenant-Governor has, however, instructed the Commissioner to ascertain whether it might be arranged that private landholders should undertake such works, Government, if necessary, advancing the money on the security of the estates. He feels sure that if the upper classes feel the duties of their position, such an arrangement should be gladly accepted by them, and be very feasible.

10. The Lieutenant-Governor feels sure that he may trust to the zeal and energy of the local officers to give effect to these orders, and that, whatever need may arise, they will not be found wanting. He feels that he can count on the thorough assistance of the European settlers. He would also express the earnest hope that the officers of Government will have the aid and co-operations of the native land-holders, and generally of those classes of natives whose wealth, influence and position may enable them to contribute to the duty of assisting their poorer fellow-countrymen. The most effective work cannot be done without that assistance.

Ordered.—The copy of this Resolution and of the Resolution of the Government of India referred to above, be forwarded to all Commissioners for information and guidance. Spare copies are forwarded for communication to all civil officers.

Also, that copies be forwarded to the Public Works Department of this Government for the issue of the necessary orders for carrying out the instructions of the Government of India in regard to the Soane Canal, and for any further action that may be required.

Also, that copies be forwarded to the Superintending Engineer, Northern Bengal Railway, for information and guidance.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

Circular No. 73.

Copy forwarded to the Commissioner of

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.
R. Knight,
Asst. Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta,
The 3rd November 1873.

No. 3,545.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir, Calcutta, dated 21st November 1873.

Under instructions from his Excellency the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor directs me to forward copies of the second Weekly Narrative,* regarding

* Up to 21st Nov. 1873.

the failure of crops and the anticipated scarcity in Behar and parts of Bengal. The first Narrative was submitted on the 14th current under cover of my letter No. 3450.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Offg. Secretary to the Government
of Bengal.

SPECIAL NARRATIVE of the DROUGHT of 1873 from 15th November to 21st November 1873.

1. The last Narrative gave a brief account of the drought and circumstances connected with it down to the 14th November. The present Narrative continues that account down to the 21st November, and also supplements it with some information which either had not been received, or, if received, had not been prepared for publication on the former date.

There has been no change in the weather. No rain has fallen in the districts where distress is anticipated, nor is there now any prospect of a fall. The cold weather seems to have set in everywhere, and in the ordinary course no rain is to be expected till the latter end of December or the beginning of the year when rain is not unfrequent. This absence of rain has a double effect—first, the rice crops continue to wither away; second, the sowing of the spring crops is hindered. A copy of the last weekly rain and crop returns is sent with this Narrative, but it is necessary to explain that they are for the most part only brought down to the 15th current (in some cases by telegraph down to the 18th current), while the above remarks describe the weather to date of writing, viz., the 21st November. Speaking however generally, it may be said that the returns for the 15th and 18th apply also up to the 21st November. It will be observed that Orissa, the eastern seaboard districts, and Sylhet, are still favourably reported on.

2. Prices have not risen so much as might have been expected. In no district have they yet reached famine rates, though they are of course very much higher than they were at the same time of last year. During the week under report some districts show a rise and some a fall in the price of the commoner food-grains. At Patna rice has risen from 21 seers to 13 seers to the rupee as compared with last year, but as compared with last week's return, it has fallen from 12 to 13 seers. The price of rice at Calcutta had not up to date of last report risen extravagantly as compared with last year. To-day, however, it is necessary to report that a rupee will only buy 12 seers of common rice in the Calcutta market, whereas at the corresponding date of last year it bought over 18 seers. At Dacca rice is quoted at double its price in ordinary years. It may be noted here that during November 1865, the last year of great scarcity, prices of common food-stuffs stood on the whole higher than they stand to-day. A return of prices-current in the different districts for the week ending November 15th, is annexed to this Narrative.

Up to date of writing, no news of any very great general rise or fall has come to hand, but it is right to mention that the reports from the head-quarters of each district may not exactly represent the state of things in interior and not easily accessible parts. The coarse millet called murwa is stated to have been selling in the extreme north of Bhaugulpore at 31 seers, whereas it is quoted at 16½ seers for the district. These prices, however, are sometimes very nominal. A gentleman reports, that in an outlying part of Bhaugulpore, he could not purchase 10 maunds of rice, while in one day in a certain village market in Purneah, rice, which sold in the morning at 14, rose by the afternoon to 8 seers. The return for Purneah district is 12 seers. A circular was issued on the 15th November, copy of which is annexed, insisting strongly on the importance of submitting careful and trustworthy returns of prices-current during the present crisis. When prices are subject to sudden and violent variations, it is difficult to say what the ruling price is, but all that care and attention can do to eliminate error is being done.

3. Some inquiries have been made into the movement of food-grains which have taken place in these provinces during the last few weeks. The result of these

inquiries is collated in Appendix A. It cannot be said that the result is very encouraging. It is not such as the rise in prices would lead one to expect. Indeed, in face of the daily consumption of food by the 67 millions of these provinces, the circulation of grain assumes very small proportions. The population of the Patna Division alone would consume on famine allowances 150,000 maunds of food-grains daily.

4. At paragraph 7 of last week's Narrative were stated the terms in which the Lieutenant-Governor had in October last asked for a special weekly report regarding the condition and prospects of the crops, and of the food-supply in each district. Replies have now been received from almost every district. One set of these replies is sent herewith, in accordance with the instructions conveyed in paragraph 31 of the Government of India Resolution of the 7th November. With future narratives it is proposed to send only reports from the distressed districts, and any other reports of special interest and importance. But as the replies to Circular No. 70 give a view of the prospect of affairs over the whole country, they are submitted for all districts so far as they have been printed. Replies for the few remaining districts will be submitted with next week's Narrative.

The district reports are very unequal in clearness and fullness, some of them, notably that from Bhaugulpore, are very distinct; while from districts where the sub-divisional system has not yet been fully introduced, the information is imperfect. The estimates offered by the district officers are confessedly rough and imperfect, and do not pretend to arithmetical accuracy. It must be borne in mind moreover that farmers, when they speak of "a full average crop," really mean a bumper crop, such as is very seldom harvested; and therefore a three-quarter crop (or twelve-anna crop, as it is called,) is in reality a good average yield. In one point most of the replies are more or less incomplete, namely, regarding the comparison between the crops, the prices, and the general out-look of the present year with 1865. The Lieutenant-Governor attaches great importance to this comparison, for according as the prospect of the present year is better or worse than 1865, we shall know whether to expect merely high prices, keen distress, and some starvation among the very poor, or a severe famine affecting a large section of the population.

Appended to this Narrative * is a note reviewing the district reports upon the prospect of the crops. The general result of that review may be summed up as follows :—

* Appendix B.

ESTIMATED OUT-TURN of the FOOD CROPS of 1873–74.

In the littoral districts of Orissa and Bengal, including the southern border of the delta, population 11 millions.	From three-quarters to a full average crop.
In the lowlands of Western Bengal, the seaboard excluded, population 3½ millions.	About one-half of the yield of a full average year.
In the central delta districts, population 7 millions.	From one-half to three-quarters of a full average year.
In Northern Bengal, population 7 millions.	One-quarter to one-third of a full average crop.
In Eastern Bengal, population 7½ millions.	From one-half to two-thirds of a full average crop, except in Sylhet, where there will be a full crop.
In the up-lands of Bengal and Chota Nagpore, population 7 millions.	From one-half to three-quarters of a full average crop.
In North Behar, population 11 millions.	One-quarter to one-third of a full average crop.
In South Behar, population 8 millions.	One-quarter to one-third of a full average crop.
In Assam and the hill districts, population 3½ millions.	Three-quarters of a full average crop.

Thus, the districts of the lower delta of the Ganges, the littoral districts, and Sylhet (with a population of about 13 millions), are the only parts of the country where there will be an average crop. Over the greater part of Bengal proper (containing about 28 millions of souls,) there will be, it is hoped, from half to three-quarters of a full average crop; while in North Bengal and Behar (containing a population of 26 millions) the yield of the food-crops is estimated to be from one-quarter to one-third of full average years. As yet we do not know what the food-stocks may be. It may be hoped that Northern Bengal, which is ordinarily an exporting tract, must have considerable stocks from previous years, for we find that in the other exporting districts (Sylhet, Backergunge, and Orissa), considerable old stocks are this year being brought to market. But some of the Behar districts ordinarily export other produce and import a portion of their food-supply, and in such districts we can hardly hope that stocks of food are retained largely either in the hands of dealers or of growers. It would be unavailing to offer any estimate of the number of tons of food which are short, and which will have to be supplied; but so much may be assumed that, if an average food-crop would have carried the people of Behar and North Bengal on till next October, and would have left them a small surplus stock, then in the present year, when they have probably less than half of the annual yield, they must either eat very much less, or must supply the deficiency from reserves or from outside. The districts which have one-half the usual crop or more will manage to feed themselves one way or another, though relief works may be required for landless labourers in some parts of them. It is for the Behar and North Bengal tracts that the Lieutenant-Governor is most anxious. Very much, however, in regard to these districts will depend upon the fate of the cold weather food-crops.

In the last Narrative it was mentioned that before the departure of His Excellency the Viceroy from Calcutta, the Lieutenant-Governor had again proposed to stop the exportation of food-grains to foreign ports from Bengal, had asked for a famine credit of 50 lakhs to begin with, and had solicited more definite instructions as to the extent of the preparations he was to make, to meet possible, but not certain, distress. The nature of the answers returned to the Lieutenant-Governor was briefly indicated. Full and specific replies have now come to hand, and are annexed to this Narrative (Appendix C).*

No. 2980, dated 12th November 1873, from the Secretary in the Financial Department.

No. 3003, dated 13th November 1873, from the Secretary in the Financial Department.

Memorandum of Proceedings at a meeting held at Government House, Calcutta, on the 10th November.

* Pages 17 to 24.

6. The general principles and policy to be followed in providing against famine having been settled by the Government of India, it remains to describe how they have been carried out by the Government of Bengal. Many orders in the spirit of those subsequently formulated had already been issued demi-officially and otherwise in anticipation of the issue of official orders. The Lieutenant-Governor had already, on the 11th of November, caused a demi-official letter to be addressed to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye, directing them to commence the purchase of grain for use on relief works. They were told that the grain must be purchased from a distance, and that operations must, as far as possible, be carried on through the ordinary traders. They were warned to make preparations for storing their purchases at convenient sites. In order to leave the Calcutta market open, they were told not to purchase in that market if they could avoid doing so. They were also directed to look up, and where possible take measures to improve the means of transport, and to prepare to make advances of money in assistance of trade and private landed improvements.

Immediately on receipt of the official orders of the Government of India, definite orders were promulgated in the circular instructions of the 17th November hereto annexed (Appendix D).† The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that this circular set forth clearly and precisely the present policy and action sanctioned by the Government of India. It is begged that reference may be made to this paper for a full exposition of the course now being pursued.

† Page 45.

In paragraph 30 of the Resolution of November 7th, the Government of India called attention to the subject of emigration from distressed districts, and since the publication of that Resolution the Commissioner of British Burmah has telegraphed to say that he can make immediate arrangements for receiving large numbers of emigrants. The Landholders' Association of Calcutta and others interested have been addressed on the subject of emigration to Assam and Cachar, and have been asked to make any suggestions they can for promoting it on a large scale. Copy of the letter to the Association has been sent to the Commissioner of British Burmah, and he has been asked whether employers of labour in Burmah would contribute to the cost of conveyance of emigrants.

The rules for making advances to landlords and tenants to enable them to improve their properties under Act XXVI. of 1871 are under revision with a view to the relaxation of some of the existing restrictions on borrowing.

7. So far of orders issued. In Appendix E.* will be found an account submitted by the Irrigation Department of measures already taken on the Soame Canal works. It may be well to mention that though the Soane canals were by no means ready for use as irrigation channels, yet by dint of most strenuous exertions on the part of Mr. Levinge and his officers, water has been let into them, first on the left bank of the Soane and more recently on the right bank, and 69,000 acres of the thirstiest lands in Behar have been irrigated during the months of October and November 1873. The water was given gratis, because our appliances were incomplete, the necessity was great, and we had absolutely no means of measuring up and charging water-rent on the irrigated lands. The canal works, new and old, will give plenty of labour to the destitute classes over large areas of the Patna, Gya, and Shahabad districts. From the Cossye canals in Midnapore irrigation has begun and 34,000 acres have been watered; water rents are being charged, but the penal charges against those who take water late in the season have been suspended. Unfortunately as the irrigation was extending, the volume of water in the Cossye diminished greatly; hence only a small portion of the lands on account of which application for water is made can be irrigated. In Cuttack during the dry weeks at the end of September the ryots came to the canal officers clamouring for water, and water for 1,500 additional acres was leased. But a timely downpour of the rain came and saved the crops; and nothing more was heard of any demand for increased irrigation facilities.

Major Lindsay has proceeded to Dinagepore to commence operations. A memorandum by him on the Northern Bengal Railway and the orders thereon are appended (Appendix F).†

Extra engineering establishments have already been appointed for famine relief works in Bengal, amounting to a total of 30 executive and 35 subordinate officers. Their destinations have not as yet been all settled, but they will be employed as they arrive on the three great imperial works already sanctioned and on the provincial works ordered in Circular No. 80 of the 17th November, according as their services may be required.

As regards the orders issued for provincial works, the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye have, in accordance with their instructions, been making purchases of grain to feed the labourers where necessity arises. No return has yet been furnished of the amounts purchased. Arrangements have been made by the Lieutenant-Governor for buying in the Calcutta market through a private firm about 80,000 maunds of rice for storing in the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions. In Orissa three lakhs of maunds, about 11,000 tons, have been contracted for at the favourable rate of Rs. 2-12-0 per maund delivered in Calcutta during December, January, and February. Consignments from Burmah and Madras, for which the Government of India have arranged, are expected to reach a total of 10,000 tons. For the receipt, unloading, and despatch to the threatened districts of these supplies, special arrangements have been made under the superintendence of Mr. G. Toynbee, C.S., who was employed on similar duty in Orissa in 1866-67. 50,000 maunds of rice have already been despatched or are at the date of writing under despatch from Calcutta to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore and the Superintending Engineer of the Soane canals, and arrangements have been made for the immediate despatch to the same destinations and to the Commissioner of Rajshahye of other consignments as they are received from those who are purchasing on the part of Government. To-day, the 20th November, a steamer carrying about 900 tons of Government rice from Burmah is reported to have arrived in the Hooghly. If the rice is fit for immediate use it will be sent for storage at once at relief works in the distressed districts.

Intelligence has been received of the arrival at Goalundo of the steamers and flats ordered up to work on the Ganges and the inland waters of Rajshahye.

It has already been reported that the district and local officers, civil and engineers, are actually making preparations on the spot for the commencement of the relief works. As this Narrative goes to press, demi-official information has been received that work has already commenced upon the Northern Bengal Railway feeders and upon the district roads in Dinagepore. One thousand men are said to be actually at work.

From the Soopole sub-division of Bhaugulpore information has just come to hand that work has commenced under the immediate supervision of the newly appointed Superintendent of relief works.

* Page 52.

† Page 53.

The Manager of the Hutwah Estate commenced making a road as a relief work in October, and finds that at rates somewhat below the market rates his work is eagerly taken up.

Each of the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye has been provided with speciel assistance on account of work connected with scarcity and relief, while to almost every district an extra officer, exclusive of engineers, has been added to the civil staff.

8. On some few minor points it has been found necessary to issue special orders. There was some reason to doubt the complete accuracy of the rainfall returns of past years filed in the Office of the Meteorological Reporter. A circular has accordingly been issued, calling upon all district officers to compare the returns sent to them from the central office with any materials they may have in their own offices, to supply omissions and to correct errors. In addition to the weekly return of the state and prospects of the cold weather crops, and the degree to which people might be expected to find support from them, ordered by Circular No. 70 of the 13th October, the officers of the Behar districts have been further desired to submit a special and more particular report on the same points in the first week in December. All district officers have been directed to add to the returns, under Circular No. 77, a precise comparison of the present condition of their district, with its condition at the corresponding period of 1865.

The Opium Agent of Behar has been ordered to facilitate the sowing of food-crops in lands where it is ascertained that the poppy sowings have failed, and to defer the repayment of the advances made on account of the lands so re-sown till the crops have been gathered. The Lieutenant-Governor has also fully approved the action of the Board of Revenue in giving the Opium Agent of Behar authority to make advances on account of the digging of common unmetalled wells, wherever he thinks it advisable, and has urged further action in this direction. In the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion the digging of such wells should be encouraged to the fullest extent; as, in addition to securing a crop, work will be provided for the labouring population.

9. In paragraph 18 of the Resolution of the Government of India of the 7th November, it was desired that the levy of the road cess might be postponed in any district or portion of a district where the Lieutenant-Governor might consider that the cess-payers were in distress. The Lieutenant-Governor has been in correspondence with Mr. Schalch, the Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, on the subject of the suspension of the road cess. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that although high prices may be expected to prevail everywhere, the agriculturists who may have even a moderate or short crop which has not wholly failed, will have a compensation in these high prices; and till the failure is extreme they suffer far less than the landless classes. It is therefore very necessary to discriminate between those cases in which an extreme failure has involved all classes in a common distress, and a moderate or partial failure in which the labourers and non-agriculturists chiefly suffer, and in which rents are paid without very heavy remissions.

Taking the distressed districts as defined in paragraph 2 of the Circular No. 80, dated 17th November (Appendix D.)* the Lieutenant-Governor has instructed the Commissioner of the cess districts in Behar, which are classed as wholly distressed, that if he is satisfied that all hope of a good rubbee crop is so completely gone that it is inevitable that great distress and difficulty will be felt by the body of the cess-paying ryots, he may postpone wholly the collection of the road cess till 1st October 1874, and at once notify this to the people at large by every means in his power.

* Page 45.

To the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Burdwan, the Lieutenant-Governor has said that if in any portions of their road cess districts or in any particular estate they believe that the cess-paying ryots are reduced to present distress and rents are not realised, the cess may be suspended. The Commissioners are to use their discretion so as neither to remit the cess unnecessarily nor to press the people too much where they are really reduced to distress.

10. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore having telegraphed to officers under the North-West Government asking them to purchase grain on his account, which they declined to do without special authority, it has been arranged that all orders on the North-West Provinces shall be made through the Commissioner of Patna, and a special officer has been named by the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces through whom orders may be executed. The Lieutenant-Governor has

laid down distinct rules regarding the purchase of food otherwise than through the local trade, in a memorandum of which copy is appended (see Appendix G.)* * Page 56.

The Lieutenant-Governor has been obliged to take exception to the tone lately adopted by the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore. It seemed to the Lieutenant-Governor that the Commissioner took a too strongly coloured view of the imminence of famine in the north of the Bhaugulpore district, a view not altogether justified by the reports of his subordinates. A copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's remarks on the Commissioner's letter is annexed hereto (Appendix H.)† † Page 57.

11. The Lieutenant-Governor has received offers of assistance and co-operation from the Maharajah of Burdwan and from Khajeh Ashanoollah in his own name and that of his father, the well-known Khajeh Abdool Gunny, C.S.I., of Dacca. Khajeh Ashanoollah has already commenced to lay in a store of grain with a view to issuing it at cost price should a time of scarcity arrive.

12. The Native Press have taken a very gloomy view of the situation. They are not unanimous as to the time when distress may be expected to commence, but they agree in declaring, as do most of the native gentry, that very small food-stocks are now held. They advocate very strongly the stoppage of exportation.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Offg. Secretary.

Calcutta,
The 21st November 1873.

Appendix D. to foregoing Narrative.

Circular No. 80.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

From C. BERNARD, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to all COMMISSIONERS of DIVISIONS, and to all MAGISTRATE COLLECTORS.

SIR,
Calcutta, the 17th November 1873.

Government of India Resolution, dated 7th November 1873.
Government of India, letter No. 3,003, dated 13th November 1873, with minutes of a discussion at Government House.

I AM directed to forward copies of the papers marginally noted, being the orders of the Government of India in regard to the measures which the Government of Bengal and its officers may properly take to help the country and the people through the impending scarcity and distress.

2. The orders of the Government of India being appended to this letter in full, the Lieutenant-Governor does not deem it necessary to go again over the whole ground embraced by those instructions; and he will only now state briefly how matters appear to stand, and on what special points immediate action or further report is required from local officers.

Sufficient replies have come in to Circular No. 70, dated 13th October last, to show that, roughly speaking, extreme failure of crops will probably be confined to—

(1.) All the districts of the Patna Division.
(2.) All the districts of the Bhaugulpore Division, except the Sonthal Pergunnahs.
(3.) The districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, and Bograh, and parts of Rajshahye, Maldah, and Moorshedabad, in the Rajshahye Division.

In other districts there will be short crops, but in the districts and parts of districts abovenamed the whole yield of all the food-crops of 1873–74 will, unless copious rain falls at a very early date, probably be below a six-anna crop all round; and relief works on a more or less extended scale will be required soon. There are other districts or parts of districts where the crop has been short, and where relief works may be required a little later if not now, such for instance as the Maunbhoom district, much of the Burdwan Division, and some limited portions of the Presidency Division. But in all these districts the harvests all round are expected to give an eight-anna crop; and though food will be dear, there will, it may be hoped, be no general and complete failure of the food-supply. For the present then, and for the purposes of these orders, the tracts named in the first part of this paragraph will be treated as the distressed districts. At the same time the Commissioners of Burdwan and Chota Nagpore should watch narrowly whether large portions of the Burdwan Division and the Maunbhoom district may require to be brought within this category. Some relief measures will no doubt be necessary in these tracts where there is a large labouring population, many of whom may be without employment as soon as the rice harvest is over.

3. The policy indicated by the Government of India is briefly as follows:—

Firstly.—Government will look to the natural operations of trade to import the food required to fill the deficit in the local supply in the districts where the crop has failed. By way of facilitating this traffic, the Government has reduced by one-half the railway grain rates, and has also ordered the temporary abolition of all road toll-bars, or tolls on ferries which can in dry weather be crossed by a ford or a causeway. The tolls on ferries where boats must be used to ferry rates across are to be reduced to the lowest tariff that will remunerate the boatmen. Further, the Government has put a steamer and flats to ply on the Ganges from Kooshteah to Rajshahye, and has ordered a small light-draught steamer with flats to ply on the inland waters of Rajshahye. All that local officers have to do is to see that neither at ferries, nor at railway stations, nor at ghâts, nor on rivers, are any unauthorised difficulties placed in the way of, or dues levied upon, the transport of grain, and that the roads are put in order, and every facility given for traffic.

4. In places likely to be in want where there may not be traders of sufficient means and in sufficient numbers to import food to fill the deficit in the food supplies, or where for any reason the natural flow of trade is slow and difficult, the Government is ready to aid and promote the natural trade of the country by making advances of money, either—

(*a*) To zemindars, planters, or others under paragraph 26 of the Government of India resolution of the 7th November 1873, on condition that they will import grain from a distance and sell it as near as possible at cost price, all expenses included.

(*b*.) To traders and others of a safe and responsible character, who will take the money at a moderate interest of 6 per cent. per annum, and will engage to import grain from a distance without any conditions as to the rate or manner of their selling it.

The Lieutenant-Governor delegates to district officers in the distressed districts the power of making such advances, where necessary, up to a limit of Rs. 2,000 to any one person; and to Commissioners in those districts the power of sanctioning advances up to a limit of Rs. 10,000 to any one person. Larger advances may be specially sanctioned, or a larger discretion may be allowed on a representation of the circumstances.

In the former class of advances an undertaking must be taken from the person receiving the advance that he will sell the food purchased to his distressed neighbours as nearly as possible at cost price, and that he will ~~repay the advance without interest~~ before the 31st December 1874, or will produce full and complete accounts to show why Government should forego any portion of the repayment.

In the latter class of advances it will be necessary merely to stipulate that the supplies will be drawn from districts beyond those to which the scarcity extends, and for repayment of the principal and interest by the end of 1874 or any earlier date that may be arranged. It will also be desirable to stipulate for the occasional inspection of the grain invoices (chalans) of such dealers in order to verify that they really do import their grain from a distance.

The Lieutenant-Governor has full confidence that district officers will know what persons can be trusted to act fairly by Government and by the people in respect of advances of these kinds. In regard to all advances for grain, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it essential that it should be a distinct stipulation that the purchases should be made and the grain imported at a very early date to be specified, so that the means of carriage now existing may be utilised to the utmost. If the purchasers are allowed to delay, and the despatches do not come till February or March, all the difficulty which the Lieutenant-Governor apprehends from a block of carriage will probably arise and the advances will do very little good.

5. Secondly.—Government recognises that many of the labouring classes, and of all those people who have neither money nor credit, will as soon as the reaping of the rice crop and sowing of the cold weather crops have been completed or abandoned, and before the prospects of the spring crops have declared themselves, be unable to earn money or wages. Such people will probably before very long come upon relief works, if only we have a sufficient number of works spread over the country to give them labour near their homes as soon as they are ready to take it. The Government undertakes the relief of distress in this form, either directly by public works, or indirectly by advancing money to responsible persons who will undertake beneficial, local, and private works.

6. Already there have been begun in the distressed districts,—

(*a*.) The two new branches of the Soane Canal in Shahabad, while the old branches already in progress are being carried on in Patna and Gya.

(*b*.) The Gunduk embankment in Sarun and Chumparun.

(*c*.) The earthen embankments of the Northern Bengal Railway in the Rajshahye, Bograh, Dinagepore, and Rungpore districts.

These three are works for which the Government of India will provide or advance the funds.

Farther, the Lieutenant-Governor at his recent interviews with the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye, has sanctioned the immediate commencement of work at as many points as possible, on—

(*d*.) The series of North Ganges emigration roads which are to lead from Sarun, Tirhoot, Monghyr, and Bhaugulpore, through the Purneah, Maldah, and Dinagepore districts, to Rungpore, Bograh, and the Berhampooter; and thence to Assam, Cachar, and other eastern districts beyond the Berhampooter which are in want of labour.

(*e*.) A variety of local roads in the Patna and Bhaugulpore divisions which the Lieutenant-Governor approved in conference with the local officers.

(*f*.) Local roads in the Rajshahye division which the Lieutenant-Governor has authorized the Commissioner and Mr. Robinson to commence at once at their discretion, according to the necessity of the case.

Work has been already commenced in the Burdwan division on—

(*g.*) The new cut from the Damoodah into the Kana Nuddee, by which it is hoped to procure a supply of water for the present season, as well as to make a great permanent improvement.

The Lieutenant-Governor has moreover given directions to prosecute—

(*h.*) Road fund roads generally throughout the country which the local authorities have been desired to press on wherever they are wanted for the purpose of giving employment to people thrown out of work. The Lieutenant-Governor has promised that in such cases, whenever the works get beyond the means of the local funds, aid will freely be given.

7. Further details of the works to be undertaken will be settled as soon as possible.

The general statements of relief works which have been already prepared in compliance with the orders of Government contained in Circular No. 27, dated 19th June 1872, are being printed for circulation; and by a selection from, and, if necessary, addition to these, it may be hoped that sufficient employment will be everywhere provided.

8. In regard to the preparation for, and commencement of, relief works wherever they are required, it may be well to repeat here the orders passed by the Lieutenant-Governor in his note on Patna affairs, dated the 29th October, to the following effect:—

"In this view I have told the district officers that they should lose no time in commencing ordinary earthwork on roads, &c., at as many places as possible. I am glad to find that their attention has been already given to the point, and they have generally work of some kind ready which can be advantageously undertaken without delay. This they will do, giving the ordinary wages of the country. And by the aid of their general information, and the index afforded by the works in hand, they will judge of the necessity for more extended works and for food relief in each part of the country. I have told them that as soon as the demand for labour exceeds the resources of their local funds, money for works, where relief is necessary, will be supplied without stint. The great thing is that they should prepare beforehand, and peg out (by a centre line only) roads and other works on which relief labour may be expended to the permanent advantage of the country.

"The Commissioner will occupy himself in settling the works in the various districts that may best be undertaken. I have authorized the entertainment of special men for the design and superintendence of works."

9. His Excellency the Viceroy has been good enough to promise for temporary employment in Bengal and Behar as many engineers and competent young military officers as can be spared. These young officers will be available for directing relief works in the distressed districts. Meantime the local officers should, as far as possible, peg out the lines of road and set them going. The simple forms of account in which the district road fund works are kept will suffice for the relief works.

10. The Lieutenant-Governor would wish to receive from the Commissioner, as soon as they can be sent, lists of the local relief works commenced or proposed in each distressed district, with memoranda of (*a*) the additional establishment to be entertained upon relief works, and (*b*) the probable monthly expenditure upon the works, supposing the people to flock freely to them. After the list has been sent the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have, in the weekly narrative described below, an account of the relief works *prepared* and *actually begun* in each district. Simple forms of return showing the operations at each relief work will shortly be circulated as was done in 1868.

11. Thirdly.—The Government recognises that, if it collects large bodies of people together on relief works, it must provide food for them; that if the ordinary traders do not supply sufficient food close at hand, the Government must either pay the labourers partly in grain, or provide food for them to buy. We must not throw the support of a large body of labourers upon an impoverished tract where the food supplies barely suffice for the ordinary population. In fulfilment of this obligation the Government and its officers are laying in supplies of rice and other grain, which will be forwarded as soon as possible to places of storage near relief works in the distressed districts.

The restrictions placed on Government officers in obtaining these supplies is, *first*, that they should, as far as possible, operate through the trade; *secondly*, that they must get grain for such storage from a distance; and, *thirdly*, that they must not store grain except at centres of relief works where the local supply cannot be depended on to suffice for the wants of the labourers.

12. As long as local supplies are pretty cheap and plentiful, it will be best to establish and house close to each relief work dealers who will sell on their own account with or without advances. When the local rates for grain come to something like famine rates, fall below say ten seers per rupee, the Government must supply food. It would then be advisable to hire bunneahs or weighmen to sell on Government account next door to the works. It is certainly, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, better to pay the labourers in cash, and to let them buy what they want next door, rather than actually pay their wages in grain. Colonel Baird Smith in his report on the famine of 1861, truly points out that much inconvenience may be caused by paying wages in kind to labourers who are driven to barter at a disadvantage their grain for salt, pepper, earthen pots, and such other necessaries as they are obliged to procure. It is a very simple operation to give each man the pice he has earned, and let him take as much or as little as he likes in grain at the Government store close by.

13. The first thing to be done in regard to storing grain by the local officers is to select places and sites for storehouses at relief works; to hire or construct temporary storage-houses; to determine to what railway or riverside stations Government grain should be consigned from Calcutta or elsewhere; and above all, to ascertain and arrange the means of transporting the grain from those stations to the works. Local officers should notify to Government as soon as possible the places selected for railway and river stations to which Government grain for relief works should be consigned, the points chosen for storage, the steps taken to prepare storehouses, and the arrangements for carriage which they make or have in view.

14. When Government grain has been delivered at stations on the railway or rivers, this question of transporting the grain to the places where it is to be used will remain the most important and difficult of all. The Lieutenant-Governor is aware that Commissioners and district officers in the distressed districts are considering this question, and he would wish to have an early and most careful report upon—

(*a.*) The means of transport from the nearest railway or riverside station to the centres of relief works or distress; whether the communications are liable to interruption from the weather or any other cause; and in what way the means of transport could be increased, if necessary.

(*b.*) The roadside stations and other places where fodder for cattle should be collected to aid transport.

15. The Lieutenant-Governor cannot too much repeat that very special attention is necessary to the need for testing and perfecting our transporting agency and applicances at as early a date as possible. He desires to point out how very much easier transport will be during the next two or three months, when roads are not choked up and fodder is abundant, than in the hot season when there may be a rush and a panic, when the weather will be unfavourable, when forage will be very scarce, and when cattle will be dying. Sir George Campbell's great wish is to see all possible means of carriage to places where grain will be wanted, fully utilised and drawn together from all available sources at once, so that Government may be in the best position when emergency comes. So far as the common weal is concerned, it comes to much the same whether the transporting agency is used by private persons or by public officers. If the private traffic is quite fully using and drawing together all possible means of carriage, well and good; we need not seek to interfere with such a traffic. If not, the Government officers will have to promote the transport of grain to places where it will be wanted both by advances for importation, and by importing for relief works. In some way we should attract and use fully all possible means of carriage to the distressed tracts.

16. Fourthly.—The Government cannot avoid facing the probability that eventually, if events turn out unfavourably, it may become necessary in many places to distribute charitable relief to the old, to children, to persons in reduced health, and to others who may be unable to do a full day's work. This must be done as soon as the necessity really arises. This business of gratuitous relief will be entrusted to relief committees in each district or sub-division, or part of a sub-division.

17. His Excellency the Viceroy, after consulting the Lieutenant-Governor and his officers, has decided that the appointment of relief committees for the purpose is, speaking generally, not, so far as we can see, necessary at present. But a discretion is left to local officers to start committees and begin relief arrangements in any tracts where such a measure may at any time prove emergently and clearly necessary.

When it is evident that such relief must be given in any district, the Magistrate will call a meeting of Native and European gentlemen who may be willing to serve on relief committees; he will nominate branch committees under the sub-divisonal officers or other fit persons; he will raise such private subscriptions as he can obtain; and will report his action to Government and to the Commissioner. The Government will at once make to every relief committee a grant equal to the amount of its private subscriptions, and may, when distress goes very far, be still more liberal. If a relief committee requires grain for its relief houses, before it can import for itself, the Magistrate will have authority to advance all the grain he can spare from the Government stores collected for labourers on relief works.

A collection of the orders of Government issued in previous years of distress, regarding the time and manner of relief, with forms in which accounts should be kept and rendered, have been compiled, and will be digested and circulated in continuation of the present orders, with instructions applicable to the present time.

18. Meantime, though as regards charitable relief we are not to commence active operations it is most necessary to prepare all the necessary machinery for establishing relief houses and for giving such relief (short only of collecting grain specially for the purpose), so that we may be fully prepared if the necessity arrives. His Excellency the Viceroy specially dwells on the need for doing this at once.

District officers in distressed tracts will accordingly consider immediately and carefully report at what places relief committees may eventually have to be appointed; they will have to prepare beforehand lists of gentlemen who will serve on those committees. They must especially mark out the places and sites at which the necessary sheds, godowns, and other accommodation for relief houses will be required if the scarcity should unhappily merge into famine. Each district and sub-divisional officer should prepare, and have by him for future use, a map of his district or sub-division showing the proposed sites for relief centres. They should provide for three grades of famine, thus—for comparatively mild famine there would be a few relief centres at large places or in specially impoverished tracts; if distress becomes keener, places of relief will have to be more numerous; and if unhappily the very worst comes over large tracts, the number of relief centres will have to be largely increased so as to be within reach of all. The sites for relief stations for each grade of distress should be distinguished on the district officer's map by a different mark. These sites, it should be borne in mind, must be selected after careful local inquiry, and then entered on the map; they must not merely be marked on a map without knowledge of the ground. Complete plans should be drawn out showing the establishment and arrangements that will be required at each relief house as it is opened, and as far as possible men should be selected, and all that can be thought of by way of anticipation should be planned out so as to be ready to begin effectively the moment the necessity arrives.

19. Fifthly.—The Government wishes to enlist municipalities, landholders, and others in the work of providing labour in the distressed districts. A credit of ten lakhs of rupees has been made to the Bengal Government, from which minor loans of this kind can be granted for these objects. Larger loans will be referred to and speedily disposed of by the Government of India. Municipal bodies cannot, as the law stands, spend municipal money on poor-houses or on relieving the necessity of their poor. But if any municipality in the distressed districts has ready any scheme for drainage, embankment, or water-supply, or for opening out new streets and roads, such as will give labour to unskilled workmen, the Lieutenant-Governor will be very ready to consider any proposal for making a loan to such municipality under the Local Public Works Loans Act. Chairmen of municipalities must bear in mind the several heads of information required regarding applications for such loans, as set forth in the rules published at page 1218 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 29th October 1873. Already the Lieutenant-Governor has granted a large sum from provincial funds over and above the original grant towards the Burdwan city waterworks scheme. The Dacca waterworks scheme and the Gheor Canal loan in the same district will, it is hoped, be very shortly sanctioned. The Chuprah city embankment scheme is a type of the work that might usefully be kept in hand on the present occasion.

20. Where no schemes for works of this kind are ready or are required, then the Lieutenant-Governor suggests that many municipalities and townships should take advantage of the drought and abundance of labour to cleanse, deepen, and otherwise improve the public tanks, wells, or other sources of public water-supply within their boundaries. For such an object loans could be granted, and the labour so afforded could be of the very best kind for relief works. The Lieutenant-Governor is considering whether in any points the ordinary rules can be relaxed, and orders on the subject will, if necessary, be issued.

21. As yet the system of advances for improvements on the land (what are called in other parts of India tuccavee advances) has not obtained much in Bengal. Recently the Lieutenant-Governor has received a report from Maunbhoom that zemindars and villagers in that district had already drawn out in small sums some Rs. 5,000 for tuccavee advances, and that more money was wanted. Reports from Bancoorah, the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and other districts, also say that the ryots and villagers generally have had the need for water-storage brought home to them very keenly this year, and that they are anxious to prosecute and extend petty works of this kind during the present year. In the Burdwan and Hooghly districts the need of arrangements for the storage of good water and the drawing off of bad water has long been recognised both by Government and the people.

22. The Lieutenant-Governor particularly wishes that all such works should be promoted, and that landholders and villagers should be encouraged to take out Government loans therefor, especially in the districts of the Burdwan Division. The rules for making agricultural advances were published at page 826 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 9th July 1873. Some Bengal officers have pointed out that the rules are cumbrous, and require too much detailed supervision of works for practical enforcement at a season like the present. The Lieutenant-Governor intimates that, in accordance with the permission given him by the Government of India, he will shortly issue instructions showing how far the provisions of the rules quoted above may be relaxed.

23. The Government further promises that it will be ready to defray a portion, not more than one-third, of the cost of petty village works (executed with Government loans during the period ending in July 1874) which directly improve the drinking water-supply of the people, or are shown to be of direct advantage to the general public, in any of the distressed districts, or in any part of the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly. The full loan will stand against the borrower in the Government books until the work is done; when it shall have been reported upon by Government officers, found to be good, and to contribute directly to the water-supply or general well-being of any village or tract, the Government will write off a sum not exceeding one-third of the loan as the Government share of the outlay.

24. It will be for district and sub-divisional officers to make known as far as possible the readiness of Government to grant these loans on favourable terms for village works and land improvements. They are at the same time reminded that under Rule 19, page 828, of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 9th July 1873, the Commissioner and the district officers have authority to sanction such loans with reference to superior authority up to a limit of Rs. 500 and Rs. 5,000 respectively. If the Commissioner of any distressed division can point out any particulars in which the Tuccavee Loan Rules (above cited) may at the present juncture be advantageously relaxed, the Lieutenant-Governor will be most ready to consider any recommendation in that regard. The Commissioner of Burdwan has been already asked to prepare suggestions on the subject. Sir George Campbell's belief is that in some districts (especially those where the ground undulates, like Bancoorah, Beerbhoom, and Gya,) the people will be

glad to take tuccavee loans if only the intentions of Government are known to them, and if responsible Government officers give them the money promptly in full, and do not let it filter through a number of subordinate officials with many delays and difficulties.

25. Meantime, for advances for works of the kinds described in the foregoing paragraphs 19 to 24 the Lieutenant-Governor has assigned a credit of—

Three lakhs to the Patna Division.
Two „ Bhagulpore „
Two „ Rajshahye „
Three „ Burdwan „
One „ Chota Nagpore „

Each Commissioner will notify to his district officers, and will report to Government, how much of the divisional grant he makes available for each district of the division.

For the purchase of grain for relief works and advances to private persons for the purchase of grain, under the instructions conveyed in paragraph 4, a liberal credit has already been given to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhagulpore, and Rajshahye.

26. In regard to the promotion of emigration to the tea districts or to other parts of the country where population may be sparse (paragraph 30 of the Government of India Resolution, dated 7th November), the Lieutenant-Governor will issue instructions hereafter.

27. The Lieutenant-Governor does not wish to burden divisional and district officers with the obligation of furnishing more reports and returns than can possibly be helped. He is glad to know that officers will do their very best, whether they are called upon to report or not. But still the Lieutenant-Governor, the Government of India, and the public must be kept informed as far as possible of what is being done, of what money is being spent, and of the state of the country generally. I am accordingly to request that a weekly narrative may be sent from each district on Mondays, bringing the account of affairs all over the district down to the latest information known at the head-quarter station on that day. The writing of this narrative had better be entrusted to one of the best officers at head-quarters, but of course the Magistrate, if he is present, will add or insert such remarks as he may see fit, and the narrative will give his views and be written in his behalf. A copy of such narrative should be sent to the Commissioner, unless he is on the spot and sees fit to dispense with its transmission. For the present a temporary clerk on Rs. 60 a month may be added to the Magistrate-Collector's office of each distressed district for the conduct of correspondence regarding the scarcity. Copies of each narrative will be sent to the Commissioner and Magistrate-Collector concerned from the Bengal Secretariat, as soon as they are printed, so as to facilitate reference to previous reports and to obviate repetition.

23. The heads on which the weekly narrative should touch are—

NARRATIVE OF SCARCITY AND RELIEF IN DISTRICT FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY THE

(A.) *State of the Country.*

Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazaar.

Kind and price of grain selling at one or more specified principal marts.

Any information obtained regarding the amount and kind of grain believed to be in stock in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others.

Rainfall, if any. State of the crops. Condition of the people. Actual facts as to any *known* cases of misery and starvation. Grain thefts or robberies. Condition of any special tracts.

(B.) *Relief Works.*

Progress in marking out or opening relief works, each work being specified; number of labourers thereon; supply of food thereat; condition of the labourers, mode of payment, and rate of wages; arrangements for tools, &c.

(C.) *Transport of Food.*

Approximate account of private food supplies come into the district from outside during the week. Sufficiency or otherwise of means of transport. Steps taken to improve transport agency and appliances. Existence of a block at any station or point on transport routes. Working of any special transport trains or other agencies. Requirements in respect of transport, and arrangements for meeting them.

(D.) *Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.*

Places of storage selected. Construction of storage houses or golahs. Arrangements for their custody and administration. Amount of food-grain received. Amount sent out. Return of empty bags. Sufficiency or otherwise of stocks for Government purpose. Fresh arrangements in progress for getting more grain.

(E.) *Advances to private Parties and their Results.*

Advances for purchase and storage of grain, &c. Advances to municipalities for works, and description thereof. Advances to private parties for land improvements, and description thereof.

(F.) *Charitable Relief.*

Actual relief operations commenced, if any.

Arrangements made in preparation of the machinery of charitable relief by way of precaution as above described (paragraph 18 above).

(G.) *Financial Results of the Week.*

Total expenditure from the district and sub-divisional treasury as shown in last narrative.

Detail of the above total:—

Expenditure during the Week under report.

On disbursements to engineers or out-officers in charge of—

Relief work________________________
Relief work________________________
Relief work________________________
Relief work________________________
Relief work________________________
Relief work________________________
Relief work________________________

On purchase of food, particulars being stated.
On disbursements to officers in charge of transport arrangements.
Name transporting agent.
Payment on account of establishments at storage golahs.

On account of Advances for purchase of Food.

Total of advances made during the week to trustworthy residents for purchase of grain.
To traders for purchase of grain.
To municipalities.
To zemindars and others for land improvements.
Total of the week's expenditure—
(*a*) Final payments made.
(*b*) Advances repayable.
Total.
Grand Total to end of the week.

The first weekly narrative should be despatched on Monday, the 1st December, and show the expenditure up as nearly as possible to that date. Subsequent narratives would touch upon the facts only pertaining to the week under report. It will be observed that the narrative is merely for the information of Government, and is not to be a channel for asking sanction to additional establishments or expenditure of any kind.

28. Forms of accounts and register will shortly be forwarded for—

(1.) Relief work expenditure.
(2.) Food purchase expenditure.
(3.) Transport expenditure.
(4.) Grain storage expenditure.
(5.) Charitable relief or poor-house expenditure.

Commissioners of Divisions and special Relief Commissioners, wherever appointed, will have power to sanction the commencement of work on any roads or other relief work which has been approved by Government. In case of any sudden local emergency they may, when they deem it necessary, sanction commencement of work even though the particular work is not yet in the list of approved relief works; and an emergent discretion in such cases is also given to district officers, subject to weekly report of each sanction, to authorise the entertainment of—

Subordinate engineering or overseer establishments;
Grain transport and reception establishments;
Grain storage establishments;

provided that all appointments constituted under these orders are strictly temporary and subject to Government confirmation. In case any person is entertained on a salary exceeding Rs. 100 per mensem, an immediate report is to be made for sanction.

29. I am to sum up the instructions now conveyed, to which attention is specially drawn, thus:—

Para. 2.—The "distressed districts," as Government now believes them to be, are defined.

Para. 3.—Officers are enjoined to see that no removable obstacle remains in the way of private grain traffic.

Para. 4.—Money advances to private parties under two separate sets of conditions are authorised to promote private importation of food to the distressed districts.

Para. 8.—Local officers are desired to push on the preparation of relief works in as many parts as possible of the distressed districts.

Para. 10.—Statements of extra establishments required for, and probable expenditure on relief works, are asked for from Commissioners.

Paras. 11–12.—The views of Government as to storage of grain and its sale at relief works are stated.

Para. 13.—Officers are directed at once to select sites, and to prepare storage for reception of Government grain.

Para. 14.—Report is called for regarding the means of transport in the district and its improvement.

Para. 15.—The need for early testing of transporting agency is enjoined.

Para. 18.—Officers are directed to prepare plans of arrangements, and machinery for relief committees and relief centres, and to report through the Commissioner.

Paras. 19–23.—Loans to municipalities and landowners and others for permanent improvements are to be promoted, and the terms on which these loans are obtainable should be made known to the people.

Para. 25.—Grants are made to each division to cover their advances.

Para. 27.—A weekly narrative is to be sent direct from Government from each distressed district.

Para. 28.—Authority is given to Commissioner to sanction works, and to authorise, temporarily, establishments for grain storage, transport, and relief work, within certain limits, and subject to weekly report.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Appendix E. to foregoing Narrative.

Note on Operations of the Irrigation Department in the Distressed Districts.

South Behar.

The work which was in progress on the Soane Canal before there was reason to fear that there would be a season of scarcity was on the following branches:—

The Western Main Canal, 22 miles in length.
The Arrah branch, 63 miles in length.
The Eastern Main Canal, 8 miles in length.
The Patna branch, 80 miles in length.

Two distributaries had been commenced, but very little work done on them.

The weir at the head of the canal, the Western Main Canal, and the Arrah branch were in such a state that water could be admitted. Consequently, as soon as intelligence was received of the want of rain, the Superintending Engineer was directed (on 24th September) to admit water, and to irrigate as well as he could without distributaries, and to make no charge for the water.

The water was admitted on the 3rd of October, and irrigation commenced from the Main Western Canal. On the 18th the Arrah branch was opened, and water reached the 20th mile on the 14th, and has subsequently been carried to the 30th mile.

Up to date about 69,000 acres have been irrigated from these canals.

On the eastern bank of the river, owing to the head sluices having been sanctioned a year later than on the western bank, work was not so far advanced, and it was only on the 15th November that it was possible to pass a small quantity of water into the channel through the lock.

Two of the distributaries, the Seanwunk and the Beheea, had been laid out and commenced; only very little work had been done, but by massing labour on them they have been pushed on, and used most satisfactorily for the distribution of the water.

All drainage channels and watercourses were also utilized.

To give work for the people, it has now been decided to widen to 100 feet the portions of the Main Western and Main Eastern Canals, which had only been dug to the full required width of 60 feet, and to push on the—

Buxar branch - - -	45 miles
Doomraon branch - -	40 „
Beheea „ - - -	30 „
Kunteya „ - - -	21 „

the designs for which were ready, and they are being lined out accordingly.

The Chowsa branch will also be put in hand shortly.

A map is attached showing the lines of canal, from which it will be seen that work will be provided by this means over a large extent of country in the three districts of Patna, Gya, and Shahabad.

Arrangements are also being made for importing grain to feed the workpeople. (I cannot give number of labourers this week, but have arranged to do so next week.)

NORTH BEHAR.

Arrangements are being made for commencing work on embanking the Gunduck River for 58 miles in length in the Chumparun district and for 95 miles in the Tirhoot and Sarun districts.

HOOGHLY DISTRICT.

The Collector and Commissioner reported that it was advisable to open the head of the Kana Nuddi, an old branch of the Damooda, which had been closed by embankments for the purpose of supplying water for drinking and irrigating the winter crops. This has accordingly been commenced, and 1,263 men are now employed on the work; the workmen are, however, of the ordinary labouring classes. The Collector estimates that this work may, if promptly completed, save 1,00,000 maunds of food-grain which would otherwise be lost. The whole cost of the work is estimated at Rs. 10,000.

MIDNAPORE.

Before the failure of the rains, about 15,000 acres had been irrigated from the canal in this district. When it was found that rain did not fall, a great demand for water arose, and 34,000 acres had been irrigated up to the 15th instant. Unfortunately the water in the river failed, the discharge being only 300 cubic feet per second instead of 1,000 cubic feet, which is the usual quantity at this time of the year. Otherwise much more would have been irrigated.

The completion of the distributaries of this canal and some embankments which are required will furnish work for those requiring relief.

ORISSA.

About 5,500 acres had been irrigated from the canals in this district before the rain failed.

A demand arose for water and the area was increased to about 7,500 acres, when heavy rain fell and stopped the demand.

There is much work for labourers in this district on two ranges of the canal which are in progress, and in completing embankments and distributaries, should any necessity arise for finding employment for them.

GENERAL.

Several other irrigation projects at present suspended are being examined with the view of commencing them, should the necessity become more urgent.

H. W. GULLIVER,
Officiating Chief Engineer.

The 20th November 1873.

APPENDIX F. to foregoing Narrative.

No. 300, dated Fort William, the 11th November 1873.

From Major J. G. LINDSAY, R.E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, Northern Bengal (State) Railway, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, General Department.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the approval of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, a memorandum of the arrangements I propose making for carrying on the works of the Northern Bengal (State) Railway during the next few months.

NORTHERN BENGAL (STATE) RAILWAY.

MEMORANDUM OF PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS.

I UNDERSTAND His Honour's instructions to be that every endeavour is to be made to have as much work as possible ready for the people to begin at as soon as they feel the want of it, and that the more the work is distributed the better it will be, so that the people need not have to travel long distances to get work.

No endeavours are to be made to attract labourers from the western or other districts, but the work is to be kept in reserve, as it were, until necessity arises. I propose at present to concentrate the engineering staff between Sultanpore and Bagdogra, north of Durwanee, sending one Executive Engineer to look after the work on the Dhaparee road. I have detailed the Engineers along this length, and hope that by the 25th they will all be in their places and at work. I cannot expect the Rajpootana Engineers to be at Dinagepore before that date.

I have two offices of account at present in working order, and propose only to open one other at present. The Executive Engineer in charge of the work along the Dhapan road must have a separate office, but he will be so near Calcutta that I anticipate no difficulty in starting it. I have desired Mr. Luff, a 2nd grade Executive Engineer, to report on the present state of the bar at the Oorasagen River, and to suggest any possible means of keeping a channel open. He will do this before taking up his work on the Dhaparee and Nattore road. The Executive Engineers in charge of the two divisions between Sultanpore and Bagdogra have been instructed to mark out the side widths, and take over the land on the railway as fast as possible. Two of the senior men have been detailed to report on and mark out feeder roads. Work will be extended north and south as the marking out of the line becomes completed. As to my own movements, I hope that all preliminary arrangements will be completed by the 19th, when I leave for Dinagepore, where my camp is or will be. I shall reach Dinagepore on the 22nd, and after meeting and giving verbal instructions to the Engineers who meet me there, I shall join the Commissioner and Mr. Robinson, who will be somewhere near, and again discuss the question of feeder roads.

My head-quarters during the season will be at or near Parbuttipore, on the 20th mile of the Dinagepore and Rungpore road.

I would advise the immediate construction of a temporary line of telegraph from a point opposite Kooshtea to Julpigoree, with a branch to Rungpore. I consider that, supposing the railing was to be constructed under ordinary circumstances, the telegraph should be made at once, as it leads to economy in construction and management. Now that communication with the centre of the famine-affected districts is of such paramount importance, the laying of the wire should be commenced without delay. I would suggest that the Telegraph Department should be requested to organize at once two construction parties, one to begin at Kooshtea, the wire, &c. being conveyed by the Eastern Bengal Railway, and the other at Dinagepore, the material going to Rajmehal and thence by carts to Dinagepore. Clerks, who will have work in the Executive Engineers' offices, can be specially engaged to work the instruments. We should require nine stations.

In order to facilitate the transport of grain to the famine districts, I think that attention should first be given to the roads from Caragola and Rajmehal to Dinagepore, and to the best means of communication from the Brahmapootra River to Nattore and Hijlee. As regards the line from Rajmehal to Dinagepore, I would suggest that, besides making it as practicable as possible for wheeled traffic, a regular bullock-train service might be organized. It can be used in the first instance for the transport of telegraph wire and railway material, and, should an emergency arise, it can be used in conveying grain. Should it happily not be required for the latter purpose, the carts and cattle would be of use in the construction of the railway, and would be withdrawn for that purpose.

The Caragola and Dinagepore road would be of no use for the leading of railway material, but if it is necessary to send large quantities of grain along that line, one of the Carrying Companies, Bird and Co. for instance, would, I am sure, readily undertake to arrange a train.

The road should in the meantime be made practicable for cart traffic.

In addition to general approval of the arrangements above sketched out, I beg to request sanction to the formation at once of train services from—

Rajmehal to Dinagepore,
Dhaparree to Nattore,

and a temporary line of telegraph from Koostea to Julpigoree, with branches to Dinagepore and Rungpore. I would also ask for sanction to any improvements that can be made in the line of water-carriage from the Oorasagur to the Jaboona and Atrai rivers.

J. G. Lindsay, Major, R.E.,
Officiating Superintending Engineer, N. B. S. Railway.

The 11th November 1873.

No. 3,412.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department, to Major Lindsay, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Northern Bengal (State) Railway.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,
Calcutta, the 13th November 1873.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 300, dated 11th November, forwarding a Memorandum of the steps you propose to take, and the measures you recommend for beginning the Northern Bengal Railway works in the distressed districts north of the Ganges.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts your statement of his views as correct, namely, that your engineers should "have as much work as possible ready for the people to begin at, as soon "as they feel the want of it, and that the more the work is distributed the better it will be." To this statement of the wishes of Government, I am to add the suggestion (which fell from the lips of His Excellency the Viceroy at the meeting at Government House on the 10th current) that the railway works proper should be kept as much as possible for the able-bodied workmen who will labour by the piece; while on the feeder roads might be employed the people who are

less able to do a full day's work, and who will have to be paid separate daily wages, either in money, or in grain, or in both.

3. Your plan of work seems in brief to be—

(*a*) That two executive divisions will be at once established, and work begun on a length of about seventy miles north of Sultanpore, the northerly border of the inundated (or jheel) country. The engineers are at once to mark out the side widths, and to take over the land from the two Deputy Collectors who have been told off for the duty of taking up the land. You will take care that where there is a crop on the ground it is allowed to ripen.

(*b*) That one executive engineer shall at once proceed to inspect the mouth of the Oorasagor river; and that he shall, if he sees his way to deepening the channel over the bar at reasonable expense, arrange for such deepening under your orders; and that he shall then take up the work of forming the railway bank along the line of the Dhapparee and Nattore road.

(*c*) That two of the senior of your executive engineers have been told off to survey, mark out, and report upon feeder roads, in consultation with Mr. W. Le F. Robinson and the civil officers.

(*d*) That you yourself hope to be at Dinagepore by the 22nd November, where you will meet Mr. Robinson, and decide upon the feeder roads to be at once begun in consultation with him; and that your own head-quarters will be throughout the season at or near Parbuteepore, half-way between Rungpore and Dinagepore.

The Lieutenant-Governor fully approves your scheme for prosecuting the work. He has asked the Government of India to give you a preliminary credit of three lakhs for railway works. Funds for feeder roads will be given to your engineers by Mr. Robinson, or, under his orders, from the district or famine grants. The Lieutenant-Governor presumes that before you leave Calcutta you will organize arrangements for getting up tools and other material from Calcutta. As you are aware, the Lieutenant-Governor has arranged to have a steamer and flats running between Kooshtea (or Goalundo) and the best landing places on the north bank of the Pudda; and also for a light draught steamer (the *Flame*) working with two small flats on the inland waters. These steamers will serve the requirements of your line as well as the grain trade which is expected to spring up.

4. The special arrangements which your note urges upon the very early attention of Government are—

(*a*) The immediate construction of a line of telegraph from a point opposite Kooshtea to Dhapparee, and from Dhapparee onwards to Julpigoree, with branches from Parbuteepore, both to Dinagepore and Rungpore. You recommend that the Electric Telegraph Department be moved to organize at once two parties, one to begin work opposite Kooshtea, and the other to begin at Dinagepore, carting their material from Rajmehal to Dinagepore.

(*b*) That the road from Rajmehal to Dinagepore should be at once put in order for wheeled traffic, and that a regular bullock train should be established thereon for the transport of railway material, telegraph material, and, if necessary, of grain.

(*c*) That the roads from Caragola and Rajmehal to Dinagepore should be made at once practicable for carts.

(*d*) That a bullock train service should be formed for the road from Dhapparee to Nattore.

(*e*) That express sanction be given to your incurring any reasonable expenditure for improving the lines of water communication.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor will at once ask the Government of India to* move the Telegraph Department to begin the line of telegraph in the way you propose. The telegraph officers will decide (and you are requested to consult with them on this point *before* you leave Calcutta) whether the line should not be led from Jagotee junction to a point opposite Dhapparee, along the line selected for the branch railway, and whether it will not be as expeditious and cheaper to make the line permanently on Hamilton's standard at once.

* N.B.—Since this letter was written, His Excellency the Viceroy has given orders that the telegraph line shall be at once begun by two parties.
C. B.

6. Mr. Robinson is already having the road to Dinagepore, from a point on the Ganges wherefrom communication with Rajmehal is easy, improved. The Lieutenant-Governor quite approves of a train of bullocks and carts being formed on this road. Mr. Robinson will arrange this in communication with yourself; the bullocks and carts of the distressed country should be employed as far as possible, and the Government of India will be asked to lend for the management of this service European and Native employés of the Post Office, who may have had experience on the Purneah and Darjeeling road. The accounts of expenditure on and earnings by this train will have to be kept distinct. It will probably be best to employ native carts of the country, and not to attempt to introduce heavy ammunition wagons or Post Office "cranchees" on the cutcha road from Rajmehal to Dinagepore.

7. The road from Rajmehal to Dinagepore is an important link in the Lieutenant-Governor's scheme of emigration roads from Behar to Doobree, and orders have already been given for putting it into order. The Commissioner of Rajshahye will be reminded of its importance. Mr. Robinson will also inquire and consider whether a road from Caragola to Dinagepore would have any superior advantages. A bullock train can be organized, in the same fashion as on the

Dinagepore road, from Dhapparee to Nattore; as this will be a short line, Mr. Robinson will perhaps be able to manage this through a native agency at Nattore. Its accounts should be kept distinct from the railway and relief work accounts. A paper charge should be made by these bullock trains for all work done for your department, or for the relief department, or for the Telegraph Department; such charges being supported by vouchers for the work done.

The Lieutenant-Governor has already (paragraph 3 above) intimated his approval of your expending a reasonable sum on improving the water routes on the Oorasagor, or on other inland waters which may serve your works.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 3,413.

Copy, with copy of Major Lindsay's letter and note, forwarded to the Commissioners of Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye, and to Mr. W. LeF. Robinson at Dinagepore. Attention is drawn specially to—

(1) The need for early works on the the Dinagepore roads from Rajmehal and perhaps Caragola.

(2) The best steps to be taken for establishing a bullock train service on the Dinagepore and Nattore roads.

(3) The need for settling at early date with Major Lindsay on what feeder roads his engineers should first break ground.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta,
The 13th November 1873.

Appendix G. to foregoing Narrative.

Arrangements for Food-supply.

We have arranged and announced to all the world that we are to buy grain for labourers on relief works, and I have much urged that, to the extent of the carriage now available and not used fully by the private trade, we should import and store on the spot for this purpose with the least possible delay.

I am afraid, however, that we may get into confusion through the operations of various local officers, and would therefore lay down as follows:—

1. When we say that the thing is to be done as much as possible through the trade, we mean, in the first instance, the trade of the division or district of the officer to whom the order is given. All officers should, to the utmost possible extent, operate through their own local traders, and arrange that these men should transport the grain to the spot where it is wanted, or the nearest point that can possibly be arranged. No direct Government transport should be undertaken that can be avoided. The local traders may get the supplies wherever they find best, provided only they come from a distance. I wish no restriction put on them. They will best know where to go and how to convey the grain. What is necessary is that in all contracts they should be bound down to early delivery. This last is essential.

2. When local officers are wholly unable to work through their local traders, they must not send orders to a distance at their discretion. We must systematize business of that kind. I think the sources of food-supply to which we must look may be roughly divided as follows:—

1. Calcutta and the neighbourhood.
2. Eastern Bengal.
3. North-Western Provinces and Central Provinces.

My present wish is that any special orders which the local traders cannot arrange for should be sent to these quarters, somewhat in the reverse order to that in which I have written them. Since we may trust to the Calcutta trade to do all that the demand renders profitable, and all considerable local traders in our districts have Calcutta connections, I should like the Behar officers to get their Government supplies as much as they can from the North-Western Provinces first and then from Eastern Bengal, and the Rajshahye officers from Eastern Bengal, before they indent on Calcutta.

3. To prevent clashing in the North-Western and Central Provinces, I have proposed that all purchases from thence (other than through our own local dealers) should be made through the Commissioner of Patna only (he supplying Bhaugulpore), and that a North-Western Provinces officer should be placed at his disposal, who will ascertain the kind of grain most

available, the best place to buy, and will arrange with the North-Western Provinces dealers to send Chumparun. M. A. Colvin, C.S., Allahabad, has been nominated for the purposes.

4. I should like the Commissioner of Dacca to make a similar arrangement for Eastern Bengal, employing an officer for the purpose. Orders, which local dealers in Behar and Rajshahye cannot execute, might then be executed through him.

5. It must be clearly understood that Chittagong is not a large producing district, but a mere port of foreign export for Noakhally, Tipperah, and South Backergunge; therefore orders should, as a rule, not be sent to Chittagong. What we want is to draw rice *away* from Chittagong, not to draw it to Chittagong. If it once gets there, either it will be exported, or we shall have to pay exorbitant prices to get it back from the export firms.

6. When officers are unable to get supplies either from Western or from Eastern Bengal, they must indent on Calcutta. All such indents should be addressed to Mr. Toynbee, C.S., Bengal Office, who is now in charge of that department. To comply with them he will openly buy from the various firms, according as he can make the best bargain.

7. These rules will not be strictly obligatory on Court of Wards' officers, but I should like them to follow these lines as far as possible; especially as regards employing the local dealers first, if they possibly can.

8. In cases in which grain is got from a distance otherwise than through local dealers, the distant merchants will no doubt be unable to manage the local transport from the railway or river station to the works, and here will probably be the greatest difficulty. I think that direct Government arrangements should be avoided as much as possible, and effort should be made to get contractors, large or small, or even owners of carts to undertake the transport at contract rates. Certainly, I would avoid all attempt to put on the roads either carts or camels or anything else the property of Government till the whole of the indigenous carriage has been drawn out and used to the very utmost.

G. CAMPBELL.

The 19th November 1873.

Circular No. 83.

Copy forwarded to all Commissioners of Divisions, to district officers of distressed districts, to Messrs. Barton and Davies of Goalundo, and Hewitt of Patna.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Scarcity and Relief,
The 20th November 1873.

APPENDIX H. to foregoing Despatch.

No. 23PS, dated Calcutta, the 18th November 1873.

From C. BERNARD, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department to the COMMISSIONER of BHAUGULPORE.

I AM directed to reply as follows to your No. 537, dated 16th November 1873, in which you bring to notice the condition of Soopole and Western Mudheypoorah in the Bhaugulpore district, give your opinion that in those sub-divisions a state of actual famine is not very far distant, and suggest remedies.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that the statements of the Collector of Bhaugulpore, neither in his very careful reply to this office Circular No. 70, dated 13th October 1873, nor in the extracts from his letters submitted with your letter under reply, are such as to support the highly colored tone of your present letter, nor at all to suggest the probability of immediate severe famine. Indeed, the Collector's account of Mudheypoorah is better than the Lieutenant-Governor had expected, and even as regards Soopole, it appears that there has been some considerable yield from the bhadoi crop. Mr. Taylor distinctly states that rice is still being exported in considerable quantities from Soopole, and that murwa is actually selling exceedingly cheap in the north of his district, viz. at 31 seers to the rupee.

3. Under these circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor cannot but think that it is to be regretted that you should have made suggestions which he is constrained to call far too wide and vague. I am to remind you that you have already received ample authority to open relief works to any amount if necessary, to import grain for the labourers, and to make advances for private import. It seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that when you ask that something may be done at once because the roads are in a bad state, you merely propose what the authority already given to you amply enables you to do without further reference to superior authority. At any rate, there is every reason why you should at once proceed to put the roads in order, and arrange the means of transporting grain for relief works, as the Lieutenant-Governor believes that you are in fact energetically doing.

4. If it is still the case that, as Mr. Taylor states, export of grain is going on from the tracts where distress is apprehended, you should buy on the spot for your works so far as practically to stop further considerable export.

5. In regard to the immediate supply of grain to your division, I am to remind you that 19,000 maunds of rice is already under despatch on your account. In addition to this, as you have been informed by telegraph, 50,000 maunds will be sent by rail to you as soon as you intimate that you can receive and transport it. This should be arranged at once.

6. I am to invite your attention to the positive orders of the Government of India, that Government officers are not to import grain for supply of the general public, but to leave such operations to the trade. I am to repeat that in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion the report of the Collector of Bhaugulpore is very far from giving reason for making an exception to those orders in favour of that district.

7. You will already have received this office Circular No. 80 of 17th instant. The Lieutenant-Governor desires that you will carefully study the instructions contained in it and act upon those instructions fully. Specially you should be careful that in future all your reports and suggestions may be clearly and systematically arranged in accordance with the principles which the circular lays down. You will not fail to observe what full powers are given you for relief works and advances wherever they may become necessary. If you have any doubt or difficulty on any point you may refer it, but the reference must be specific. As regards charitable relief, you will see that in case of actual necessity you have power to commence operations in the manner pointed out.

No. 3684.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL in the Statistical Department, to the UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir, Calcutta, dated 28th November 1873.

IN continuation of my letter No. 3545, dated the 21st November 1873, and under instructions from His Excellency the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor directs me to forward copies of the third weekly* Special Narrative regarding the failure of crops and the anticipated scarcity in Behar and parts of Bengal.

* Up to 28th November 1873.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

SPECIAL NARRATIVE of the DROUGHT of 1873 in BENGAL, from 22nd NOVEMBER to 28th NOVEMBER 1873.

(1.) THE general prospects of the season, as disclosed in the latest reports, are perhaps a little better than previous reports might have led us to fear. Many of the reports and opinions now given are results of actual inspections by experienced European and Native officials, fully qualified to observe and to weigh what they see; others are still not what they should be. Especially it may be noted, that the state of the spring crops, which had in many cases more or less germinated were sown, is better than it had been supposed to be, and gives better prospects of their surviving if later rain falls. In the Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye Divisions, the late rice crop, the main staple of the country, is said to be as bad as it had been previously feared to be. It is hoped that if rain comes in December, the spring crop will not be permanently injured by the insects which are said now to infest the wheat fields, for the young plants will shoot up again.

In regard to the stocks of food in the hands of the people, the Commissioner of Patna reports the determination of the ryots of Tirhoot not to sell their grain consequent on their remembrances of the suffering of 1866. He adds that one of the chief causes of the great distress in 1865-66 was the total depletion of stocks, caused by the ryots being tempted by the high prices to break in on their stores of grain. In Orissa, it is believed that since the famine of 1866 the people have been much more provident, and that they have now good stocks.

A note by the Lieutenant-Governor is appended,* comparing the prospects of the present year, as far as they are known, with the condition of affairs in 1865, and previous to the great famine of 1770.

* Appendix A., page 63.

(2.) There has been no rain. The following note by the Meteorological Reporter shows that the weather is not altogether such as is usual at this time of year: "During the past week (and indeed since the rains ceased) the general direction of the wind has been more or less easterly. This is not usual in November. The average direction in this month is north-north-west, that of the land wind; whereas north-easterly winds, such as we have had of late, are in great measure diverted winds from the south. As a consequence, there has been more cloud about the sky than is usual at this time of year, and during the last day or two the sky is quite over-cast, looking more like rain than has been the case for many weeks past. There has been a very small rise in the barometer the last two days, but in Calcutta rain falls with a barometer rising after its depression." Rain at this time of year would be unusual; but as long as other meteorological phenomena remain anomalous, we may perhaps still hope for anomalous rain. The weekly weather and crops return is enclosed.

(3.) From the weekly return of prices-current enclosed herewith, it will be seen that, though in some districts they have fallen, generally there is an upward tendency. The new rice will soon be in the market. Two districts, Bancoorah and Midnapore, already quote new rice at a lower figure than old rice.

These quotations can hardly be considered to afford very stable hope, for in 1865–66 prices fell during the winter months, and rose again after February. The lowest rate for the commonest kind of rice is to-day in Calcutta Rs. 3-7 per maund.

A short note showing the movement of food-grains, since the date of last Narrative, is added in Appendix B.

(4.) The difficulty of transporting large quantities of grain in this country being apparent, the Lieutenant-Governor has thought it necessary to urge upon the Government of India the necessity of now laying in such stores as are likely to be required for relief works before pressure arises, and while means of transport are available. Such importations of grain as can be obtained he would, as far as possible, make now. If all our supplies should come together, he anticipated a ruinous block. Letter No. 28P.S., dated 22nd November, in which the Lieutenant-Governor submitted this and some other points for the consideration of the Government of India, is hereto appended. (Appendix C.)*

* Page 66.

In view of the great need for testing and using, at as early a date as possible, the means of transport from railway stations and rivers into the interior of the distressed districts, the Lieutenant-Governor has despatched from Calcutta to Patna ghât for the Gunduk embankment,—to Rajmehal, Kooshtea, and Goalundo for the Northern Bengal Railway works,—and to Arrah and Buxar for the Soane Canal works, all the foreign rice which has come to Calcutta on Government account; and he has, as above mentioned, urged that further importations of grain from beyond the sea should be hastened.

As it was the wish of the Government of India that rice bought by the Imperial Government should, for the present at any rate, be stored at imperial works, the Lieutenant-Governor was very desirous to buy a certain amount of grain in Bengal for storage on local works. Immediately on receiving His Excellency the Viceroy's final orders, Sir George Campbell began to buy rice as quietly as possibly through an agent in Calcutta, and he also caused inquiries to be made in Dacca, in the Backergunge district, and at Chittagong, where prices were at that time (early in November) said to be low. The agents employed in Calcutta and Bengal assured the Lieutenant-Governor that, in the then delicate state of the market, it would not be possible for Government to buy largely without raising the price greatly and to some extent paralysing private trade. From Dacca and Backergunge advices were received that the surplus stocks of last year's rice were finding their way to Calcutta and elsewhere; that it would be possible to buy only in dribblets, and that there was no mart at which Government could secure a large quantity of grain at one time.

From Chittagong it was reported that rice for export came into market with the high tides once a fortnight only from Noacolly and Backergunge, that there was little or no exportable surplus in Chittagong itself, and that large orders for rice could be executed only by European firms, which held large orders for export beyond the sea at high prices, and would sell to Government only at those prices. For a small parcel of rice (only 1,300 maunds) which was loaded on the Government steamers transferred for service in the Rajshahye Division, Government had to pay three rupees a maund, or very nearly the rate then ruling in Calcutta. * The chief European exporting firm themselves stated that they had deliberately run up the price a rupee a maund at the last fortnightly arrival of rice-boats with the view of attracting boats from the rice districts. The Lieutenant-Governor felt that, as Chittagong was after all only a back-door for the export of Bengal rice, he had better not buy there for Government, and thus attract to Chittagong the surplus of Noacolly and Backergunge, most of which might, under ordinary circumstances, be attracted by the Calcutta prices, and would be carried along the canals and inland rivers to the Calcutta market. The officer charged with buying rice for Government at Goalundo and Kooshtea reported that there were no large stocks to be bought anywhere, but that a healthy private trade was going on between East Bengal and Rajshahye in small boats, from which rice was eagerly bought by the residents along the rivers. He earnestly represented that if Government were to intervene as a large purchaser this trade would be paralysed. It thus seemed clear that Government could not buy rice largely in the interior of Bengal without disturbing the natural flow of the trade, and keeping it away from Calcutta dealers who would supply the distressed districts. The Government agent in Calcutta had for similar reasons exercised similar caution, and had up to the 24th November bought only 30,000 maunds of rice for Government in Calcutta. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, saw that it was absolutely necessary to get a certain quantity of rice in Calcutta for immediate despatch to local works, and he has therefore during the last week bought 140,000 maunds more of Bengal rice in Calcutta at the current rates; more than half this quantity has been despatched or is now under despatch for storage on local works in all these distressed divisions, and the remainder the Lieutenant-Governor is keeping in reserve for compliance with future emergent indents from the distressed districts. Sir George Campbell hopes that this supply will keep the transport agency at work until the Orissa* rice comes into Calcutta, and the grain ordered from the North-Western Provinces comes into the Behar districts. We have been advised that the first despatch of Balasore rice will reach Calcutta before the 7th December.

In regard to the price at which rice has been laid in, it may be noted that the rice bought in Calcutta will stand the Government in from Rs. 3-3 to Rs. 3-15 per maund; that the Orissa rice will be delivered at the jetties in Culcutta at Rs. 2-12 per maund; that the Burmah rice will cost from Rs. 2-11 for the first batch to Rs. 3-2½ for the latter batches. The rice, wheat, maize, barley, millet, and other grains, of which about 125,000† maunds have been ordered, mainly from Northern India, for delivery in Behar, will stand the Government in from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 a maund all round at the railway and river stations in Patna and Behar. It may thus be roughly stated that up to the present date (28th November) about six lakhs of maunds‡ of grain have been bought or ordered by the Government of Bengal and its officers; that three-quarters of this amount will be delivered in the distressed districts before the end of December; and that this grain will cost the Government about Rs. 3¼ per maund all round.

(5.) In letter No. 3004, dated the 14th November 1873, from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Financial Department, attention was called to the subject of providing fodder for cattle during the months of scarcity. On the routes where it is expected bullock trains may be organized the local officers are to form depôts of fodder.

It is well known that roots and vegetables form an important food-staple in this country, and in times of scarcity they, in some measure, supplement the failure of grain. Local officers have been directed to promote vegetable cultivation, and, where advisable, to buy seeds for distribution.

In letter No. 3249, dated November 24th, the Government of India asked for information regarding the plan devised by the Government of Bengal for the distribution of rice imported from beyond sea, and the places where it is proposed to store it in readiness for actual consumption. In reply the Lieutenant-Governor detailed the arrangements which had been made for transporting foreign rice for storage at the Gunduk embankment, and on the Northern Bengal Railway works, and also what had been done in connection with the supply of the Soane Canal

* See paragraph 7 of last week's Narrative.

† *Note.*—30,000 maunds of Indian-corn have been ordered by the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore from the North-Western Provinces; 30,000 maunds of barley; 30,000 maunds of millet, &c., from the North-Western Provinces, and 25,000 maunds of rice by the Commissioner of Patna; and 10,000 maunds of rice from Backergunge by the Commissioner of Rajshahye.

‡ About twenty-two thousand tons.

Works and local relief works. Copy of this letter, No. 3626, dated November 25th, written in reply to the Government of India, is added hereto in Appendix D.* Particular attention is requested to this letter, as it contains information which is necessary to complete this Narrative.

* Page 67.

(6.) The orders already issued calling for information and reports from local officers being contained in many different circulars, some original, some supplementary, it has been thought advisable to circulate a precise list of them. Accordingly, circular No. 87, dated November 24th, has been issued, reviewing previous orders, and defining exactly what reports are required from local officers, reducing them to the lowest possible limits, and requiring a fortnightly instead of a weekly Narrative. Copy of this circular is annexed.

In circular No. 80, dated November 17th, paragraph 7, it was stated that the answers received to circular No. 27 of June 1872, which called for lists of works which might suitably be undertaken in times of scarcity, would be printed and circulated, so that Divisional and District Officers might have by them lists of the roads and other works which have been selected, estimated for, and kept as possible relief works. Copies of these lists have now been circulated to officers of distressed districts in order that they may know not only what is proposed in their own districts, but also what is proposed in neighbouring districts. In circulating these lists, the Lieutenant-Governor made certain remarks which are contained in letter No. 3569, dated November 22nd, annexed hereto.

The rules for making advances to landlords and tenants to enable them to improve their properties under Act XXVI of 1871 have been revised. The chief points in which restrictions have been relaxed are these—

I. Certain preliminary formalities which cause delay, &c., are dispensed with.

II. Stamp and process fees are no longer required.

III. Sub-divisional officers who were not before allowed to make advances can now do so up to a limit of Rs. 250 in each case; and the Collector's limit has been raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000.

IV. No interest is charged for advances under Rs. 500 during the first year.

In the case of loans to Municipalities, the rules under Act XXIV of 1871 have also been revised, and the Government may now authorize a loan and the commencement of work, and may advance money in anticipation of the formal publication of the application as required by the standing rules.

It was noted in the last Narrative that the Opium Agent of Behar had received authority to make advances for the construction of common unmetalled wells. The Lieutenant-Governor has wished to extend the operation of this order to ryots who have not agreements to cultivate opium, and has authorized the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore to make advances for wells outside the provisions of Act XXVI of 1871, and to employ the officers of the Opium Department in making the necessary arrangements.

Letters containing these orders are annexed in Appendix E.

The Commissioner of Burmah has made a definite offer to employ six thousand men on public works for six months, intimating that, on the expiry of that period, he can give the emigrants land to settle upon, and that he will also contribute something towards the cost of their transport. The Commissioner of Patna has been addressed on the subject of emigration to British Burmah, and has been asked whether the people would go, and how he would propose to organize such emigration.

As regards emigration to Assam, it has been pointed out that coolies cannot be expected to find their own way up the Brahmaputra river, the navigation of which is so difficult for native boats. It is therefore under consideration whether it would not be possible to place a Government steamer on the river to carry emigrants from Dhoobree, where the system of roads devised to promote emigration from North Behar to Assam abuts on the Brahmaputra. The Commissioner of Patna has issued orders that grain shall be supplied to emigrants on the line of march at cost price by the officers employed in the construction of the roads from the stores placed at their disposal for relief works. These orders had become necessary, as it was ascertained that laborers who had started from the Sarun district on their annual migration in search of work to Northern Bengal had returned to their homes alarmed at the high cost of living on the road. Every facility will be given for emigration from Northern Behar through Northern Bengal to Assam. Offers for coolies have already been received from planters.

It was mentioned in a former Narrative that the rates of freight charged for food-grains on the railways had been reduced to one-eighth of a pie per mile. It has now been found necessary to exclude all food-grains from the Upper Provinces and Behar, consigned to stations below Luckeeserai and Bhaugulpore, from the operation of the reduction, inasmuch as advantage was taken of it by exporters and others to carry grain away from the districts in which it is most wanted.

In a Resolution, dated 27th November, herewith enclosed, the Lieutenant-Governor prescribes the procedure to be followed in applying for, and prosecuting relief works.

(7.) Various circular orders have been issued by the Lieutenant-Governor since the date of last Narrative. As it is very important to obtain as accurate information as is available regarding the extent of food-stocks still remaining in the country, he has directed district officers to make special inquiries as to the stocks held both by grain dealers and by individual ryots, and to submit the information they may procure with their weekly Narratives.

In order to supplement the ordinary establishments, the Lieutenant-Governor has invited pensioners to resume work during the present emergency, receiving extra allowances proportioned to the work that may be allotted to them.

It has been found necessary to issue some further instructions as to the nature of the information regarding the cold weather crop which is to be submitted with the district Narratives. Local officers have been reminded that the cold weather crops, in their early stages, possess a wonderful vitality, and if they germinate in the least, can well wait for rain at Christmas or later.

Enquiries have been made as to the time occupied by native boats in navigating the Ganges from Goalundo to Patna at various times of the year, and the facilities for, or difficulties in, navigation, and the Commissioners of the distressed tracts have been ordered to report specially on the means of transport available in their divisions.

(8.) Some reports have been received from the Commissioners since the date of the last Narrative. The scheme for connecting Northern Behar with Assam by a system of roads through Northern Bengal has, so far as the Patna Division is concerned, been finally settled. The works have not actually been commenced on this scheme, but the lines have been pegged out and all arrangements for beginning have been made. From another report submitted by the Commissioner of Patna, it appears that, with the exception of the case of the Hutwah estate, in the Sarun district, mentioned in a former Narrative, relief works have already become necessary only in one corner of the Patna district, where a new road has been commenced. With these two exceptions no relief works properly so called have as yet been opened in Patna Division, but the annual repairs to the district roads are being pushed on. It is satisfactory that the Commissioner is able to report that as yet no symptom of increase of crimes has shown itself.

A few other points are worthy of note in connection with the Patna Division. It was ordered that local officers should, where possible, effect the purchase of grain for relief works through local traders. It has been found impossible to persuade the grain dealers of Behar to undertake any import business. Even the large dealers of Revelgunge on the Gogra declare that they cannot take up an import trade from the North-West Provinces; it is not their custom, and they do not understand it. The attempt to import grain through local dealers may be said to have so far failed.

Some Collectors have complained of requisitions for carriage for troops being made at a time of so much pressure. The matter has been separately reported to the Government of India.

It is reported from the Behar sub-division of the Patna district that the petty grain-dealers in the small villages have shut up their shops, and that people who want to buy have to go to the town of Behar to do so. This difficulty has been in some measure overcome by itinerant dealers, who have taken to perambulating the country with loaded bullocks with imported grain, selling their grain from the sack's mouth.

The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has submitted his proposals for relief works with a list of roads, on some of which work has actually commenced, while others are kept in hand till necessity for opening them shall arise. He has also chosen places as food depôts and possible relief centres. His plans have been provisionally sanctioned. It was noted in the last Narrative that work had been commenced in the Soopool sub-division of Bhaugulpore; the satisfactory intelligence has since been received that laborers do not come forward freely. In Monghyr one road has been started as a relief work, and the people have taken the work up willingly, though not in large numbers.

The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore also has failed in his efforts to purchase food through local traders.

It was mentioned in the last Narrative that works had been opened in the Rajshahye Division. Some details of works in progress in Dinagepore and Rajshahye have since been received demi-officially. On the subject of purchasing grain through local traders, the Commissioner of Rajshahye remarks: "I must say from "all I have been able to learn the people who trade for export will not take up an "import trade, and few have the capital to do so. They say it is not their custom, "that they do not understand the business or know the markets."

The steamer "Teesta" is waiting at Kooshtea for her flats, which have left Calcutta and are being towed round by the steamer "Sir William Peel;" the steamer "Flame," with the flats loaded with rice which she brought from Chittagong, has left Goalundo for the Oorasagur river.

(9.) The India General Steam Navigation Company having offered their flotilla for the purpose of promoting trade in grain, and having asked Government to bear half the cost of transport, as it does in the case of Guaranteed Railways, the Lieutenant-Governor has asked for particulars regarding the routes the steamers would take, and the rates of freight the Company would charge.

It has been arranged to lay down at once a line of telegraph to Julpigoree from Kooshtea along the line chosen for the Northern Bengal Railway.

(10.) The British Indian Association have addressed the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of the impending scarcity. The Association is inclined to take a somewhat gloomy view of the prospect before us, and suggests various measures which it hopes the Government will take in hand. It does not say what measures it intends to take itself as representing the landholders of Bengal; nor does it suggest what measures should be taken by landholders generally for the relief of their tenants. It strongly advocates the prevention of the export of grain. The Lieutenant-Governor's reply is annexed (Appendix G.)

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
Calcutta, C. BERNARD,
the 28th November 1873. Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

APPENDIX A. to foregoing Narrative.

NOTE.

IN the absence of any reliable information about stocks, and seeing the want of precision in our information about the yield of present crops, I have thought that a comparison with former years of scarcity would be the best index to our chances for the future. I believe, however, that the only years in respect of which we have any information admitting of comparison are 1769–70 and 1865–66. In regard to the former our information is necessarily very imperfect. In regard to the latter we accurately know the result, but we do not know with any accuracy the yield of the crops which led to that result. This is nowhere brought together in any detail. A good deal of information may, however, be gleaned here and there; and that is being done. Our inquiries are not complete, but I note what I can draw from the information we have so far got.

In all Bengal failures the immediate cause has been not so much general want of rain as the premature cessation of the rains. That was so in 1769 and 1865, and is so in 1873.

We know nothing of Orissa in 1769–70 (it was not then British). That was, as is well known, far the worst part of the country in 1865–66; in 1873 it is good. We must treat Orissa as abnormal.

As regards all other parts of these provinces, we may state the conditions which usually prevail. The south-eastern sea-board, Backergunge, &c., and the extreme east, Sylhet and Cachar, have never been known to fail through want of rain (when they suffer it is from floods); the other eastern districts—Dacca, Mymensing and Tipperah—though failure of rain may cause short crops, have never failed very disastrously from this cause.

In Central and Western Bengal, failure of the rains has produced scarcity and famine, but I should say that the failure has never been so extreme as in the northern districts.

Failure of the rains especially affects the districts of Northern Bengal and Behar lying along e foot of the Himalaya, where the rainful is generally large, where rice is the chief product, but here the particular phase of the monsoon which causes these disasters seems always to lead to an extreme diminution of the rainfall. This was especially the case in 1769 and 1873, and to a less extreme degree in 1865.

All Behar, being dry, suffers more from drought than Bengal. It has generally happened that two successive short years have produced scarcity in Behar; whereas I do not find the record of two successive years of great drought in Bengal.

In comparing the years of failure of rain and consequent scarcity, I will take—

1. The season of failure.
2. The antecedent circumstances which mitigated or aggravated it.
3. The succeeding circumstances which may mitigate or aggravate it.

Orissa, I have said, we must put aside as following no rule yet ascertained. It may be considered, as regards Bengal, a country beyond sea, the communication being by sea.

Taking then Bengal and Behar, the course of the season of 1769 seems to have been very like that of 1873. There was much failure of rain and of the crops in Central and Western Bengal, extreme failure in North Bengal and Behar, only a certain shortness of crops in the eastern districts, and no failure on the south-eastern seaboard.

In 1865 the failures in Central, Western and Eastern Bengal taken together may have been about equal to that in the present year. I should not yet like to say confidently which was worst; in neither year was or is the failure in these tracts of the most extreme character. In 1865 the failure in North Bengal and Behar was not so bad as the extreme failure of 1873.

On the whole, we cannot say with any precision that the season 1769 was worse or better than that of 1873: we have not sufficient information; the one somewhat resembles the other; but we may fairly hope that 1873 is not so bad as 1769.

1865 was on the whole not so bad as 1873, North Bengal and Behar being certainly worse in the latter year.

Coming now to the antecedent circumstances I feel quite unable to estimate the effect of exportations and jute-growing on the prospects of modern years as compared to those of the last century, and I must confine myself to other circumstances.

It is clear that in Behar and parts of Northern Bengal a previous bad year had preceded that of 1769–70. The rains had much failed in 1768 in Behar and the North Bengal districts; there was already serious distress in Behar early in 1769, and severe famine in July and August of that year. Rice was scarce in Calcutta in August 1769, so that it was found impossible to get two ship-loads for Madras; and very great alarm soon ensued.

1865 was also preceded by a short year in Behar; 1864–65 was certainly a bad year there, though a good year in Bengal, except where the cyclone and floods had done damage.

1873 suffers under no such disadvantages; the last year's crops were fair in Behar and good in Bengal, especially so in Northern Bengal.

As regards then the antecedent circumstances (export and jute apart). 1769–70 was much worse situated than 1865–66, and 1865–66 was worse situated than 1873.

Coming again to the succeeding circumstances, I find that the failure of the rains of 1769 was followed by a prolonged drought throughout the cold season of 1769–70 and the early part of the hot season, which greatly aggravated the evil.

Some showers mentioned in February seem to have been very limited and partial, for later in the season (9th May 1770) it is officially reported that not a drop of rain had fallen in most of the districts for six months. There was no good rain till the end of May.

In 1865–66, on the other hand, Behar and Bengal were, as I believe, saved from a much worse calamity than actually occured, by cold weather rains. There was very little rain up to end of December, but in January and February there was an unusual quantity all over the country in both Bengal and Behar, so much that the only complaints were injury from its excess and from the hail which accompanied it in some places. Throughout Behar the official accounts show (even though the November statements had been quite as gloomy as those we now receive) that the rubbee, there so important a crop, was quite a good one, except in limited tracts destroyed by hail. It should be noted, however, that though the valuable rubbee crops of Behar sufficed for rent and revenue, and probably pulled the Behar ryots through, they did not suffice to relieve the labouring classes, who, owing to dearness of prices, continued to suffer more than ever. In Bengal the demand for Orissa in 1866 probably told much on prices, and the rates were, for a short time before the new crop came in, such as must inevitably have led to severe and widespread famine, if they had continued long.

Seeing then how much the famine of 1770 was aggravated by want of cold weather rain, and how much Behar and Bengal were saved in 1866 from the extremity of famine by good cold weather rains, I more and more incline to believe that our fate still very much depends on the weather of the next three months. The cold weather crops, though comparatively small in quantity, especially in Bengal Proper, might just turn the scale. Rain at that season would provide fodder for beast as well as some food for man, and would enable vegetables, &c., to be planted, and make the country altogether much easier.

To take the worst which may be possible, though I hope not probable, viz., that so far the season of 1873 is as unfavourable as that of 1769, I think it is clear that the antecedent scarcity caused the failure of 1769–70 to be felt in a way which would certainly not have happened to the same degree after years of plenty. There remains farther this consolation that the dearth of 1873–74 may yet be mitigated by two things which did not mitigate the dearth of 1869–70, viz., cold weather rain, and importation of food. The first depends on Providence, the second on ourselves. I have from the first urged the stoppage of exportation from the rice-producing tracts of British India to foreign countries, and importation to Bengal. The first measure has not been considered desirable; the second, I continue to urge strongly. And I put it as strongly that these importations should be immediate. They will certainly be wanted, whatever happens,—whether want of cold weather rain leads to actual famine, or cold weather rain reduces the misfortune to scarcity. And if supplies come now, while carriage and fodder are available, we shall both store food for our labourers before the strain comes, and draw out all our resources in the way of carriage; whereas if they do not come till later, the public and private demand for means of transport coming together, when the weather may be unfavourable and forage scarce, there will probably be a ruinous block.

FARTHER NOTE.

In comparing the different years, we must bear in mind what was brought out clearly from the official records of the India Office in the "Further Report" on the Orissa famine, that severe and terrible as was the famine of 1770 in its immediate effects, it has been very much exaggerated in the statements which have gone down as popular history, representing great part of Bengal as having then relapsed to a state of jungle, from which it did not recover for generations. So far from this being the case, the land revenue of 1771 was actually higher than it had ever been before, and continued to prosper and increase. It is clear then that the dearth of 1770 was not so great as to prevent the next crop being sown or to destroy the productive power of the country.

I note the following information regarding the season 1769–70.

It has been said that Behar was in fact in a state of famine before the rains of 1769 commenced. When they did come they were very late and scanty, and ceased very early. In October 1769 that province was described as "distressed beyond conception," rice was at 10 seers per rupee, and there "were dreadful apprehensions of general famine."

As regards Bengal it is specifically stated on 26th August 1769: "In all the districts north-" ward of Nuddea the crops of rice will be very short indeed, and there is every prospect of a " dreadful calamity which God in His infinite mercy avert." There was little rain in September, and none in October, in most parts of the country.

In November 1769 the Collector-General of Calcutta thus sums up the season:—

"In the southern quarter or low lands of the province they have been fortunately blessed " with some rain, but to the northward the drought has been so severe as to occasion a total " loss of the rice crop in some places and the greater part of it in others;" and on 23rd of the same month the Bengal Government, reporting to the Court of Directors, speaks of "the " drought which has prevailed all over the country, such as the oldest inhabitant does not " remember."

On the other hand, on 4th February 1770, we find this report, after mention of remissions of revenue in Behar: "In Bengal we have not found yet any failure in the revenue or stated " payments."

Up to this time the greatest distress had been in Behar and the northern districts of Bengal; but soon after it became very severe in the Calcutta and Burdwan districts, and especially in Moorshedabad. From May to August 1770 the famine in the southern districts was more severe than in the northern. These northern districts were reported to be greatly relieved by the beginning of July (how it does not appear), but at this very time rice in Moorshedabad reached the rate of 3 seers per rupee, and the distress over a large part of Southern Bengal was awful—quite like that in Orissa in 1866. It was not till September that relief came with the new crops.

The land revenue was not then under any long term settlement leaving a large margin of zemindars' profit; it was collected in a precarious way from year to year, and remissions on account of failure of crops were part of the system. The statement of the revenues in the famine years and subsequent years is certainly somewhat astonishing after the dreadful descriptions of the famine and loss of life. But here is the official statement of the land revenue realized by the Company as taken from the accounts of the Board of Revenue at Moorshedabad—

	Sicca Rs.	As.	P.
1768 - - - - - -	1,52,54,856	9	4
1769, the year of failure of rain which produced the famine - -	1,31,49,148	6	3
1770, the year of famine and mortality -	1,40,06,030	7	3
1771 - - - - - -	1,57,26,576	10	2

It is admitted, however, that the revenue of 1771 was raised to a point higher than ever known before by somewhat harsh measures. The season being plentiful, heavy extra cesses were laid on the ryots who remained to make up for those who had run away.

On the whole, I think that taking together the various passages which we can glean from the reports regarding this famine, and balancing the somewhat conflicting evidence afforded by the accounts of the severity of the famine on the one hand and the collection of revenue on the other, we may fairly judge that the season of 1769 was in itself a good deal worse than that of 1873; and that, taking into consideration the previous scarcity (which certainly brought on panic, dearth, and famine far earlier in 1769 than in the present year), we may be pretty confident that the whole situation in those days was much worse than at present, and that we have not now reason to apprehend so great a calamity.

Compared to 1865, if the present season is somewhat worse (it certainly is worse in North Bengal and Behar), we are at the same time free from the disadvantage of a previous bad year in Behar, and may still hope that we shall not fare worse on the whole.

The last accounts just received seem to show that in some districts the crops are turning out rather better than was expected.

At the same time we must bear in mind that in Orissa the season 1865–66 had been preceded by prosperous years, only depleted by voluntary exportations, and that the failure of the autumn crops of 1865 in that province did not appear to be greater than is now reported from great part of Bengal and Behar. Yet severe famine resulted. Also, that in the southern districts of Bengal the season 1769–70 was not preceded by bad years or by scarcity other than that induced by exportations to the north and to Madras; that failure of crops in these districts in 1769 was not absolute; yet the result was what has been stated. Notwithstanding comparatively favourable antecedents, the degree of famine which occurred for a time in South Bengal in 1770, and in Orissa in 1866, was probably greater than was ever experienced anywhere in India within historical times. Bearing these things in mind, then, notwithstanding our more favourable estimate of the present situation, we cannot be without anxiety, and must not relax precautionary measures.

G. CAMPBELL.

Calcutta, the 25th November 1873.

APPENDIX C. to foregoing Narrative.

No. 28. PS.

From C. BERNARD, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, in the Financial Department, dated Calcutta the 22nd November 1873.

Statistical Department.—Scarcity and Relief.

SIR,

THE telegram copied in the margin* has passed between the Lieutenant-Governor and the Viceroy. With reference to the request contained in His Excellency's telegram asking the Lieutenant-Governor to give by letter his reasons for anticipating such a block, I am now to explain those reasons.

* Rice being shipped weekly from Burmah, explain further by letter your apprehension of block as to time and place, also amount of purchase you have made, and expect making.

2. When the rice of the coming harvest is reaped in December and the early months of next year, it will come into the market from all quarters at once—from Backergunge, from Orissa, from places beyond sea, Burmah, and Madras, &c. At the same time grain will be imported from the North-West Provinces and Central Provinces. All these operations will take place at a time when, if there is not rain, forage will be exhausted, cattle dying, and roads bad. And soon after the weather will become hot. The Lieutenant-Governor fears that if under these disadvantages it becomes necessary to transport large consignments of grain, amounting to 50,000, 100,000, or even 200,000 tons, we shall not be able to do it.

3. In the meantime very little, comparatively, is doing. As regards facility and certainty of transport, every maund carried now is, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks, worth half a dozen waiting for carriage later. Besides there is the advantage of drawing out and preparing means of transport before pressure comes by creating a demand for it.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor would gladly buy rice in Bengal at once for the sake of utilizing the means of transport now lying idle, and storing grain; but wherever the Government goes into the market, it is met by the cry that no large quantities can be purchased without wholly disturbing the market. This is certainly the case in Calcutta, the principal market of these parts. His Honor would not object to paying an enhanced price, indeed he thinks it would be well worth while to do so; but the immediate result of largely raising the price by Government operations would undoubtedly be to stop the private internal trade which, if not now very large, is still considerable and wholesome. The last trade to be stopped by such a rise of price would be the foreign trade, because people who come to Bengal for rice want a quantity only obtainable here. Their agents have orders, and will carry them out, buying rice in spite of a rise, and will send it out of the country unless the Government buys it back from them at an utterly exorbitant price. The less country dealers, in whose hands the internal trade is, are, on the other hand, more limited and cautious; they none of them know what is going to happen. As long as the price of grain in Bengal enables them to make a profit by carrying it to Behar, they carry it; but if the Government causes a sudden rise of price, their agent's limit will be passed, and all their operations will be stopped. For these reasons the Lieutenant-Governor feels that he cannot in the present state of the Bengal grain market attempt to buy very largely in it.

5. But in the North-West Provinces the Lieutenant-Governor would buy largely at once. Ordinarily there is little grain trade from the North-West Provinces to Bengal except in wheat. Trade in joworee, bajree, and the other commoner food-grains of the North-West Provinces would be comparatively new, and that the Lieutenant-Governor thinks should be taken up largely and at once. So also in Burmah, where the principal trade is an export trade, we need not dread deranging that trade. If we go into the native markets and buy at once it will be clear gain. To delay I am to submit is not only unfortunate, from the point of view of transport, but will let the rice get into the hands of the export firms, who will only sell it back to us at exorbitant prices.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor is aware that very large quantities of grain may not be obtainable at once in the Burma markets, but he has understood that the Chief Commissioner of British Burma could get very considerable quantities *before* the next harvest. At any rate I am to say the Lieutenant-Governor is quite clear that all the grain that comes in now is worth far more than it would be if it came later, and further, that if all our supplies come together there will be, as he has said before, a ruinous block. He would much like to have rice from beyond sea for immediate despatch to Government relief works.

7. There is one point on which the Lieutenant-Governor would ask leave to submit his opinion. If rice in any large quantity should be ordered from Burma, then the question of freight from Burma to Calcutta will arise. Up to a certain limit freight could no doubt be engaged by the Chief Commissioner. But the Lieutenant-Governor has been informed that very much of the Burma rice goes away to Europe in Italian and other vessels, which could not readily be diverted to Calcutta. Again, sailing vessels will probably occupy more than 30 days in going and coming between Calcutta and Rangoon, whereas steamers could do two trips each way per month. It is understood that there are rarely many steamers open to engagement at the Burma ports, whereas at the present moment freights in Calcutta are very low, and the Lieutenant-Governor has been advised that it might be possible for Government to engage steamers at very reasonable rates to make trips between Burma and Calcutta during the next three or four months, and that later this would be much more difficult.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

APPENDIX D. to foregoing Narrative.

No. 3249, dated Fort William, the 24th November 1873.

From R. B. CHAPMAN, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the Honourable C. BERNARD, Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

REFERRING to my letter No. 3012, dated 13th November, I am directed by the Governor-General in Council to request that, with the permission of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor, you will, as soon as possible, report, for the information of the Government of India, the plan which the Government of Bengal has devised for the distribution of the rice imported from beyond seas, and the places where it is proposed to store it in readiness for actual consumption.

No. 3626.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, in the Statistical Department, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, in the Financial Department.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, dated 25th November 1873.

WITH reference to your letter No. 3249, dated 24th November, I am directed to submit that, under present arrangements, the rice imported* from beyond the sea is sent up-country for storage at imperial works only. It was understood that foreign rice should not be sent to the Soane Canal for storage, as the Government of India hoped to be able to fill the stores there from the North-Western Provinces. Accordingly, foreign rice is being sent for storage at the Gunduk embankment, and on the Northern Bengal Railway works only.

* 14,402 bags of 225 lbs. to 230 lbs. each have arrived in Calcutta up to date, per steamers *Dacca*, *Chaldea*, *Moulmein*, and *Mahratta*. Regarding the unlading, &c.

2. Rice intended for storage on the Gunduk embankment is sent by railway to the Patna Ghat Station, and thence by country boat up the Gunduk to places of storage. As yet only a few thousand bags have gone, and they can hardly have got far on their way towards storing places in Sarun and Chumparun. Reports have not yet been received of the sites selected for store-houses on the Gunduk works, or of the erection of store-houses; but the Lieutenant-Governor has every confidence that the storage will be done properly and in good time, and he sent off the rice at once, so that the means of transport might be utilised at once, and rice be stored on the works as soon as possible. Mr. Bayley has secured storage room at the Patna Ghat Station in case rice has to wait there for boats.

3. Rice intended for storage on the Northern Bengal Railway works is at present being sent by three different routes, namely,—

(1.) To Goalundo by the Eastern Bengal Railway, and thence in boats up the Oorasaugor to store-houses which are being made at Sultanpore and Nowgong on the Jamoona and Atrai rivers. The small steamer *Flame* with her two barges started from Goalundo some days ago up this river with a cargo of rice.

(2.) To Kooshtea by the Eastern Bengal Railway, and thence by native boats to the Oorasaugor as before; at Kooshtea the Lieutenant-Governor has placed the *Teesta* steamer with two flats to carry rice between Kooshtea and the mouth of the Oorasaugor, or else between Kooshtea and Godagiree, at the mouth of the Mahanuddee. As yet we have not ascertained for certain how the *Teesta* can best be employed; but Mr. Molony, the Commissioner of Rajshahye, anticipates that as small boats (of 200 to 400 maunds only) can go up the Mahanuddee and Oorasaugor, the *Teesta* and her flats will have to ply between Kooshtea and the mouths of these rivers.

(3.) By railway to Rajmehal, and thence by cart from the opposite side of the river to the Northern Bengal Railway near Dinagepore. Major Lindsay, who recently went to Dinagepore, wrote that there was carriage on that road, and wished to have it tried; so 5,000 maunds of rice are being sent to Rajmehal to Major Lindsay's forwarding agent there. We do not yet know how these three routes will answer, nor can the Lieutenant-Governor say for certain that store-houses have yet been prepared. But Mr. Molony, who is in Dinagepore, is arranging all these matters, and in a few weeks time we shall know how the several routes answer. Meanwhile each route is receiving a practical trial as soon as possible.

4. As yet no foreign rice has been sent to the Soane Canal for storage, but a certain amount of Indian rice (5,000 maunds a week) was being sent until the receipt of your instructions mentioned above. Mr. Levinge, the Superintending Engineer, was preparing store-houses at Buxar and at other places on the works.

5. In case the Government of India may desire to know what arrangements are making for storing grain on local relief works, I am to explain that as yet Government grain has been sent—

(1.) To Caragola, opposite Sahebgunge, on the railway, whence it will be transported by carts to Dengraghat, where a store-house has been made on the Mahanuddee. Six hundred carts were collected at Caragola for this grain some days ago, and some of them must have started on their first trip by now.

(2.) To Bhaugulpore Railway Station, whence it will be carried across the river, and then taken on carts to Soopole and Mudheypoorah, the two northern subdivisions of Bhaugulpore. The Commissioner reports that on the route he can carry 10,000 maunds a week. Some 5,000 maunds have already been sent to him, and the carriage in this direction has still to be tried. The Superintendent of Works was at Soopole a few days ago, and will have arranged for store-houses.

(3.) To Luckeserai Station, whence it will be transported in carts to storing places in the south of the Monghyr district to store-houses on the works there. As yet we have not heard the result of the consignment of rice sent to Luckeserai.

(4.) To Monghyr Station, whence it will be carried across the Ganges to works in Northern Monghyr. Some 2,000 maunds went to this station a few days ago; the results are not yet known.

(5.) To Raigunge on the Mahanuddee, as the northern corner of Maldah, and on the border between Dinagepore and Purneah. The grain for the store-house here, which is to be a large one, goes to Kooshtea by railway, and thence by steamer and boat up the Mahanuddee.

6. It will be seen that this Government and its officers are trying as many available routes as they can. As yet the local officers write very confidently from Behar that they will be able to provide locally as much carriage as is required. From Dinagepore, too, it is said that there will be plenty of carts available. But it is at present too early to say how far the transport arrangements succeed or fail.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 534 of 1873.

Government of India.—Financial Department.

Expenditure.—Miscellaneous.

To His Grace the Duke of Argyll, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Duke, Fort William, the 5th December 1873.

We have the honor to transmit special narrative of the drought in Bengal for the week ending 5th December.

2. From all the information we have received up to date, our general impression is that the prospect in the districts affected by drought is not at all worse than that indicated in previous despatches.

3. The operations of the general grain trade are active in many parts of the country, though they have not apparently attained anything like their maximum degree of activity, and are in some directions less advanced than might have been expected. Meanwhile a stream of food-supply is setting in towards the districts likely to be distressed, and signs are manifest that the trade is preparing for operations on a scale commensurate with a period of considerable distress.

4. The exportation of food grains from the ports of Bengal has greatly diminished as compared with the average of former years, and has now become comparatively small.

5. The prices of food grains have not perceptibly increased; they are generally steady; in some cases they have even manifested a downward tendency. So far as as they may be taken as an index of commercial opinion, it would not seem that apprehensions have as yet become urgent or serious.

6. We continue to receive good accounts of the harvests and crops from other parts of India beyond the provinces under the Government of Bengal, with the exception of the eastern and south-eastern portions of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. In some parts of the North-Western Provinces especially, which are in in immediate communication with Behar by rail, the autumn harvest and the spring crops promise extremely well.

7. No rain has fallen in Bengal or Behar since the last advices. The weather has, however, been constantly cloudy during the past week. From such appearances there is hope that the winter rains will not be withheld.

8. We incline to the view that the extent and character of the distress in Behar and parts of Bengal will much depend on the winter rains. If they shall be propitious, the spring crops in Behar and Bengal will not be so deficient as we now fear that they may be. There will be good supplies of food obtainable from the North-Western Provinces. If these rains shall fail, then the spring harvest in Behar must be extremely deficient, and the surplus food obtainable from the North-Western Provinces would be much less than what we now hope for.

9. A month must yet elapse before the result of the winter rains can be known. By the beginning of January we shall see whether the benefit of those rains is to be vouchsafed to the country or not. If it be not, there will be urgent need of measures for averting or mitigating the severe and protracted distress which would otherwise be certain to occur; and the Government of India is preparing for the due and timely adoption of such measures. Provision has been already made for the distress which is to be apprehended, even though the winter rains should not fail.

10. We believe that the foresight and energy of the Government of Bengal will be found worthy of your Grace's approval, and that the local officers in the tracts affected are fully alive to the requirements of their position. The Government of India will, in consultation with the local Government, anxiously anticipate the eventualities of the scarcity and distress, and will be prepared to give immediate authorization to whatever measure may be found necessary. Meanwhile the provincial authorities have been directed to act on their own authority whenever and wherever the need of such action may be manifest.

11. An estimate has been received from the Lieutenant-Governor to the effect that grain should be placed by Government within the reach of the distressed districts by the end of January enough to provide food for 5 per cent. of a population of 25 millions for three months commencing from 1st February; it being assumed from experience of past occasions and from general considerations that this proportion may, despite the operation of trade, come on the hands of Government for employment on public works or for relief. We are in communication with the Lieutenant-Governor as to the best means of securing the due amount of such provision, and we have assured His Honor of our cordial support. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, adds that the data for such an estimate are necessarily defective. And we bear in mind that possibly the proportion of the population may prove greater than that taken in the above estimate.

12. The provision first made under orders of the Governor General amounts to 80,000 tons of grain from beyond sea to Bengal, of which we know already that 69,000 tons are in due train for arrival. The quantity already ordered or intended to be ordered in India by the local Government amounts to 38,000 tons, or 1,034,444 maunds. These quantities amount to 80,000 plus 38,000, or 118,000 tons in the aggregate, which might sustain 5 per cent. of the population of the districts affected for a longer period than three months; or might sustain more than 5 per cent. for three months.

13. Whatever additional provision may be deemed necessary will receive our immediate attention; and our constant thought is given to the calculation of the full extent of the liability which may devolve on the Government in event of the worst anticipations of the scarcity being unhappily realized.

14. The immediate question, however, respecting the provision required by the Lieutenant-Governor during January next, as just described, relates to the timely arrival of a sufficient portion of the total supplies ordered. In this respect we are concerting plans with the Lieutenant-Governor. The ten thousand tons as first ordered by the Governor General from Burma and Madras are arriving in due course, and will certainly be in time. We are arranging with the Chief Commissioner of Burma for the despatch to Bengal of as much more grain as he can obtain at a reasonable cost before the end of December in the Burma markets. Out of the 600,000 maunds or 22,000 tons already purchased by the Government of Bengal, five-sixths will arrive during January. And such quantities as may be purchased in the North-Western Provinces can also arrive during that month.

15. The Government of the North-Western Provinces has, at the request of the Governor General, nominated an officer of standing and experience to assist the Bengal authorities in negociating purchases of grain in those (the North-Western) Provinces. Some doubt having arisen (as noted in the special narrative) as to the functions of that officer, we are giving such instructions as will obviate any difficulty, as we are anxious that the purchases should be made within the time desired by the Government of Bengal.

16. A complete and effective staff of executive officers is being collected from other parts of India for the prosecution of the works on the Northern Bengal State Railway, which operations are now being actively commenced. Similarly, the staff on the Soane Canal works has been augmented and strengthened. The officers for executing the Gandak embankment scheme are arriving at their stations. We hope soon to learn that very large numbers of labourers are being usefully and profitably employed on these several imperial public works.

17. The early commencement of local relief works in the several districts has been ordered. Some labourers have already offered themselves, but we have not yet heard of large numbers having come forward.

18. We have made it clear to the Bengal authorities that the supplies of grain purchased by the State are to be for the payment of labour employed on public works, imperial or local. If hereafter any portion of those supplies shall be handed over to Committees for Relief, the Public Works Department will receive credit for the value.

19. We are taking steps in our account department to ensure that the cost of these supplies shall be properly distributed between the imperial and local heads of expenditure.

20. We have communicated with the authorities of the Guaranteed Railway Companies in the Bengal Presidency, in order to satisfy ourselves that they will be able to convey the requisite quantities of grain both for the trade and for Government, and their resources in respect to rolling stock are found to be very considerable.

21. The effects of the orders issued by the Governor General for reducing the rates for carriage of edible grains to the affected districts, on the East Indian, the Eastern Bengal, the Punjab and Delhi, the Oudh and Rohilcund lines and a portion of the Great Indian Peninsula line in the Central Provinces—are, we are assured, producing, and are likely still further to produce, excellent effect.

22. There is reason to fear that while the transport of grain by rail, and by river, may prove comparatively easy, the transport inland by country carriage may prove difficult. The local officers appear to consider the country carriage to be sufficient for the present. The attention of the Government of Bengal has been directed to this important subject; and special arrangements have been made for the conveyance of grain for the public works. The Governor General has had under his consideration the possibility of utilizing the agency of the Commissariat Department for organizing either camel or bullock trains for the carriage of grain for the public works during those months when pressure is most likely to be felt. We are prosecuting inquiries with this object.

23. The orders given by the Governor General for advances being allowed to landlords and others for purchase of grain for distribution at fair prices, under certain conditions, are already beginning to produce good results.

24. We regret to find that the terms offered by the Chief Commissioner of Burma for the transport of emigrants from Bengal to Burma are deemed so insufficient. We have just received a reference on the subject from the Lieutenant-Governor to which our immediate consideration will be given.

25. We understand that the Local Legislature of Bengal is considering the possibility of further facilitating emigration from Bengal to Assam. We are not at present able to say more upon this point.

26. After consulting the Lieutenant-Governor we consider that the time has not quite arrived for forming a Central Relief Committee in Calcutta. We shall be ready to form such a committee immediately on occasion arising.

27. Our notice having been attracted to a letter addressed by the British Indian Association to the Government of Bengal, comprising an estimate of the consequences of the scarcity more unfavourable than that as yet formed by us, we have asked the Association for such facts and data as they may be able to adduce in support of their view, as we desire that no effort should be spared in order to form the best anticipation possible regarding the difficulties which may lie before us.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servants,
(Signed) R. TEMPLE.
" B. H. ELLIS.
" A. HOBHOUSE.

FOURTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE of the DROUGHT of 1873, from 29th November to 5th December 1873.

(1.) The prospects of the late rice crop have not perceptibly changed since the date of last Narrative. In the districts previously described as distressed districts there is no improvement; in other districts where the harvest has commenced the actual outturn has been found to be rather better than was anticipated. This is the case in the Burdwan Division. So in Dacca, Furreedpore, Pubna, and Tipperah the outturn is somewhat better than the local officers estimated, though not perhaps better than the forecast given in the Narrative for the week ending November 21st, Appendix B. The prospect of the spring crop is perhaps, on the whole, rather better this week. In the Behar divisions the area sown down is not so much less than usual as was at one time stated; sowing is said to be still going on in places; the crop has, contrary to expectation, germinated fairly well for the most part; what is above ground is looking healthy; and though the cloudy weather has brought insects, which are reported to be doing damage, with rain a fair outturn may be looked for. In Bengal no great improvement in cold weather crops can be reported. It is perhaps satisfactory that the prospect is not worse than it was a week ago. But in Bengal, as has been before remarked, the spring crop is not a very important item in the food-supply of the people. The weekly returns of rainfall, weather, state and prospects of the crops up to November 29th are herewith enclosed (Enclosure 1).

(2.) Cloud has been the chief characteristic of the weather since last Narrative. On one or two days very slight showers fell, but so slight as to be inappreciable. The Meteorological Reporter says: "The weather remains cloudy and promises "rain, but as yet none has fallen in Calcutta beyond 0·13 inch on the 28th and "29th November. The barometer fluctuates but little, and the mean pressure is "about the average of this time of year. The winds remain light and easterly "below, while sheets of cloud drift up from the south-west. There is still no "sign of the land wind from the north-west, the regular wind of the season." Since this was written there has, however, come on a strong and cold north wind. Cloud without rain is by no means conducive to the advantage of the agriculturist at this season. It breeds insects and blight in both the late rice and spring crops. It will be observed from the weather and rainfall returns enclosed herewith that the very slight rain referred to by the Meteorological Reporter was confined to a few places, and was always so small as to have no appreciable effect.

(3.) Although the new rice is now beginning to come into market, prices have not fallen, either greatly or generally, since last week. They cannot now be said to be lower than they were at the same time in 1865. In the distressed districts they are, if anything, rather higher; in other districts they are, on the whole, neither higher nor lower. The Calcutta market is undoubtedly easier than it was last week; the commonest sort of rice which was quoted last week at Rs. 3-6 to Rs. 3-9 being now obtainable at Rs. 3 to Rs. 3-8; but this may perhaps be due in some degree to the withdrawal of Government from the market. The weekly return of prices-current of food-grains is enclosed herewith (Enclosure 2). A note on the movement of food-grains during the week is submitted in Appendix A.

(4.) In paragraph 4 of the last Narrative reference was made to a correspondence with the Government of India, in which the Lieutenant-Governor had urged the necessity of pressing forward at once the importation of food. In reply the Government of India, while considering the supply of food provided to be sufficient for the moment, requested that an estimate of the probable quantity of grain required for local purposes, as duly authorised, might be submitted, and accordingly, in letter No. 46 PS, dated December 2nd, the Lieutenant-Governor has laid before the Government of India a statement of the grain that has been bought or ordered; of the amount he still hopes to secure before the end of January; and of the amount he would ask the Government of India to procure from beyond the sea so as to be delivered before the same date. This preliminary statement of our immediate requirements shows that in Sir George Campbell's opinion we ought to have 18,75,000 maunds* of Government grain in Bengal before the end of January next; that with that amount me may hope to feed for the first three months the people likely to come on our relief works or into our relief houses; that before the end of January, and before the proposed supply shall have been exhausted, we shall be able to tell what is the promise of the spring crops, and how far the chances are increased or diminished that we shall have to combat a severe famine over a large area. Copies of this correspondence are annexed in Appendix B. * Page 76.

Meanwhile, since the despatch of last Narrative, Sir George Campbell has bought no more grain in Calcutta in addition to the 6,00,000 maunds therein stated to have been bought or ordered. As then explained, the state of the Calcutta market is so delicate, that any Government operations thereon paralyse private trade. Barely 40,000† maunds more have been ordered by local officers. The Lieutenant-Governor is hoping to arrange for the purchase of some 4,00,000 maunds additional. He would especially like to obtain some of the cheaper grains (especially jowaree) which have just come into the market from the North-Western Provinces. But the arrangement is not yet concluded; there is some doubt about the procedure through which this Government is, according to the orders of His Excellency the Viceroy, bound to operate in making purchases in the North-Western Provinces, and the officer nominated by that Government has not felt able to execute the orders of the officers of this Government in the form in which they were put.

The Government grain which has reached Calcutta up to date has been pushed forward to railway and river-side stations in the distressed districts. Up to the evening of Thursday (the 4th December) 38,186 maunds of Burmah rice, and 84,134 maunds of Indian rice have been despatched to the interior, as shown in Appendix C. The S.S. *Dacca*, with 9,000 bags of rice from Burmah, is now in the river. About 84,000 maunds of the Indian rice bought in Calcutta is either under delivery or else is stored in Calcutta warehouses as a reserve for despatch to districts whence emergent indents may be forthcoming. The first instalments of the Orissa rice bought by the Government of Bengal have arrived: three native sloops, carrying about 5,000 maunds of Balasore grain, have come into the Hooghly, and four more sloops have left Orissa. The Chittagong rice bought by the Commissioner of Patna has come into Calcutta, and is being despatched up the East Indian Railway. The first despatch of barley and other grains bought by the Commissioner of Patna from the North-Western Provinces has arrived at railway stations in Behar. Some of the grain ordered by the Court of Wards for its works has already reached Durbangah, while much more is on its way to Durbangah and Hutwa, large estates in the districts of Tirhoot and Sarun.

(5.) The work of transporting the grain into the interior from the railway and river-side stations has already begun, and the Lieutenant-Governor has much pressed on his officers that this should be carried out without delay. Places for storage have been selected, and warehouses are being built on the Soane Canal works, at two places on the Gunduck Embankment, and in most of the distressed districts of the Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye divisions. Though the sites for storehouses (golahs) have for the most part been selected, still no new storehouses are actuallly yet finished,* but several have been rented. Some stores will be filled before others, and so there would be no object in submitting to the Government of India a bare list of places which have been selected for storehouses until proceedings have got a little further.

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* About 70,000 tons.

† 20,000 maunds are under despatch from Delhi to the Bhaugulpore Division, and the rest is being brought from Eastern Bengal by the Commissioner of Rajshahye.

For the Patna Division the Commissioner has as yet only indicated the works on which he would establish store-houses. He has indicated also the routes by which grain is to be taken to each tract, and he has actually despatched grain by boats and by carts to three different tracts where he expects distress to occur soonest. The Commissioner of Patna (Mr. Bayley) is at the time of writing travelling from district to district of North Behar, and is arranging the storage places and means of transport with the district officers. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has gone further, and has submitted maps showing for each district the relief works to be undertaken in the first instance, those to be held in reserve, the sites for storehouses and probable relief centres in each district; and a subsequent report has explained that to begin with grain will be despatched to and stored in the more important store-houses near which relief works are likely to be soonest wanted. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has already sent several thousand maunds of grain across the Ganges from the railway, and has despatched the whole on carts to places in the north of Bhaugulpore and Purneah. He has also despatched smaller quantities on carts from the Luckiserai station to places in the poorer tracts to the south-west of Monghyr.

From the Rajshahye Division we have very complete reports regarding the sites chosen for storage of grain on the Northern Bengal Railway works, on feeder roads, and on the North Ganges emigration roads. In Appendix D. is given a list of these storage places, with the amounts to be stored at each, and the routes selected for reaching the stores. The Commissioner (Mr. Molony) reports that if distress deepens, the number of store-houses may have to be increased, and the number of maunds to be stored must be larger; he notes also that he will have to select some storage places in Rungpore; but for the present the Relief Commissioner and the district officers have in the Rajshahye Division to work up to the lines laid down by Mr. Molony and approved by the Lieutenant-Governor.

(6.) In connection with the Burmah rice a serious practical difficulty has arisen from the fact that all Burmah rice is packed in bags containing over two hundred weight. The coolies who unload the steamers and load the railway trucks, as well the coolies at Goalundo and Kooshtea, have found great difficulty in loading and unloading these bags. The local officers have represented that transhipment and transport of these heavy bags into small carts and small boats in the interior will be very difficult. When the first consignment of large bags came, the Lieutenant-Governor represented that they could not be carried on pack bullocks. As it appears that smaller bags cannot be had in Burmah, the Rangoon authorities have been asked, through the Government of India, to pack only two maunds in each bag, however big. Meanwhile the Lieutenant-Governor is having one maund bags made at all the jail factories for the purpose of packing any rice that may have to be re-bagged.

Over 5,000 bags (about 14,000 maunds) of Burmah rice, which came by the S.S. *Arabia*, held what is called "cargo rice," that is, about one grain out of every five has the husk on it, while the remaining four are almost fully husked. As the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to send rice into the interior as quickly as possible, the consignment has been despatched to the works in Behar. Meanwhile a few bags have been kept, and experiment is being made as to the best way of preparing the rice for consumption. It will probably be found that coolies and their families will be able to prepare the cargo rice for food easily enough.

(7.) At paragraph 6 of the second Narrative and at paragraph 6 of the third Narrative mention was made of the fortnightly reports which officers of distressed districts are to submit to Government; and in Appendix D. to the second Narrative were given the heads on which such reports were to touch. The reports from six districts (bringing the history of affairs down to the 1st December) have been received; one of the reports (an excellent one from Bhaugulpore) has been printed* in time to go with the present Narrative, and is sent as a specimen. This report shows very fully what is being done in this and other districts; copies of other similar reports will be submitted with next week's Narrative. Meanwhile the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to acknowledge that the local officers are actively and intelligently giving effect to the orders of Government. The district reports just received show that the Civil Officers are most carefully watching the condition of the people; that they are preparing, or have prepared relief works in the worst tracts; that they have prepared some store-houses for Government grain, and are preparing work; and that they are forwarding to the interior all the Government grain which has yet reached them without any hitch or hindrance so far.

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* The great domed granary built at Patna after the famine of the last century, occasional storehouses at P.W. stations, at excise distilleries, at studs, at the *ganja* storehouses in Rajshahye, and other Government establishments are being used wherever they exist; and at places like the Patna river-side station storage room has been rented, but for the most part temporary storage houses have to be built, and are being built.

* Enclosure 3.

(8.) The letter from the British Indian Association, to which reference was made in paragraph 10 of the last Narrative, contained a statement that the Government would have upon its hands the task of feeding 60 millions of people. At the request of the Government of India the Association has been asked to give the materials on which its statement is based.

The offer of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah to contribute Rs. 5 a head towards the expenses of conveying emigrants to that province has been considered by the Lieutenant-Governor. It is found that it would cost much more than Rs. 5 to convey each emigrant from the distressed districts only as far as Calcutta, and the Government of India have been informed that in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor the proposal made by the Chief Commissioner is wholly inadequate. It has been proposed to put on a Government vessel to ply between Calcutta and Rangoon, taking down emigrants, if they should offer, and returning with rice: Letter No. 3649, dated 26th November, to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Financial Department, herewith enclosed,* refers to this subject.

* Page 77.

(9.) Of the Soane Canal Works, we learn that the establishment for the new branches have now nearly all joined, the land is being taken up, and the storehouses for grain have been commenced. Upwards of 8,300 men are at work on the head-works at Dehree, and 5,400 on the Arrah Canal. From the western main canal 463 villages, aggregating 261 square miles, have received water; it is estimated that the area actually irrigated is 104,000 acres. It was before reported that water was let into the eastern main canal on the 15th November. Entering in a volume of 300 cubic feet a second, it speedily filled the eight miles of canal already excavated, and passing from the canal into an old watercourse, twelve miles in length, which has served as an excellent distributary, it eventfully flows off into the Poonpoon river. It was admitted into the canal too late to be of much use for irrigation purposes at the upper end, but there is some prospect of the water thrown into the Poonpoon coming in useful for the cold weather crops.

Of the Gunduck Embankment scheme, it is reported that most of the officers detailed for the work have been sent up to commence operations.

Of the Kana Nuddee in the Hooghly district, we learn that three-fourths of the work has already been completed. Some 1,395 men have been daily employed on this work during the last fortnight, and it is expected that water will pass through the cutting on the 10th instant. The opening of this channel will, the Collector anticipates, save about 100,000 acres of root and spring crops.

Of the Northern Bengal Railway, Major Lindsay reports that his stores are on the way up by rail to Rajmehal, and that he is organising a bullock train for their conveyance into the interior. He says that the earthwork on this line will probably give employment to 100,000 people, if that number were to come on the works.

(10.) The reports which have reached Government regarding the actual commencement of relief works, and regarding the number of laborers on these works, are not complete; but neither on the canal works, nor on the local works in the south of the Patna Division, has there been as yet any large influx of laborers belonging to agricultural classes. The Commissioner, who was on tour in North Behar, wrote, under date the 1st December, that the works in Tirhoot were attracting none but the usual laboring classes. It has been stated in demi-official letters that distress is already apparent in Chumparun and Sarun; but until particulars are received, the Lieutenant-Governor is unable to say what form the distress has taken. The Manager of the Hutwa estate has to-day brought word that 15,000 people (men, women, and children) are employed on the district and local works in Sarun. About one-third of these are employed on the Hutwa estate at rates of wages averaging 1¼ anna per diem per head; but a considerable proportion are people who would be employed on district works at this season in ordinary years. From all sides it is reported that harvesting of what rice there may be, as well as rubbee sowings, is going on, and that in consequence labor does not largely come to the works. From the Bhaugulpore Division official accounts have not yet been received of the number of persons on works in the several districts; but the Bhaugulpore fortnightly report speaks of 1,000 work people being employed on one set of roads in the north of the district; and a demi-official letter speaks of about 7,000 people being on the road works in Monghyr, south of the Ganges alone. In the Rajshahye Division work-people are said to be coming to roads in the Dinagepore district, in the north of Rajshahye and in Maldah, and it is stated that the ryots of the highland known as the Burrind in Rajshahye are coming on the works; but as yet the information on this point is imperfect.

(11.) During the week under report the Lieutenant-Governor has issued, in the Public Works Department, full instructions for the guidance of officers engaged in relief works. Copy of that circular is appended. (See Appendix E.)

(12.) It has been recorded in a former Narrative that the Government had entered into contracts for the supply of rice from Orissa, the price agreed upon being for delivery in Calcutta. The British India Steam Navigation Company having largely raised their rates of freight, the contractors have represented that they will have difficulty in fulfilling their engagements, and have suggested that Government should put a steamer on the line to take freight at the old rates. The Lieutenant-Governor has represented the matter to the Company's Agents in Calcutta, and, if necessary, he will address the Government of India more specifically upon the subject.

(13.) The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore asked for a further immediate provision of 1,50,000 maunds of grain in addition to the 1,50,000 maunds already allowed to him; the Lieutenant-Governor declined for the present to grant a further credit until he has received more precise information regarding the distribution of the rice already arranged for. The same Commissioner has been recommended to lay out some portion of the money allotted to him in the purchase of grain in the Sonthal Pergunnahs or other places whence export of that grain is said to be now going on.

The division of Burdwan has not been fully classed as a distressed tract. At the request of the Commissioner sanction has now been given to the commencement of relief works in the districts of Burdwan, Beerbhoom, and Bancoorah. In Midnapore, however, the Lieutenant-Governor has thought it unnecessary to sanction at present the grants applied for, there being a good crop in the greater part of that district. The Kana Nuddee excavation in Hooghly was sanctioned more for the sake of its immediate use for irrigation purposes than as a relief work.

(14.) The planters of Northern Behar are coming forward in numbers for advances for purchase of grain under paragraph 4, clause (a) of Circular No. 80. In the Chumparun district it is understood that a committee has been formed by the planters and the Superintendent of the Rajah of Bettiah's estate; and subject to the sanction of principals, a large sum has been subscribed for the purpose of importing grain and selling it at cost price.

(15.) From the Rajshahye Division it is reported that Baboo Luchmiput Sing, Bahadoor, a wealthy Marwari banker and landholder, has suspended his rents, made arrangements for storing grain, and otherwise provided against the approaching scarcity. The Lieutenant-Governor has published the account of this gentleman's liberal proceedings in the *Gazette*, with the expression of his strong approval.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,
Additional Under-Secretary.

Calcutta,
The 5th December 1873.

APPENDIX B. to foregoing Narrative.

No. 3402, dated Fort William, the 29th November 1873.

From R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

I AM directed by the Honorable the President in Council to acknowledge receipt of your No. 28PS of the 22nd instant,* regarding the reasons for anticipating a block or accumulation of grain for the distressed districts awaiting transport.

2. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor may rest assured that the importance of avoiding such block or accumulation is fully recognised by the Government of India.

3. Information has been received to the effect that the grain purchased by the Government of India in ports beyond the limits of Bengal is being shipped with all practicable expedition. The Government of Bengal has been authorized to expedite, in such manner as it may deem best, the despatch of such surplies up-country as soon as they shall arrive in Calcutta; reporting thereafter as soon as possible the plan of local distribution for the information of the Government of India. A preliminary report from the local Government on this subject has been already received and will be separately acknowledged.

4. The supply thus provided is as much as the Government of India deems necessary to be provided at this moment for the principal Public Works in the distressed districts, according to present estimates, and subject to such modification of estimates as the course of events may induce us to make.

5. If the Government of Bengal should find difficulty in obtaining within its own provinces supplies sufficient for the local works, the Government of India would be prepared to assist in obtaining additional supplies from other places. But from the Special Narrative for the week ending on the 28th November, it would appear that the Lieutenant-Governor has arranged for the purchase of 600,000 maunds in all, equal to 22,040 tons; of which about 120,000 maunds are to come from the North-Western Provinces, and the rest from Bengal and Orissa. It would appear that His Honor does not contemplate further purchases at present. And it may apparently be hoped that out of the above total of 600,000 maunds, about two-thirds will reach the central station of the distressed districts before the beginning of January.

6. The Government of India would however desire to receive an estimate of the probable quantity of grain required for the local purposes as duly authorized, and of the amounts to be obtained from Bengal and from other provinces respectively. Such estimate would, in the first instance, be framed upon the best data now available, and would be subject to modification hereafter, as events may develop themselves.

7. It is satisfactory to observe that the Lieutenant-Governor has been able to effect the purchases through firms of good standing, which procedure is, in the opinion of the Government of India, preferable to the employment of an individual agent, which latter course would be open to objection.

8. I am to acknowledge with thanks the useful suggestions conveyed in the 6th paragraph of the letter under acknowledgment regarding freight between the Burmese ports and Calcutta. The matter has received and is receiving the attention of the Government of India, in communication with the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

9. So far as concerns the transport by rail to the stations in the distressed districts, the Government of India trusts that there will be no difficulty. The apprehensions of the Government of India are directed towards the prospect of despatching the grain from the railway stations into the interior of the country. This important subject will doubtless engage the constant attention of the local Government.

* See page 66.

No. 46PS, dated Calcutta, the 2nd December 1873.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

WITH reference to paragraphs 5 and 6 of your letter, No. 3402, dated 29th November 1873, I am directed to submit a preliminary estimate of the Government grain which the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have available for the distressed districts before the end of January next. Sir George Campbell considers the materials for forming such an estimate of our probable requirements are very uncertain and insufficient. Still, as he understands that the Government of India desires the local Government to submit such an estimate, he directs me to report as follows.

2. As a preliminary arrangement the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have in the distressed districts or in depôt ready for them before the end of January 1874, sufficient Government grain to supply five per cent. of the inhabitants of those districts for a period of three months. These districts contain about 25 millions of people; one-twentieth of this

population (at the rate of two-thirds of a seer per head per day) would consume 1,875,000 maunds of grain in the three months:—

	Maunds.	Maunds.
The Government of India have already ordered from beyond sea, deliverable in January, 10,000 tons, or say		270,000
The Government of Bengal hopes to have by the end of January:—		
From Calcutta and the Eastern Districts	400,000	
„ Orissa	200,000	
„ the North-West Provinces	350,000	
		950,000
Balance to be provided		655,000
Total		1875,000

The Lieutenant-Governor would recommend that this requirement be met by the Government of India's providing this balance by ordering a further immediate despatch of 25,000 tons of grain from beyond the sea. All this further consignment should be delivered in Calcutta, as early as possible, and no part of it later than the end of January, and the Lieutenant-Governor would arrange for its despatch to the interior as promptly as possible.

3. If all this quantity of grain could be provided, then we should probably be in a condition to prevent starvation, and to alleviate keen distress wherever it might occur up to the end of April 1874, on the supposition that there will be only very severe scarcity and very high prices. By the end of January, and at any rate long before the 1,875,000 maunds were consumed, we should know how the spring crops were turning out, and should have better means of judging how far the scarcity was likely to deepen into a severe famine; and the Government of India should be able to order up from Burmah as much as might be thought necessary of the abundant new crop which the Burmese are said to be expecting.

4. It is hardly too much to say that, if we have a bad famine approaching to the Orissa famine in severity, over very large tracts, we shall after January want more grain that the Government of India could give, or than it would be possible for the local officers to distribute properly throughout the distressed districts. For the present, therefore, the Lieutenant-Governor would not offer any estimate of the Government grain required in Bengal before the 31st January 1874.

5. With reference to paragraph 4 of your letter, No. 3402, dated 29th November, I am to explain that the preliminary estimate now submitted, includes all requirements for imperial and local relief works as well as for relief-houses.

No. 3649.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA in the FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, dated 26th November 1873.

WITH reference to your endorsement No. 3264, dated 25th November, on the telegram from the Chief Commissioner of Burmah regarding the number of emigrants he would take, I am to submit copies of the papers marginally noted.

Letter to Landholders Association, Calcutta and Debrooghur, No. 3517, dated the 19th November 1873.

Letter to Chief Commissioner of Burmah, No. 3504, dated the 19th November 1873.

Letter from Commissioner of Patna, with enclosure, No. 7F, dated 21st November.

Letter to Commissioner of Patna, No. 3647, of to-day's date.

2. It will be seen that the Chief Commissioner is ready to contribute only five rupees towards the cost of transporting each able-bodied working man to Burmah. This proposal is, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks, wholly inadequate; the expense would be very much larger, and if British Burmah is to be populated, at least a fair share of the expense should be debited to that province. It seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that if the people who now go to Burmah are to be permanent immigrants, some of them at any rate must take their families. He fears that the cost of each emigrant from the distressed districts down to Calcutta will be at least five rupees a head; and he is inquiring as to the cost of sending emigrants by mail steamer, or on board the Government vessel, the *Cæzarowitch*, which could bring back a return cargo of rice from Rangoon. A further report shall be made as soon as the probable cost of each emigrant to Rangoon is more exactly ascertained. Meanwhile, the Lieutenant-Governor would be glad to know the views of the Government of India upon the subject and whether His Excellency the Viceroy in Council would be willing to incur, in behalf of each emigrant, a charge which may amount to, say, Rs. 20 or 25.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 3517.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department to the Landholders Associations of Calcutta and Debroogurh.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,

Calcutta, the 19th November, 1873.

I am directed to invite your attention to the marginal extract from the orders issued by the Government of India regarding the impending scarcity of food in Bengal.

Para. 30. It is to be hoped that, in the populous tracts visited or threatened by distress, unemployed laborers may emigrate to places where food is in comparative plenty, where a special demand exists for their labour, where culturable waste abounds, such as the tea districts, the Doars, the provinces of Assam and of British Burmah. If it be found possible for the Government to facilitate such emigration, directly or indirectly, the Governor-General will be glad to receive any suggestions which the Lieutenant-Governor may be able to make.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor would ask your Association to favour the Government with any suggestions as to the best mode of promoting immigration to the districts during this exceptional season, and as to the terms on which tea planters may be willing to bear part of the cost of importing immigrants and agree to receive laborers. The Lieutenant-Governor's present view is that immigrants, who may be assisted by Government during the present year, should not be expected to enter into an agreement for more than 12 months from the date of their arrival in the tea districts. At the end of that period they should be allowed to look about them, and make up their minds whether they will stay in the tea districts either as tea coolies, or as ryots on the large surplus of culturable lands which exists in those districts.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor is unable to say at what cost Government Agents may be able to march emigrants across to Dhoobree if they come from North Behar, or to send them by railway and steamer if they come from Western Bengal. But he fears that the cost could not be under 15 to 30 or 40 rupees a head according as they go to near or distant districts and he would wish to know whether tea planters would find it worth while to pay one half of the cost of carrying up to a limit of Rs. 10 per head, if they get one year's agreement from each Government emigrant. Further, up to what limit would the planters of each labour district care to take coolies at these terms.

Seebsaugor.
Lukhimpore.
Durrung.
Cachar.
Nowgong.

4. Copies of this letter will be forwarded to the Commissioners of Assam and Dacca, and to the Deputy Commissioners of the five districts above named for expression of opinion. The Deputy Commissioners will be asked to invite a certain number of representative planters in these districts either to meet and discuss the matter, or to communicate respectively their opinions and suggestions to Government in this department. The Lieutenant-Governor does not mention Darjeeling as a tea district to be operated upon under these orders, as the Labor Act does not apply to the Darjeeling district, and that district is well within reach of voluntary emigration.

5. As any course of action that may be adopted must be decided upon by the 15th January at latest, I am to ask that replies to this letter may be furnished by the end of December next.

6. It may be well to mention that the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah has suggested that relief funds might very usefully be expended in sending down emigrants to Burmah, where labour is always much in demand, where families might be put down in agricultural settlements. The Chief Commissioner considers that perhaps twenty or thirty thousand immigrants could be readily absorbed into British Burmah in a single season.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 3,504.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

Statistical Department.

Sir,

Calcutta, the 19th November 1873.

With reference to the Chief Commissioner's telegram of the 14th current to His Excellency the Viceroy, I am directed to forward copy of a letter which the Lieutenant-Governor has caused to be issued to representatives of the tea planting interest on the subject of promoting emigration from Bengal and Behar during the coming season of distress.

2. I am to enquire whether employers of labor, or any of the Government departments of British Burmah would be disposed to bear a share (up to say Rs. 10 a head) in the cost of conveying emigrants from Bengal to Burmah. I am further to enquire whether able-bodied single men (as suggested in the Honorable Mr. Eden's telegram), or families would be the most acceptable immigrants to Burmah.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 7F, dated Bankipore, the 21st November 1873.

From S. C. BAYLEY, Esq., COMMISSIONER of PATNA, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the information of Government, the accompanying copy of a letter, No. 230 of the 18th instant, from the Collector and Magistrate of Sarun, reporting that numbers of people who had lately emigrated from his district are returning owing to their inability to pay for the high price of food on the route. The matter is a serious one, but it is too late now to do much to remedy it. As the ordinary season for emigrating is passing by, I have directed that food depots be laid in along the line of route, and be sold to emigrants at cost price. The officers in charge of the works under Mr. Stevens, Executive Engineer, Raj Durbhangah, might be expected to do this. I would urge the speedy issue of the orders contemplated in regard to facilitating emigration to Assam, &c.

No. 230, dated Chuprah, the 18th November 1873.

From J. S. DRUMMOND, Esq., OFFICIATING COLLECTOR and MAGISTRATE of SARUN, to the COMMISSIONER of PATNA.

I HAVE the honor to report that I have been informed that numbers of people who had lately emigrated from this district, intending to proceed to Cooch Behar and Assam, are now returning owing to their inability to pay their expenses in consequence of the high price of food prevailing on the route. I was told by a planter that 300 of such persons had so returned on his own Dehat alone.

2. As it seems very desirable that measures should be taken to facilitate emigration as much as possible, I beg to report the circumstance with a view to such action as the Government may think proper to take in the matter.

No. 3,647.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, in the STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT, to the COMMISSIONER of PATNA.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, the 26th November 1873.

WITH reference to the correspondence published in to-day's (26th November) *Calcutta Gazette* regarding the promotion of emigration from the distressed districts. I am directed to enquire whether you and your magistrates could find any considerable number of men, or of families, in your division who would emigrate to British Burmah.

2. The Chief Commissioner of British Burmah has intimated that he can employ six thousand able-bodied men on public works, at Rs. 9 a month, for six months; that he can after that give them land to settle upon, and that he can contribute towards the cost of their transport.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor wishes you to ascertain whether single men or families from Sarun or elsewhere would be likely to accept these terms. They will, you observe, be bound to work on public works for six months only, and then will have open to them one of the dearest labour makets of British India, where the wages of an ordinary coolie are generally Rs. 10 a month and upwards, and where food is in ordinary years very cheap. The Lieutenant-Governor apprehends that even if men and families are willing to go, some organization—something like the coolie sirdar system—would be required for collecting and managing the emigrants; and he would be willing, if you found it necessary, to consider any proposal you might make for allowing any coolie sirdar who produced one hundred emigrants ready to go to Burmah eight annas per emigrant. Intending emigrants would have to be examined by the Civil Surgeon, so that very weakly men or men suffering from disease should not be sent. One blanket would have to be given to each emigrant.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor has no authority as yet to spend public money on thus promoting emigration to Burmah; and each emigrant will certainly cost a considerable sum to transport. The journey by boat and rail to Calcutta from Sarun and the blanket will be at least five rupees. Meanwhile, and until the orders of the Government of India can be received, I am to ask you to inquire and report how far the people are willing to emigrate to Burmah; what organization and what expense you would recommend in Behar to promote such emigration.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

W. E. B.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, AND COMMERCE, No. 2 C.

To His Grace the Duke of Argyll, &c., &c., India Office.

Lucknow,
My Lord Duke, 6th December 1873.

Enclosure A.

I have the honour to enclose, for Your Grace's information, a copy of the reply which I have made to an address which was presented to me by the Municipality of Agra on the 24th ultimo, as it was made after careful consideration and expresses the views of the Government of India upon the scarcity in Bengal.

Your Grace will observe that the statement of the position of affairs was taken from the Circular addressed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to the local officers of that Province on the 17th November.

Enclosure B., given on p. 63.

Having, with the assistance of Sir Richard Temple, carefully examined the reports of the scarcity of the years 1865 and 1866, we came to the conclusion that the circumstances of the present year were, on the whole, not worse than those of the same period in the year 1865, and I thought it desirable to mention this in order to give to the public the best information in our power as to the probable extent of the scarcity. It has been a satisfaction to me to find subsequently that the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal has arrived (as Your Grace will observe from the enclosed copy of a Note written by His Honour) at the same conclusion after an independent examination of the facts of 1865 and of the prospects of this year.

The Lieutenant Governor mentioned in his Note his desire that the importations of rice for the relief works should be pressed on as much as possible. Steps have been taken to arrange this, and I understand from Sir Richard Temple that supplies are rapidly being pushed forward to the districts affected by the scarcity. The importance of being somewhat in advance of the demand upon us, in order to prevent a future block of the means of conveyance is fully recognized by the Government.

In reply to the address, I recapitulated the measures taken by the Government, which were explained in the Resolution of the Government of India of the 7th November, and further in the excellent Circular issued by the Lieutenant Governor on the 17th.

All the measures to provide against the effects of the drought which the Lieutenant Governor has recommended have been adopted, with the exception of the prohibition of the export of food grain.

The reports that I have received of the out-turn of the last crop, and the prospects of the spring crops in the North-Western Provinces, with the exception of the Benares Division, are very satisfactory, and all the information that I have been able to collect since I left Agra confirms me in the belief that the opinion of the Government of India, that the deficiency of the food supply of the districts affected by the drought will be met from the resources of India, is correct.

The latest reports from Bengal will have been forwarded to Your Grace by Sir Richard Temple from Calcutta. He informs me that, in the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor, it is not advisable to establish a Relief Committee in Calcutta before the middle of December.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient, humble Servant,
NORTHBROOK.

Enclosure A. to foregoing Despatch.

The following Address was presented by the Municipality of Agra to His Excellency the Viceroy, at the Thomason Hospital, Agra, on the 24th instant:—

May it please your Excellency,—the Municipal Commissioners of Agra desire to express, on the part of the Municipality, their grateful thanks to your Excellency for the honour you have conferred upon the community by visiting the ancient city of Agra.

The advent of your Excellency at this time has been the source of extreme gratification to all classes of the people, and, although it was with regret that the intimation of the postponement of the great Durbar was at first received, the philanthropic motives which guided your Excellency in the adoption of this measure have now been fully appreciated.

The Municipality have learnt with extreme regret the imminent prospects of great distress, and even famine, in certain district of the Lower Provinces of Bengal, and they beg to express their anxious desire to do what in them lies in aid of any measures of amelioration and relief which may be proposed by Government.

They would also desire to convey their special thanks to your Excellency for the great interest you have shown in the welfare of the Native community by your visits to the several educational and benevolent institutions in the city and station, and for your liberal contributions to the funds of such of them as stood in need of this assistance.

In bidding your Excellency a grateful farewell, the Municipality would venture to express the hope that at no distant period they may again be honoured by the presence of your Excellency in the ancient and renowned city of Agra.

His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows:—

I am much gratified by your loyal address, and I shall take care to inform Her Majesty the Queen of the distinguished manner in which you have welcomed me to Agra as her representative, particularly by the magnificent illumination of the memorial of old times which adorns the neighbourhood of this city.

I regret that it was necessary to postpone the Durbar which I had intended to hold, for I fear that the postponement has occasioned some disappointment.

I have, however, been able to receive many of the Princes and Chiefs of Rajpootana and Central India, as well as the Rajahs and other distinguished subjects of the Queen in these provinces, who have most of them either themselves shown their loyalty to Her Majesty by services in times of danger, or whose fathers or relatives have rendered such services.

The reason for which I decided to postpone the Durbar is, that about a month ago, after all the arrangements had been made, I received information of a serious failure of the crops in the Province of Bengal, as distress threatened a large population I thought that it would be inopportune to hold Durbars either here or at Lucknow. I am glad to learn that my motives are understood by those who expected to attend the Durbar.

The Municipality of Agra have naturally expressed their deep interest in the welfare of their fellow-countrymen in Bengal. The city of Agra is a great centre of trade, and desiring to give every publicity to the acts and opinions of the Government, I gladly take this opportunity of informing you what we consider the extent of the scarcity is likely to be, and what measures have been taken to alleviate the distress which must follow from a serious failure of the harvest.

The position of affairs is as follows. The winter rice crop has seriously failed in the whole of Behar, and in the Division of Rajshahye. Moreover, in some parts of these districts the want of rain has interfered with the sowings for the rubbee crop. In other districts of Bengal there has been a partial failure of the rice crop; but the deficiency of the food supply is expected to be confined to Behar and the Division of Rajshahye.

The Government is fully impressed with the grave responsibility which rests upon them, and we have taken, without delay or hesitation, measures in order to anticipate distress. Our aim and object is to prevent, so far as possible, the loss of the lives of any of Her Majesty's subjects.

We have complete and reliable information of the present state of affairs, and in framing our measures we have had the advantage of the experience of former years in which the crops have failed in the same parts of India. The scarcity of the year 1865 was not confined to Orissa; the excellent report of Mr. F. Cockerell shows that there was a great failure of the rice crop in Behar and Rajshahye in that year. The whole population affected by the scarcity in the year 1865 was, in number, about the same as that which will probably be affected by the scarcity this year, namely, about 24 millions. The scarcity of 1865 came after a failure of the crops in 1864, whereas in this year this scarcity has come after several years of good crops.

The price of rice in Behar and Rajshahye, in the months of October and November 1865, was higher than it has been in the same months of this year. On the whole, as far as our present knowledge goes, it may reasonably be assumed that the scarcity of this year will not exceed that which took place in the years 1865 and 1866; indeed, it may be less, if the rains of the winter and of the next summer should be propitious.

The measures that we have taken have been announced in the Resolutions of Government.

The persons who suffer first in a time of scarcity are those who labour for hire. For this class and for any others who may require to be employed, the Government will provide work not only on large public works, but on smaller works as much as possible in the neighbourhood of their homes.

The people of India are distinguished for their liberality in maintaining their relations who are unable to work, and also by their charity to those who are in distress; but in times of scarcity they cannot be expected to meet the larger demands which will be made upon their liberality, and persons unable to work will often be without the means of subsistence.

Wherever such distress may appear, the Government will, with the help of the influential inhabitants of each locality, give the requisite assistance.

The time has not yet come for distributing relief of this kind, but every preparation has been made for commencing the distribution whenever and wherever it may be required.

It is seldom that misfortune is altogether unaccompanied by alleviating circumstances. Distress in any part of Her Majesty's broad dominions never occurs without proving how closely the British Empire is bound together. No more striking example could be produced than the present occasion. As soon as the telegraph conveyed the news to England of the failure of the harvest in Bengal, we are told that the city of London hastened to show sympathy with the people of Bengal by proffering substantial aid for the relief of the distress. This sympathy and generosity will be gratefully appreciated throughout the whole of British India. I am sure that you have rightly interpreted the feelings of the people of India in being the first to tender assistance to your fellow-countrymen in Bengal, if the necessity should arise.

The most severe distress in former years has been felt in places remote from the common highways of trade. In order to provide for such places, we have calculated, with the aid of the local officers, the probable number of persons who may be brought on the hands of Government in order to measure the extent of our liability, and we have purchased and ordered large quantities of grain, which will be sent to those parts of the country where there is likely to be a deficiency in the supply of grain for those persons.

All the practical suggestions, without any exception, which were made by the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the other officers, who inquired into and reported on the scarcity of 1865, have been followed by the Government, and we have also derived great advantage from experiences gained from the North-Western Provinces in the year 1868 and 1869, where, under the wise administration of Sir William Muir, a period of great scarcity was successfully dealt with.

Having made the extensive provisions which I have described, the Government have no reason to doubt that the food which may be required for the supply of the general population who are able to take care of themselves will be met from other parts of India. The district of Backergunge, in Bengal, where a large quantity of rice is produced beyond what is required for the consumption of its population, and the whole division of Orissa, have good crops this year. Burma has one of the largest rice crops ever known. In these North-Western Provinces, with the exception of a small portion to the east, and throughout Madras, Bombay, and the Punjab, the harvests have been excellent.

We believe that, as upon previous occasions, the present deficiency among a population, which does not exceed one eighth of the whole population of the couutry, can be supplied.

I have good reason to know that the trade is very active here and elsewhere. The Government have helped, by lowering the rate of carriage on the railroads, and will help further by organizing means for the transport of grain from the railroad to those parts of the country where supplies may be required.

We are convinced that no better general means can be found for distributing the food supplies of a country at a time of scarcity than the free action of trade.

We have, therefore, no intention of interfering with that freedom, and we have consequently declined to interpose for the purpose of regulating prices, or to take the serious step of prohibiting the export of food grains. The Customs returns from Calcutta show that the exports of rice have greatly diminished owing to the rise of prices. During the last two months the exports have been only 17,500 tons, while in October and November 1872 they were 46,275 Tons. the quantity exported lately has been inconsiderable in reference to the general amount of available supplies. While, as I have said before, we have no intention of interfering with the freedom of trade, we supplement the action of trade by special measures, if circumstances should arise in which such action is likely by itself to prove inadequate to the necessities of any part of the country.

I have had the advantage of recent personal communication with the Commissioners of the affected districts. They have the full confidence of the Government, and I am satisfied that they will do their duty. All their suggestions have been adopted, and they have received power to act on their own responsibility in case of emergency.

I hope, moreover, before I return to Calcutta, to visit some of the relief works, and again see the officers in charge of the divisions affected by the drought. Such personal communication give me a greater knowledge than I can obtain from written reports.

You will gather from these free observations, on the position of affairs and the measures which we have taken, that although there is good cause for anxiety, there is every reason to believe that the Government and the people will, by the blessing of Providence, be able to cope successfully with the difficulties that lie before us.

Gentlemen, you have mentioned in your address the visits that I have paid here to your different institutions. It has given me great pleasure to take advantge of my visits to various parts of the country in order to see the institutions that exist in different cities, and I think I may fairly congratulate the city of Agra upon the conditions of their institutions. It was especially interesting to me to visit the poor houses in Agra, in which it appears that a considerable amonnt of distress is relieved with kindness and economy. The Government of India, as you are aware, take a great interest in the development of municipal institutions. Although I speak in the presence of Sir William Muir, I cannot refrain from observing that we have viewed the measures taken by His Honour for the development of those institutions with particular approval. It appears that these Provinces are, so to speak, taking the lead in regard to municipal government. It is true that the development of the system must be a work of time, and some failures must be expected to occur at first, but the success already obtained appears to me to promise much for the future. It is of the greatest advantage to have a free expression of opinion from the natives of India who undertake to manage their own municipal affairs. When I say this, it is for the sake of adding that these municipalities of the North-western Provinces, of which yours is one of the principal, must consider that they are on their trial —that they are indeed a sort of model to which the rest of India is looking. I am sure that this consideration will have its due weight with you in inducing you to manage your affairs with wisdom, and to show that local self-government may before long acquire a firm basis in this couuntry.

Gentlemen, I have only to say in conclusion, that my visit to Agra has been a very agreeable one, I feel much indebted to you and to all those who have contributed to render it agreeable, and I wish you heartily farewell.

No. 15 of 1873.

Government of India.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

To His Grace the Right Honorable the Duke of Argyll, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Duke, Calcutta, the 12th December 1873.

We have the honor to transmit the special narrative of the drought in Bengal for the week ending 12th December.

2. There has not been any change of importance in the general situation since the date of our last despatch to Your Grace on this important subject.

3. The weather has been frequently cloudy at Calcutta during the past week. Rain has fallen in the Bay of Bengal extending to the Chittagong coast, where it is reported to have done more harm than good. No rain, however, fell during the week in the interior of Bengal up to the 11th. On the 11th there was rain at Calcutta and in some of the surrounding districts, but being somewhat unseasonable it possibly may do harm in some respects, while doing good in other respects. The rain does not, however, seem to have at all extended to the Province of Behar.

4. On the whole, the hope that the winter rains may be vouchsafed to the country derives some encouragement from the appearances of the weather. The opinion that our prospects from the commencement of 1874 must greatly depend on these rains, is gaining strength more and more.

5. The winter rice harvest is being reaped in Bengal, Behar, and Orissa. The yield, so far as we yet know, is perhaps slightly better than the anticipation. The same remark is applicable to the rising spring crops.

6. There has been some fall in prices of food-grains generally during the week. This is attributed to the incoming produce of the winter harvest, consequently it is expected that the range of prices may continue comparatively moderate for some time. A considerable rise may possibly not occur till nearly the middle of January. The temporary decline of prices may tend to quiet the public mind among the native population. We do not, however, place any reliance on the symptom in respect to the forecast of the consequences of the drought. Experience on previous occasions shows that even on the eve of scarcity a slight accession of supplies may cause prices to fall and maintain them on an apparently moderate scale until the crisis arrives, when they begin rapidly to rise.

7. Our general view, therefore, as to the anticipation of the future and the large measures of precaution which ought to be prepared, as explained in our last despatch, remains unchanged.

8. There is no change in the accounts of the harvest and crops from other parts of India which are fairly good, except that in the eastern part of Oudh, the reports which were previously unfavorable are somewhat worse. We apprehend that if the winter rains should fail, the distress in Behar may extend to the adjoining districts westward of that province.

9. In the North-Western Provinces generally, however, there is still hope of obtaining considerable supplies of food. About 100,000 maunds of grain have been already purchased there on behalf of the Bengal authorities, and 250,000 maunds more are about to be purchased immediately on the same account.

10. We are glad to find that the Government of Bengal has arranged for distributing the Government grain supplies among the various stations in the districts affected, where the various public works, imperial and local, are to be carried on. It is hoped that these supplies will for the most part be ready at their various destinations before the end of January, before the activity of the country traffic commences.

11. The aggregate of these supplies, thus to arrive during January and February, as provisionally arranged on the recommendation of the local Government, amounts to 1,960,000 maunds, or 72,000 tons, of which 38,000 tons will be obtained in India, while 34,000 tons are to be obtained from the supplies (80,000 tons) previously ordered by the Governor-General for Bengal from beyond sea. Of the 34,000 tons 10,000 have arrived or are arriving from Burma and Madras; then

7,000 tons in December and 10,000 tons in January are promised from Burma; and 9,000 tons are expected within this period from Hong-Kong and Saigon. Thus, unless some unforeseen disappointment should occur, the supplies from beyond sea ought to be in time.

12. The quantity of 72,000 tons above stated is to be taken as part of the 118,000 tons mentioned in the 12th paragraph of our last despatch. Thus, besides the 72,000 tons which may be regarded as the preliminary provision, there is a provision of 46,000 tons from beyond sea already made.

13. These arrangements are irrespective of any provision which may yet have to be made in view to the difficulties which may beset us during next spring and summer, and which probably will arise if the winter rains shall fail. We have received representations from the Government of Bengal as alluded to in the Narrative regarding the ultimate liability which may devolve on the State, and the provision which may have to be made for that. These ulterior considerations are receiving our best attention, and we hope to be prepared accordingly.

14. There has been no marked activity in the transport of grain by the trade during the week. The transport by rail up-country from Calcutta has indeed been comparatively slack. There is a larger quantity than usual of grain being sent by river in native craft, but still not so large as to be remarkable. The navigable canals, however, in the neighbourhood of Calcutta are bringing in large quantities of grain week by week.

15. We have received from the Lieutenant-Governor a schedule of the temporary establishments of the various grades in the civil branches which are likely to be entertained by reason of the scarcity, and we have given a provisional sanction to these proposals.

16. We are in communication with the Government of Bengal, the Chief Commissioner of British Burma, and the British India Steam Navigation Company regarding the transport by sea of emigrants from the distressed districts to Burma. But until distress shall begin to be keenly felt, it hardly seems probable that any large number of intending emigrants will offer themselves.

17. We observe from the Narrative that the local officers still consider that the supplies of country carriage are, for the present, tolerably abundant. But bearing in mind that, as the season advances, there may be deficiency in this important respect, we are considering the practicability of arranging country carriage from a distance for the transport of grain for the imperial public works in the distressed districts, during the months when country carriage is most likely to run short.

18. There are no signs as yet of general distress in the districts affected. In some few places considerable number of laborers are being employed on public works, but the relief works have not yet become general. We are not able to state exactly the full number of laborers for whom employment can be found on all the works, both imperial and local; but our calculations sustain the hope that these works will be such as to afford, in event of need, useful and productive employment for a considerable portion of the laboring population. Our close attention is being, and will be given, to the organization of the works with this view.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient, humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
R. TEMPLE.
B. H. ELLIS.
ARTHUR HOBHOUSE.

FIFTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF THE DROUGHT OF 1873, FROM 6TH DECEMBER TO 12TH DECEMBER.

1. It was noted in the last Narrative that in some districts the outturn of the late rains rice crop had proved to be better than had been estimated by the local officers. Further information shows that this comparatively favorable result of the harvest is more general than at date of the last narrative was certainly known, in spite of the blight and the plague of insects induced by the cloudy weather. In the Dacca, Chittagonge, and Orissa Divisions, the yield will probably be fully up to what was anticipated in paragraph 4 of the Narrative of the 21st November. In certain districts of Western Bengal the outturn of late rice may even exceed that estimate.

In the distressed districts no improvement is reported now that the commencement of the harvest enables the local officers to give a more accurate opinion.

As regards the spring crops, there is little to report. Further information confirms what was stated in the last Narrative, that the area laid down in these crops is by no means so small as was at first supposed. In some parts of Purneah it is stated half as much grain as in ordinary years is planted with these crops; while in Sarun and some other districts, on the other hand, some of the usual spring crop lands are unsown. Generally in Behar these crops, where sown, seem to have germinated fairly well, and are holding out against the drought with characteristic vitality. This, however, cannot last very much longer without rain. In Bengal the prospect of the the cold weather crops is still very bad. The weekly rainfall, weather, state and prospect of crops return bringing our information down to December 6th and December 9th for some districts * is enclosed herewith. Since that date no change in the prospect has taken place till the partial rainfall of the 11th, which will be noticed below.

* Enclosure 1.

2. The weather has become colder, but it is still strange. The dewy nights and foggy mornings usual at this time of year are absent. The sky has remained cloudy, sometimes clearing, but the clouds returning again and again till at last a little rain has fallen in the districts about Calcutta. The meteorological reporter writes:—"During the past week the weather has been of the same character as in the two or three previous weeks; north-easterly winds, a good deal of cloud, a moderate temperature, and a steady pressure, varying but little. During the last day or two there has been more cloud than before, and rain is now (morning of 11th) falling steadily." The rain referred to produced up to the evening of the 11th ½ an inch at Calcutta and Hooghly, and 1·38 inches at Burdwan. Unhappily, however, the last telegraphic reports give no news of rain in Behar, where it is most wanted. As regards the rain which has fallen in this neighbourhood, the collector of Hooghly says—"Bad for the rice; good for the cold weather crops;" while the Deputy Collector of Burdwan broadly says—"Will do more harm than good." No doubt in the purely rice districts rain at this critical harvest time is a doubtful benefit, but it may be hoped that this report is more gloomy than the fact. To-day the weather still looks as if there might be more rain.

3. The fall in prices expected with the harvest of the rice has not been very marked. In Calcutta as well as in the interior the tendency is to a fall, but the quotations are not on the whole much lower than they were last week. The difficulty of giving in a tabular statement a correct idea of the prices current in the various districts has been before commented on. In the distressed districts prices are somewhat higher in the interior of the districts than the quotation given in the return. In the other districts the reverse of this is the case. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore writes that while in the Monghyr bazar the price of common rice has never risen above 12 seers to the rupee, a gentleman travelling in the interior has been paying at the rate of 10 seers for the same grain. On the other hand, the Collector of Nuddea says that the coarsest rice may be obtained at 13¼ seers per rupee throughout his district, while his return of prices current gives 12¼ seers. So in parts of 24-Pergunnahs 18 seers is obtainable, and the laborers on the Kana Nuddee, on the borders of Hooghly and Burdwan, get 16 seers in the neighbouring bazar. Comparing present prices with the average of all December 1865, we find they are higher now than they were then in Northern Bengal, and also slightly higher in Behar. In other parts they are, on the whole, neither higher nor lower than they were in December 1865.

4. The usual note on the movement of food-grains is appended.* It may be well here to note that in spite of the high prices ruling in the Calcutta market, 24,950 tons of freight lying in the river was, on the 8th December, under contract for the export of rice to various ports. It is expected that the high prices will not prevent the export of a further quantity of 30,000 tons to the Persian Gulf.

* Appendix A.

5. It was noted in paragraph 4 of the last narrative that the Government of India had called for an estimate of the probable amount of grain required for local purposes, and that in reply to this call the Lieutenant-Governor had asked that a total of 1,875,000 maunds of food-grains might be purchased and stored before the 31st January. The Government of India, while thinking that ⅔rds of a seer per diem per head, inclusive of women and children, is rather a large famine allowance, have however sanctioned the requisition on the ground that it is well to leave some margin. The Lieutenant-Governor has taken the opportunity to explain that in

asking to have a three months' supply for 5 per cent. of the population in hand by the end of January, his view was that with such a supply the Government would be in a position to take further necessary action in January in case the spring crops fail or the area of scarcity extends.

In letter No. 3834, dated December 6th, the Lieutenant-Governor instructs the Commissioners of distressed divisions and other officers as to the distribution of the food-supply sanctioned by the Government of India. Copies of this correspondence are annexed in Appendix.*

* Appendix B., page 90.

Some difficulty had arisen regarding the procedure to be followed in making purchases of grain in the North-West Provinces through the officer nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor of those provinces for the purpose. This difficulty has now been arranged, and in letter No. 53 PS, dated 6th December 1873, the officer nominated (Mr. A. Colvin) has been fully advised regarding the purchases he is to make.

The Lieutenant-Governor's proposals regarding extra civil establishments to be entertained for work in connection with scarcity and relief have been submitted to the Government of India in letter No. 3888, dated 11th December, copy of which is enclosed.*

* Appendix C., page 92.

6. The Government of India having been pleased, as above stated, to approve the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal, that 18,75,000 maunds of Government grain should be provided by the 31st January, the Lieutenant-Governor has made arrangements for completing the share of that amount (about one-half the whole) which has to be provided from Bengal and the North-Western Provinces. Since the despatch of last Narrative it has been ascertained that the arrangements made by the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore for grain from the North-Western Provinces will secure the delivery in those divisions of about 2,00,000 maunds of grain by the 31st January next. There remains, according to the estimate sanctioned by the Government of India, 1,50,000 maunds to be obtained from the North-Western Provinces, and the Lieutenant-Governor has indented on Mr. A. Colvin, the officer who has been placed at his disposal for the purpose by the Government of those provinces, for the purchase of this amount, asking that one-third may be wheat, one-third barley, and one-third jowaree (*holcus sorghum*). This letter is enclosed.* The Lieutenant-Governor has put limits † of price, beyond which Mr. Colvin is not to go, but has expressed his hope that the grain may be got below the limit fixed. Out of the 4,00,000 maunds to be provided from Calcutta and the eastern districts, about 1,60,000 maunds had already been bought before the despatch of last Narrative. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes to arrange for getting 1,00,000 maunds from Eastern Bengal; and he has issued an invitation calling for tenders for the delivery of 1,50,000 maunds in Calcutta. All this grain is to be delivered at different dates before the end of January, and most of it will, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes, be by that time actually stored in or in transit to the interior of the distressed districts. If the Government of India should be able to supply the additional 24,000 tons of grain from beyond the sea in time, we may hope that the whole amount required (18,75,000 maunds) will be in our possession before the end of January.

	Mds.	Mds.
The Government of India have already ordered from beyond sea, deliverable in January, 10,000 tons, or say - -		270,000
The Government of Bengal hopes to have by the end of January—		
From Calcutta and the eastern districts -	400,000	
„ Orissa - - - -	200,000	
„ the North-Western Provinces -	350,000	
		950,000
Balance to be provided - - - -		655,000
Total - -		1,875,000

* Enclosure 3.

† For wheat, Rs. 3-12 per maund; for barley, Rs. 3-4 per maund; and for jowaree, Rs. 3-0 per maund.

7. In Appendix D is shown the total amount of Government grain sent up-country up to the present date. It will be seen that 181,500 maunds have been despatched upwards. All arrivals of rice are despatched promptly as they come; the only delay has been in the despatches of certain quantities of Calcutta rice which is shut up in city store-houses, and can only be got out gradually. All rice that comes in ships is unloaded and sent off without any delay whatever, and without causing, up to the present date, any block on the East Indian Railway, or any inconvenience to private traders. Messrs. Bird and Company, the landing and forwarding agents, who contracted to do the loading and unloading work at very reasonable rates, have great command of labor, and have done the work hitherto right well.

A quantity of grain from up-country has also been received by the Commissioner of Patna, but the exact account of these receipts has not yet reached this Government.

8. Regarding the progress made in forwarding grain from the railway stations to the interior, our information is not quite complete. But taking the places to which Calcutta grain has been forwarded in the order given in Appendix D, we may say that the grain from Patna Ghât is being sent off in native boats to Gobindgunge on the Gunduck embankment and to Revelgunge for distribution in the Sarun district nearly as fast as it arrives; from Barh it is under despatch by carts from the opposite side of the Ganges to Seetamarhee in the north of Tirhoot. The Magistrate of Bhaugulpore reports that there is no delay in forwarding to Soopole, in the north of his district, all the grain sent to Bhaugulpore. The Caragolah and Sahebgunge rice has all gone forward for storage at Dengraghât and Kudba in Purneah. The Lukiserai consignments have already reached their destination in the south of the Monghyr district. The Rajmehal consignments laden on 500 carts are on the way to the Northern Bengal Railway, and Major Lindsay the Superintending Engineer, reports to-day that some of it has already reached Parbuttipore, the place of storage. From Kooshtea the Government steamer and flats are carrying away all rice arrivals regularly to Godagaree at the mouth of the Mahanuddee. The rice from Goalundo is going forward less rapidly; it has to take a long journey by boat in more or less shallow rivers and channels. The steamer "Flame," which went up as a pioneer, has not yet come back; boats of the requisite draught are collected but slowly. Still the rice is moving on gradually, and the Commissioner (Mr. Molony) expects that its despatch will soon be expedited. From all sides except Goalundo the local officers universally report that the carriage of the country suffices to carry all the Government and all the private grain importations. The carriage facilities of the districts will, however, soon be tested much more severely, and the Lieutenant-Governor will anxiously await the results of such testing.

9. Major Lindsay, Superintending Engineer of the Northern Bengal Railway, has to-day come to Calcutta to lay his plans and estimates before the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India. He reports that engineers have been distributed along the line from Durwanee in the north of the Rungpore district down to the swampy lands in the Rajshahye district; work is being absolutely begun, and it is arranged that all the able-bodied Boona coolies (the "navvies" of this part of India) now at work on local roads should be transferred to the railway works, while the local roads can be kept for the destitute poor of the districts. As yet there is no great demand for employment. Major Lindsay has set aside three of his engineers to undertake (from local relief funds) feeder roads to the railway stations on the middle length of his line; two of these roads have actually been begun. It is hoped that the Government of India may grant permission for Major Lindsay to begin making and burning bricks for the masonry work, as the brick-fields will give much labor to the people.

10. It was arranged that the district and divisional Narratives from the distressed tracts under Circular No. 80, of 17th November, should be submitted in alternate weeks, *i.e.*, fortnightly. The district Narratives down to 29th November, together with the Resolutions of Government upon them, are submitted herewith.* The information contained in them has been to a great extent anticipated in the Narrative of 6th December. The Narratives of two Commissioners, bringing the history of affairs down to the 6th December, have now come to hand. They are for the most part reviews of the district Narratives for the fortnight ending November 29th. Premising then that these reports do not give the history of affairs beyond 29th November, the following is a brief synopsis of their contents:—

* Enclosures 4, 5, 6.

A.—State of the Country.

There is as yet no general scarcity of food at the high prices quoted. In Northern Chumparun, however, parts of Rungpore, Eastern Rajshahye, and South-Eastern Purneah, food may be said to be already scarce. Every effort has been made to obtain information regarding the stocks held, but the information obtained is admittedly unreliable. The enormous area of the country, the suspiciousness of the people in regard to such inquiries, make it very difficult to ascertain with accuracy the amount of food in store. In the absence of statistics we must rely upon the opinion of persons who have means of judging. The general outcome of the opinions given by local officers is that the stocks held are small, not more than equal to a three months' supply. This is corroborated by the fact that the new rice is in some places already coming into consumption.

The condition of the people is generally satisfactory, the tracts mentioned above where food is already scarce being excepted.

There have as yet been no cases of extreme misery and starvation other than such as occur in ordinary years, nor have grain thefts yet become common.

B.—Relief Works.

Various new roads have been marked out, and work has been commenced both upon new roads and upon the repairs of old roads. The supply of food is at present sufficient without recourse to Government stocks. As a rule, employment is not in very great demand, but in parts of Sarun, Monghyr, Purneah, Rajshahye, and Rungpore, the demand is brisker than in ordinary years. The condition of the laborers is good.

Some difficulty has arisen about payment for work. The system of petty contract usually adopted is not considered suitable to relief works. On the other hand, payment to individuals entails large establishments. Matters are being adjusted in accordance with the principles determined at the meeting at Government House, 10th November (see page 2 of the memorandum in Appendix C to the second Special Narrative).

C.—Transport of Food.

The supplies of Government grain now going forward will test the means of transport. The local officers as yet anticipate no great difficulty, and are making arrangements for the transport of the consignments of which they have received advices.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

Places of storage have been selected, and the construction of storage houses has been commenced where suitable accommodation could not be otherwise provided. Arrangements for the custody and administration of these storage houses are being made. Government grain is already beginning to arrive.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

With the exception of the planters of North Behar, private parties have not come forward very actively for advances either for trade or for land improvements.

F.—Charitable Relief.

No actual relief operations have been commenced, nor have preparatory arrangements been made except in Maldah.

Some further crop reports for December, under Circular No. 70 of the 13th October, have come to hand, and will be collated in the next Narrative, when they have been received from all districts.

The answers to Circular No. 77 of the 13th November, asking for a special report comparing the present year with 1865–66, have not yet all come in. It is hoped that the result of these reports may be forwarded with the next Narrative. So far the general result tends to show that in most districts the autumn crops of the present year are worse than in 1865. This is certainly so in Behar and North Bengal.

The subject of emigration is still under consideration. The gentlemen who have applied for laborers for Assam and Cachar have been told that it is not probable that definite arrangements can be made till after the 15th January. Meantime the new Labor Transport Act actively engages Legislative Council. The British India Steam Navigation Company have offered to convey coolies from Calcutta to Rangoon at Rs. 12 a head exclusive of food on the voyage.

11. From the Soane Canal works we learn that the area under irrigation is still extending in the Shahabad district, 12,000 acres having been added since last report. On the eastern side the water, which was described as having reached the Poonpoon river, has advanced 56 miles down that river, bursting some bunds which had been thrown across it. The means for distributing this water supply are very incomplete, but the Magistrate of Gya is making every exertion to render them more efficacious.

Arrangements are being made for storing grain at 11 places on the works on the western side of the Soane, and at four places on the eastern side.

Some 17,000 laborers are now employed on the canal head works and on the Arrah canal. No return of those employed on the eastern side has come in. The canal officers agree with the district authorities in reporting that there is no special demand for labor on the Soane works at present.

No report has yet been received that work has begun on the Gunduck embankments.

Owing to the difficulty in working caused by percolation from the Damooda the Kana Nuddee has not been opened as it was expected it would be on the 10th. It will probably be opened on the 15th. Here again there is no great demand for labor, 500 men having left the works during the week. The daily average is now only 890 in place of 1,390 last week.

Till the harvest and cold weather sowings are completed or abandoned there will not be much demand for employment.

12. The Commissioner of Patna having represented that the saltpetre makers of Northern Behar are among the poorest of the population, and suffered badly in former times of scarcity, the Lieutenant-Governor has ordered the suspension for the present of Act XXXI. of 1861, and the employment on relief operations of the establishments appointed under that Act for the detection of illicit salt manufacture by saltpetre makers. The same Commissioner proposed to confine exemption from tolls on roads to carts laden with food-grains, to the exclusion of wood, indigo, and other produce. It was not thought advisable to make the distinction suggested.

The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore was told that if exportation was going on in his division, he might fairly purchase in the local market so much as would practically put a stop to the export of grain. He, however, showed cogent reasons against the appearance of Government as a buyer in local markets, and the matter has been left to his discretion.

The Commissioner of Chota Nagpore having represented the peculiar position of the district of Singbhoom in his division, he has been allowed to store some grain there. The relaxations of rules under Act XXVI. of 1871 (see paragraph 6 of the Narrative of 28th November), have been extended to the division of Chota Nagpore.

The Commissioner of Orissa does not feel any anxiety regarding the ability of the parties who have contracted to deliver rice in Calcutta to Government to obtain freight. The British India Steam Navigation Company have explained that the former low rate charged by them of 8 annas a bag from False Point was an exceptional one, put on with a view to encourage trade. Trade having arisen, they think themselves now justified in charging ordinary rates. The Company have offered freight to Government on favorable terms.

The India General Steam Navigation Company have offered to run their steamer, the "Pioneer," to Balasore with flats to bring up rice if she can get a certificate from the Master Attendant. This, if found possible, will greatly facilitate the import of rice from Northern Orissa.

It has already been mentioned that the planters of Northern Behar have come forward freely for advances for purchase of grain. The Commissioner of Patna acknowledges the zeal they have shown in promoting and supervising the relief works. The Lieutenant-Governor cordially agrees with the Commissioner in his eulogy of the conduct of the planters at this critical time.

The Committee, which was referred to in the last Narrative as having been organised in Chumparun for the purpose of importing grain and selling it at cost price, has commenced operations. Some of the subscriptions promised by the local agents have not been sanctioned by their Calcutta principals, but it is confidently anticipated that the owners in England will support the local agents.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
H. Luttman-Johnson,
Additional Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 12th December 1873.

APPENDIX B. to foregoing Narrative.

No. 3550, dated Fort William, the 6th December 1873.

From R. B. CHAPMAN, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I AM directed by the President in Council to acknowledge your No. 46[*] of the 2nd current, forwarding a preliminary estimate of the requirements of grain by the Government of Bengal.

2. The Government of Bengal propose to provide grain for 5 per cent. of a population of 25 millions for 3 months, from beginning of February to the end of April, at the rate of two-thirds of a seer per day, or 18,75,000 maunds, and hope to place within reach of the distressed districts by the end of January 9,50,000 maunds, leaving 6,55,000 maunds, or 24,000 tons, to be provided by the Government of India from beyond sea.

3. The President in Council is inclined to regard the estimate of two-thirds of a seer per head per diem as high. Half a seer or 1 lb. per head, including women and children, would seem to be sufficient. It is probable, indeed, that a lower estimate would be taken by some authorities. At half a seer, then, the amount to be provided would be 14,00,000, say 14 lakhs of maunds, instead of the 18,75,000 maunds (18¾ lakhs) mentioned in your 2nd paragraph.

4. Bearing this in mind, the President in Council has to consider the quantity of 9,50,000 maunds, which, according to your 2nd paragraph, the Government of Bengal propose to purchase and to have ready by the end of January.

5. It is in the first place to be observed that this amount includes only 2,00,000 maunds out of the 3,00,000 ordered by the Government of Bengal from Orissa, leaving 1,00,000 to come on during February, as is seen from the narrative for the 21st November. Thus, the total proposed for the three months is brought up from 9,50,000 to 10,50,000 maunds (38,500 tons).

6. Looking to these considerations, the President in Council believes that the present estimate of requirements leaves some considerable margin beyond what would be calculated on the assumed data as absolutely essential to security. There are, however, advantages in allowing such a margin; and on the whole the President in Council thinks he is justified in sanctioning the proposal to procure such quantities by the end of January as the Government of Bengal may deem necessary within a present limit of 9,50,000 maunds.

7. As correctly observed in your 2nd paragraph, the Government of India have ordered 10,000 tons, or 2,72,222 maunds, which will arrive from beyond sea by January.

8. The Government of Bengal now request that a further quantity of 24,000 tons may be obtained from Burmah by the end of January. The Chief Commissioner of Burmah has been requested to send additional quantities of grain (within a certain maximum limit) as soon as possible. The President in Council is not prepared to state whether this order can be executed to the extent of 24,000 tons by the end of January, but every endeavour will be used for this end. Probably some considerable quantity will be sent in time. If there should be any difficulty in this respect, the Government of India will take such steps as may be necessary, bearing in mind the estimate of requirements as just sanctioned.

9. If, however, the whole of the 24,000 tons should not arrive before the end of January, it will certainly arrive well within the period of the three months, beginning with the 1st February.

10. And it is to be borne in mind that quantities of grain in excess of the 24,000 tons have been already arranged for by the Government of India. These quantities will arrive before April, and may be regarded as constituting a provision in addition to the preliminary provision now proposed by the Government of Bengal.

11. The President in Council duly observes that the Lieutenant-Governor regards the present estimate of requirements as necessarily defective. As soon as any revised estimate can be prepared by the Government of Bengal, the President in Council will be glad to receive it, and immediate attention will be given to it on receipt.

12. I am to state, in conclusion, that the Government of India are anxious to anticipate the eventualities of the threatened scarcity to calculate beforehand the full extent of the difficulties that may be before us, to concert with the local Government the best preparations that can be made, and to afford to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor the fullest and most cordial support in giving prompt effect thereto.

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[*] Page 76.

No. 3889.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL in the Statistical Department, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, dated 11th December 1873.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of the Financial Secretary's letter No. 3550, dated 6th December, in which is conveyed His Honor the President in Council's sanction to the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal that a total supply of 18,75,000 maunds of Government grain should be provided for the distressed districts of Bengal by the 31st January. Sir George Campbell will carefully bear in mind the views and wishes expressed at paragraphs 11 and 12 of the letter under reply; he notes also that (as stated in paragraph 10) quantities of grain in excess of the provision now asked for have been ordered from beyond the sea.

2. There is, however, one point on which the Lieutenant-Governor would ask permission to offer further observations; and one other matter on which he would solicit orders.

First. Paragraph 9 of the letter under reply mentions that in any case, the balance to be provided from beyond sea (about 24,000 tons) will certainly arrive well within the three months from February to April next. The Lieutenant-Governor did not reckon the three months' supply to be from February to April. He fears we cannot reckon that our grain supply now sanctioned will remain intact until the end of January. We are sending it up-country as quickly as possible, and it may be drawn upon before the end of January in some of the more distressed tracts. On the imperial works it will probably come early into use; and it is possible that much more than 5 per cent. of the population of the districts now reckoned as distressed may require assistance before the end of April. The Lieutenant-Governor desires me to submit that when he framed his preliminary estimate, his wish was to have a full three months' supply for 5 per cent. of the distressed population in the country before the end of January. He very strongly feels that if we get no favorable rain in December and January, and the spring food-crops fail us, we may have to import food from Burmah and elsewhere to the utmost during the remaining months from January until the south-west monsoons set in. If the scarcity should threaten anything approaching the famine of 1865 in Orissa, or the famine * of 1770 in Bengal, we shall want much greater supplies than we have now proposed. If the prospects before us appear to be worse before the end of January, we shall then be able to hurry up rice from Burmah. The Lieutenant-Governor always has before him the terrible possibility, which was so unhappily realized in 1770, that the area of distress may extend; that food may be required in Central and Western Bengal. If such a disaster should come we could only cope with it, even partially, by having already stored in the present distressed area a considerable supply of food.

3. It must, the Lieutenant-Governor would mention, be remembered that absence of December and January rain imports more or less failure of the spring crops over the North-West Provinces except on irrigated lands, and in such a case Behar could hardly hope further to supply itself very largely from the North-West.

4. If we have the supply mentioned by the Lieutenant-Governor in hand by the end of January, we may hope to be able, if occasion requires, to bring in much more food during the remaining months, and to distribute it before the rains set in. Beyond a total of say 200,000 tons we can hardly hope, as things are now arranged, to make distribution in the present distressed area by Government agency before the rainy season begins. But if distress should extend to, and Government grain should be required in, Central and Western Bengal, we could distribute by river, rail, and road a very much heavier amount; indeed we could, if need arose and circumstances permitted, probably distribute usefully over Lower Bengal the whole Burmah rice crop of 1874, and more if we could only get it. If, however, our proposed quantity of 70,000 tons is not provided or nearly provided by the end of Jauuary, we shall, if necessity should unhappily arise, find it very difficult indeed to distribute before the rains as much food as would be required.

5. It must be remembered, moreover, that carriage of grain will be cheaper and easier down to February than it can be at any later season, and therefore, whether we have to provide a further large supply or not, it will be in the end more economical to get the proposed 70,000 tons into the distressed districts before the 15th February, even though the prime cost of Burmah rice from the last crop be a trifle higher than the cost of the new rice crop will be in February.

As a very experienced officer in one of the distressed districts remarks, the Lieutenant-Governor is firmly convinced that in any case, whether the extremity of distress is eventually reached or not, it is absolutely necessary that we should have a stock of grain in hand in the distressed districts, and he thinks that the quantity now sanctioned cannot be there too soon.

6. On all grounds, therefore, whether of economy or of general policy, Sir George Campbell would very strongly urge that no effort and no expenditure (within reasonable limits) be spared to produce the delivery in Calcutta of the 24,000 tons asked for from beyond the seas before the end of January next.

7. It may perhaps be right for the Lieutenant-Governor to mention now (with reference to paragraph 3 of the letter under reply) that Burmah cargo rice loses a considerable portion of its weight when cleaned for food. If, as will probably be the case, most of the 25,000 or 30,000 tons of Burmah grain will be "cargo rice," about one-eighth of its weight will be unfit for human food; and in every estimate of the food-supply available, that one-ninth must be deducted from the gross weight of the Burmah rice available.

8. The second point on which the Lieutenant-Governor would solicit orders is, whether this Government is at liberty to send rice from beyond the sea for storage on local works. Hitherto, in obedience to the rule that the Supreme Government was to procure grain for imperial works, and that the local Government was to provide grain for local works, the Lieutenant-Governor has been sending all the Burmah and Madras grain to the three * imperial works. But, as will be seen from the annexed † circular order, the Lieutenant-Governor has had to distribute two-thirds of the present and expected Government grain to places outside the imperial relief works. The

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* The records of 1768–70 make it clear that over a part of the famine area the distress, starvation, and deaths of 1769–70 were the result of the failures of a single year.

* Soane Canal.
Gunduck Embankment.
Northern Bengal Railway.

† Circular No. 3834, dated 6th December, with enclosure.

imperial works will barely employ 200,000 or 250,000 people, however they may be pressed on; and if the worst comes the Government will have many more mouths to feed than four or five hundred thousand. Seeing that grain from across the seas forms one-half of the provision sanctioned up to the 31st January, the Lieutenant-Governor would ask permission to distribute this grain both to imperial and to local works, according to the scale which he has set forth in the letter appended. He will take care that the accounts are kept as far as possible separate; and this separation will be so much the easier, as the Burmah rice is readily distinguishable from any of the Indian kinds.

9. I am to sum up what has been said in this letter—

(1.) By submitting that the Lieutenant-Governor very earnestly hopes that no effort may be spared to get the extra 24,000 or 25,000 tons of grain from beyond the sea into the country by the 31st January at latest;

(2.) By soliciting permission for this Government to store, when need arises to use, rice from beyond the sea on local as well as on imperial works.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

APPENDIX C. to foregoing Narrative.

No. 3888.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, in the Statistical Department, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, in the Financial Department.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, 11th December 1873.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 3325, dated 26th November, asking this Government to submit statement of the various temporary appointments relating to the scarcity which are being or are likely to be created in the Civil Department, and which will need the sanction of the Government of India, and also desiring to have some approximate estimate of the cost likely to be incurred on account of the scarcity.

2. As regards this last, I am directed to say that the Lieutenant-Governor will separately address the Government of India. In my letter, No. 46PS, of 2nd December,* was submitted an estimate of the preliminary supply of grain which the Lieutenant-Governor desires to lay in before the end of January, viz., 1,875,000 maunds. If we take the price of the grain delivered in the distressed districts to be on an average Rs. 4 per maund, the total charge for that grain in the present year, 1873–74, will be Rs. 75,00,000 (750,000*l.*). As regards other items consideration is necessary. Supposing an equal quantity to be purchased in February and March, the cost in 1873–74 for grain purchased would be 1,500,000*l.*

Page 76.

3. The establishments to be eventually entertained will of course depend on the degree of scarcity which may accrue, and the extent of the measures eventually undertaken. Meantime I am desired to submit the following detail of the establishments which the Lieutenant-Governor has entertained or proposes shortly to entertain. His Excellency the Viceroy and the Government of India have been pleased to express an opinion that, in accordance with the advice of the Orissa Famine Commissioners and with the experience of other Governments which have had to combat famines, very full and sufficient provision should be made for strengthening the district and divisional staff of the distressed tracts, and for enabling the local Government to control and direct, and to give an account of what is being done. In this view the Lieutenant-Governor has estimated for a sufficient addition to his Secretariat Staff, for a strong Central Relief Committee when the time comes, for a Relief Commissioner or other competent deputy to each Commissioner of a distressed division, and for at least two extra officers to each distressed district. He has not asked for extra allowances for the district officers or for any superior officers; but he has asked for special allowances (to include all travelling allowance) in behalf of the officers who are to assist the Commissioners and also nine of the special officers posted to each district for relief work. Schedule A. appended to this letter shows the total monthly cost of these officers to be Rs. 26,748. Into this sum is reckoned the full salary of officers from the North-Western Provinces, of the special officers posted to divisions, and of the officers attached to the Central Relief Committee or to the Government head-quarters. But in the case of officers taken from the civil staff, the police or other departments, and specially posted to districts for relief work only, the proposed extra allowances only are debited to the "Scarcity."

The Lieutenant-Governor proposes to class the officers employed to assist the district officers in four grades, receiving respectively Rs. 500, 300, 200, and 100 per mensem, which is to cover travelling, and other expenses.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks it will suffice to reckon that two or three months charges for these officers will fall into the accounts of 1873–74, and that six months charges will fall into the accounts of 1874–75. Some of these establishments may not be absolutely required until February 1874, or even later; but some again have been employed since the beginning of

November and December 1873. According to this estimate the total cost for these establishments may be—

	Rs.
In 1873–74 (two months charge) - - -	53,496
In 1874–75 (six months charge) - - -	1,60,488

5. If the proposals made in Schedule A, or any modification thereof, be sanctioned, the Lieutenant-Governor would ask permission to employ officers within these limits as occasion may arise, with the proviso that he may employ fewer men in the higher grades and more in the lower grades, so long as the total estimate is not exceeded in any month without further sanction.

6. Secondly. The Lieutenant-Governor anticipates that we may expect to require extra clerks and accountants, and also storekeepers, guards, and peons for grain store-houses, or at places for the collection of grain consignments, as per Appendix B. The total cost of these establishments, as at present estimated, is Rs. 11,075 a month:—

	Rs.
Two months of this charge for 1873–74 - -	22,150
Six „ „ for 1874–75 - -	66,450

7. The Lieutenant-Governor would not be understood to say that the total charges for relief expenditure on civil offices of all kinds will come within the figures now offered; but he would hope to keep it within this amount for the present at any rate, and provided that the area of distress does not very greatly extend.

8. In regard to—

(*a*.) The possible relief works expenditure,

(*b*.) The possible expenditure for purchase and transport of grain,

the Lieutenant-Governor will hereafter make some attempt at an estimate. For the present, however, the Lieutenant-Governor merely submits the appended schedules shewing that—

	In 1873–74.	In 1874–75.
(1.) Civil appointments may cost Rs. 26,748 a month, or -	51,496	1,60,488
(2.) Clerks, storekeepers, and petty officials may cost Rs. 11,075 a month, or - - - -	22,150	66,450
Total -	73,646	2,26,938

The Lieutenant-Governor apprehends that he may have to ask the Government of India to set aside a competent officer of the Account Department to take charge of all the accounts of rice purchase, rice transport, extra establishments, and all "scarcity" expenditure not chargeable to public works. This officer should work in the Accountant-General's Office, under the Accountant-General, in concert with the Secretary to this Government in the Relief Department. If some such small separate office of account can be organised and relief expenditure of all kinds can be audited and brought to account as it occurs, very great future trouble to officers and possible loss to Government will be saved. In the Orissa famine, for want of some such arrangement, over a lakh of rupees on one account alone had to be written of as unexplainable or irrecoverable. Probably, if an officer of the Financial Department could be made available, the whole cost of the audit and accounting establishments would not exceed Rs. 500 or 600 a month.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 17 of 1873.

Government of India.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

To His Grace the Right Honorable the Duke of Argyll, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Duke, Calcutta, the 19th December 1873.

We have the honor to transmit the special narrative of the drought in Bengal for the week ending the 18th December.

2. As might, at this particular season, be expected, the general situation remains without any material change since our last despatch.

3. The weather has been clear, rainless, and cool, and thus has been seasonable.

4. The prices of food-grains continue comparatively low, by reason of the harvesting now in progress in all the provinces under the Bengal Government. The outturn appears in some places better, and nowhere worse than the anticipation.

5. But the general and probably well-founded opinion is that in Behar the promise of the spring harvest considerably exceeds the first expectation. If the winter rains shall prove propitious, that source of food-supply may yet afford a fair yield.

6. The accounts of the crops from the other parts of British India continue favorable, with the exception of the eastern and south-eastern portions of Oudh and the North-Western Provinces.

7. In general terms, it may be stated that distress has not yet begun to show itself in the districts affected by drought. Whatever symptoms of such distress may be perceptible are but slight and partial. The laborers employed in large numbers on the public works are mostly from those classes which ordinarily resort to such employment. Though preparations are made for organizing district relief committees, the occurrence of actual need is awaited before active operations are commenced. For the same reason we defer the formation of a central relief committee.

8. We still incline to the view that the position of the provinces under the Government of Bengal is not worse in 1873 than in the corresponding period of 1865. The Lieutenant-Governor's opinion affords some support to this view. But it will be seen from a letter among the enclosures of this narrative that he regards the failure of the present year as more widespread, and the crops in the distressed districts worse in 1873 than in 1865. If Orissa be excluded from the comparison there might be some foundation for this opinion. But if Orissa be included, as it ought to be, in the comparison, then the whole facts, as yet known to us, do not justify us in considering either the failure more widespread, or the crops worse, in the provinces under the Government of Bengal now than 1865. In a case of this description, however, new conditions may develope themselves, and we shall continue to be on the watch for any facts which might induce us to modify our present opinion.

9. We bear in mind that a decisive opinion regarding the extent and character of the distress can hardly be formed until the end of January. Meanwhile all the requirements of the Lieutenant-Governor have been met, and additional precautionary measures which seem to us to be advisable in order to meet the distress if it should become more serious have been taken.

10. The amount of grain required to arrive by the end of January for the public works in the districts affected by drought (72,000 tons as given in paragraph 11 of our last despatch) is on its way to its proper destination from places in India or from beyond sea, and will doubtless be in time.

11. During the last week there has been a greater degree of activity than before in the grain trade.

12. We observe with satisfaction that the narrative shews emigration towards the Assam and the tea districts to have begun.

13. We forward a copy of a letter addressed by the Governor General to the Government of Bengal, stating the impressions he derived from his recent visit to Behar.

14. We believe that the proceedings of the Government of Bengal and of its local officers in the very important matters arising out of the drought are such as to merit the approbation of Her Majesty's Government.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient, humble Servants,
(Signed) NORTHBROOK.
" R. TEMPLE.
" B. H. ELLIS.
" H. W. NORMAN.
" A. HOBHOUSE.
" E. C. BAYLEY.

Note.—On the receipt of this letter from the Government of India, the Duke of Argyll addressed a Despatch to the Viceroy in Council, dated 23rd January 1874. *See* page 52 of the Abstract [Command Paper, 933 of 1874.]

SIXTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF THE DROUGHT OF 1873, FROM 13TH TO 18TH DECEMBER.

The last Narrative contained intelligence of a fall of rain. This rain fell generally over the lower delta and littoral districts, which did not require it. It extended also to Burdwan on the west, and Kishnaghur on the north. It does not appear to have done much harm to the ripening rice; it has not been heavy enough for that: and it has done some good to the spring crops. Unfortunately there has been no rain in the distressed districts, where it is urgently required. Since the rain fell, the weather in Calcutta has been more seasonable, brighter and colder, with northerly winds and dewy nights. The genuine cold weather seems now to have commenced, though even now it is not so cold as it usually is at this time of year.

2. With the exception of the improvement in the spring crops in certain tracts where rain has fallen, as noted above, there is no change to chronicle this week in the prospect of the crops. The improvement on the estimated outturn of the winter crop said to be shown in certain districts is not contradicted; in much of the Bhaugulpore and some parts of the Purneah districts the late rice crop now being harvested is turning out on the whole better than had been anticipated.

In Behar the spring crops still hold out against the drought surprisingly well; if rain falls they will still give a fair outturn. The crop reports for the week ending 13th December are enclosed.*

* Enclosure 1.

3. There has been a slight fall in prices in some districts, but not such a fall as was anticipated on the new rice coming into the market. What was said last week of this month's prices, as compared with those ruling in December 1865, holds good this week too. The prices-current for the week ending 13th December is enclosed.† The usual note on the movement of food-grains is appended.‡

† Enclosure 1.
‡ Appendix A.

4. While the last Narrative was under despatch, His Excellency the Viceroy was on a visit to the Soane Canal works, where he met the local officers. He was pleased to express his approval of what had been done, and of what was doing, in the distressed districts, and at the Soane works. His Excellency's orders § have been communicated to the local officers under cover of a letter No. 4033, dated to-day, copy of which is submitted. Copy of His Excellency the Viceroy's orders,* and of the reply of this Government, are also appended to make the Narrative complete.

§ Appendix B.
* Page 98.

It was noted in the last Narrative that the Lieutenant-Governor had submitted to the Government of India proposals for the employment of extra civil establishments on preparations for meeting possible famine. The Lieutenant-Governor's proposals have been sanctioned, and the extra establishments have been distributed. It has been left to Commissioners to decide what extra ministerial and police establishments will be necessary within certain limits; but the Lieutenant-Governor has directed that every economy should be exercised, and that no extra establishments should be entertained until they are absolutely necessary.

The arrangements for promoting emigration from the distressed tracts are progressing; it is said that from the Sarun district, at any rate, very many families of the farm-laborer and such like classes are ready to emigrate. If the arrangement is finally made they will be started in batches of 70 to 100 persons, and will be provided with food from the Government stores on their route. It is possible that before very long some batches of emigrants will have started for the Assam tea gardens viâ Durbhangah, Nathpore, Titalya, Julpigoree, and Dhoobree. At Dhoobree a depôt will be formed for receiving the emigrants, whence they will be carried on steamers and flats to Upper and Central Assam. The presence of cholera at Goalundo and on the banks of the Megna makes it specially desirable to avoid the Calcutta and Goalundo route. For Burmah, emigrants may be collected either in Behar or in Western Bengal, or in both, if the necessary arrangements should be made.

5. Paragraph 6 of the last Narrative stated the amount of grain which was, under the orders of the Government of India, to be provided in the country before the 31st January. It has now been made almost certain that the whole of the required amount will be secured; the North-western Provinces' officer (Mr. A. Colvin) has engaged to send the full amount we have ordered through him, and it is understood that the supply to be obtained from across the sea by the Government of India

is almost secure. An assignment of the supplies coming from the different sources has accordingly been made to the several distressed divisions, care being taken to distribute the supplies so as to involve no avoidable railway or other carriage. Copy of the orders making that distribution will be found in Appendix C. It will be seen that a reserve of 375,000 maunds has been kept in hand to meet possible requirements in Western or Central Bengal, or to supplement the allotments to remote or specially indigent tracts.

6. Government grain from Madras and Burmah has continued to come in, and is still arriving. Further shipments from Saigon, Burmah, and Madras have been advised. The rice bought in Orissa is coming in slowly; the first sloop-load of rice was rather inferior in quality, but the subsequent arrivals have been fair enough and up to the sample. Some 40,000 maunds of mixed grains, bought from the North-Western Provinces on Government account, have arrived in Behar, and the supplies from this source are coming in steadily. It has not been found convenient to make any large purchases in Eastern Bengal; and the Lieutenant-Governor has felt the less regret at this result, because the surplus of these districts is mostly finding its way to Calcutta. When the present harvest shall have been gathered, the Lieutenant-Governor would hope to collect in Eastern Bengal any further supplies needed for the Rajshahye division, and to send them by the Megna and Berhampooter to their destination.

7. The precise price at which Government grain is being laid down in the distressed tracts cannot yet be stated; but the North-Western Provinces grain delivered in Behar will probably stand us in about Rs. 3 a maund all round, including bags; the Burmah rice will cost somewhat more than this at Calcutta; and the Orissa rice will cost somewhat less than Rs. 3 per maund. The rice bought in the Calcutta market has proved to be the dearest grain which has yet been bought. Yesterday (Wednesday, the 17th December,) was the last day for the receipt of tenders for the supply of 150,000 maunds of rice in Calcutta; tenders for as much as 267,000 maunds have been received, and the Lieutenant-Governor has accepted tenders for the full amount required at rates ranging from Rs. 3-4 to Rs. 3-15-6 per maund, inclusive of bags.

8. The table in Appendix D shows that 61,700 maunds of rice have been despatched from Calcutta to the interior. The Government of India has been pleased to permit the Lieutenant-Governor to send Burmah or Madras rice to local relief works, on the ground that the supply from across the sea will very much more than suffice for the imperial works. The despatch of grain from stations on the East Indian Railway to the interior is going on with satisfactory rapidity; the Patna district Narrative, to-day received, shows that up to the 14th December the Magistrate-Collector had received at the Patna and Barh stations—

	Mds.
Burmah rice - - - - - -	21,975
Bengal rice - - - - - -	41,521
Mixed grains from the North-Western Provinces -	35,070
Total - -	99,566

and that he had despatched to store-houses in the Chumparun, Tirhoot, and Sarun districts 65,027 maunds, besides sending 2,000 maunds to a distressed tract in the interior of his own district. From Bhaugulpore detailed information up to the present date is not available; but the Magistrates of Bhaugulpore and Caragola have notified that they can carry across the Ganges to the north of their districts all the grain that has yet come, and as much more as is sent, up to 20,000 maunds a week. The despatches to the Rajshahye Division are not going on so rapidly from Goalundo and Kooshtea; but Mr. Toynbee goes up there at the end of the week to see if matters can be expedited. Meanwhile we are loading at Calcutta a steamer and two flats with Bengal rice for Kaligunge and Chilmaree on the mouth of the Teesta.

9. The fortnightly narratives from distressed districts for the fortnight ending November 29th were submitted with the last narrative. Those for the fortnight ending December 13th will be submitted with the next Narrative. The Commissioners' fortnightly narratives submitted in alternate weeks with the district narratives were also alluded to in the last Narrative. That from the Commissioner of Patna

for the fortnight ending December 8th is submitted herewith, as it contains somewhat later information.* The only point of which notice need be taken here is that the Commissioner is of opinion that the Government importations are checking private trade. An intelligent native gentleman of the Patna Division approvingly writes: "The arrangements made by Government for storing grain for supply when needed have gone far to assure the people there will be no want." The Commissioner is doing his best to inform the people of the intention of Government to expend its stores of grain in payment for work, and he has been authorized, if he thinks necessary, to make a further attempt to buy through the local trade in order to promote importation.

* Enclosure 3.

10. A review of the further reports for December, under Circular No. 70 of the 13th October, is added hereto.* It shows, perhaps, on the whole, that things are a little more promising than the review of the reports for November (*see* Appendix B. to the Narrative of November 21st) made them out to be. But no material alteration can be made either in that review, or in the very brief synopsis of it contained in paragraph 4 of the Narrative of November 21st. In the review of the January reports a definite statement will be possible as to whether the outturn has exceeded the estimate or not.

* Appendix E.

11. A review of the opinions given by district officers of the extent of the loss of crops in 1873, as compared with the loss in 1865, is also appended.* It must be remembered that this review does not take into account the fact that the harvests which preceded 1865 were worse than those which have preceded 1873.

* Appendix F.

It may be noted that as yet this year actual distress has not shown itself anywhere, nor is there any very brisk demand for labor; while in 1865 in some parts distress had shown itself in October.

12. From the Soane Canal works we learn that the area irrigated in the Shahabad district now amounts to 121,751 acres. In the Gya district 2,959 acres have been irrigated from the Patna Canal in 68 villages. The total area irrigated up to date on this branch is estimated at 3,732 acres; it is believed that ultimately it will be found that a far greater area has been irrigated. A plentiful supply of water has been sent down the Poonpoon river, so much so indeed, that some of the dams constructed for irrigation across the river have burst and a large tract of country has been flooded. Measures have been taken to control the water. The Collector of Patna says some 5,000 acres have been irrigated from the Poonpoon.

The daily average of labor employed during the week on the canal works was 20,000. This is an increase on last week's average, and is said not to be due to scarcity. The work in the Buxar division has now fairly been begun, an average of 1,226 laborers having been employed during the week. No difficulty is experienced in the supply of food, and the laborers show no appearance of distress. Most of the laborers are doing task-work under contractors.

From the Gunduck it is reported that little has been done during the week beyond the commencement of repairs to existing embankments and the alignment of the new embankments. The officers have only just arrived at their stations.

An accident has unfortunately delayed the opening of the Kana Nuddee. The rain of the 11th December caused a fresh in the Damoodah river, which destroyed part of the dam, thereby rendering it impossible to admit water into the excavation till the dam had been repaired.

13. With reference to paragraph 9 of the last Narrative, it has been pointed out by the Government of India that the Lieutenant-Governor is competent to sanction such a work as the commencement of brick-making on the Northern Bengal Railway. He has accordingly directed Major Lindsay to proceed with the brick-making, but has, at the same time, warned him against going to any great expense in leading by land coal or other materials which might be more cheaply carried by boat during the rainy season.

14. It was mentioned in the last Narrative that the India General Steam Navigation Company had proposed to run their steamer, the "Pioneer," with flats to Balasore to bring up rice. Unfortunately the marine authorities have been unable to grant the steamer a certificate.

The British India Steam Navigation Company have replied to the representation made to them regarding their action in raising their rates of freight from Orissa to Calcutta. They say that they formerly carried cargo at abnormally low rates in order to attract traffic. Now that regular rates are freely offered, they think themselves justified in taking them. At the same time, they made the offer to carry Government rice at rates 30 per cent. below the rates named in their postal contract with Government. They have now been asked to put on a special steamer at low rates to carry rice from the Orissa ports to Calcutta.

15. At the instance of the Commissioner Rs. 1,00,000 have been allotted to the Presidency Division for expenditure on advances for land improvements. The extension to this division of the relaxations of the rules under Act XXVI. of 1871, detailed in paragraph 6 of the Narrative of the 28th November, is under consideration.

16. The additional executive and assistant engineers applied for by the Bengal Government on the 16th November have most of them arrived; but several of them having been transferred to the Irrigation Department, the General Department is still short of men. A further application has accordingly been made to the Government of India.

Tools suitable for relief works in the Calcutta and Madras markets have been bought up, as well as all that could be procured in the North-Western Provinces, and arrangements have been made for a weekly supply from Madras, North-Western Provinces, and other localities. Bombay is also supplying its quota.

It is at present estimated that 1,40,000 hoes and 60,000 pick-axes, in addition to the tools in the possession of the agricultural classes of the distressed districts, will be required for relief operations, and arrangements have been made to procure this number by the middle of March next. Returns, however, of probable requirements of tools have been called for from the Commissioners concerned.

17. In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, this Narrative is despatched on Thursday instead of on Friday, and will be so despatched in future.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,
Additional Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 18th December 1873.

No. 604, dated Fort William, the 16th December 1873.

From A. O. HUME, ESQ., Secretary to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I AM directed by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General to acquaint you, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, with the impressions which His Excellency has derived from his recent visit to Behar.

2. After leaving Allahabad, Lord Northbrook went by rail to Mogulserai, and from thence to Sasseram and Dahree, where the head-works of the Soane Canal are situated. He then proceeded to the Behea Station, and returned to Calcutta by the Loop Line. In the course of this journey His Excellency has had the opportunity of passing through a part of Behar, in which the worst scarcity is anticipated, and of conversing with Mr. Bayley, the Commissioner of Patna, Messrs. Alexander and Palmer, the Collectors of Shahabad and Gya, Mr. Eyre, the Deputy Magistrate of Sasseram, Mr. Levinge, the Superintending Engineer of the Soane Circle, Messrs. Thomson and Fox of Behea, Messrs. Molony and Barlow, the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Bhaugulpore, Mr. Taylor, the Collector of Bhaugulpore, and others.

3. Lord Northbrook is glad of this opportunity of expressing his entire approval of the general arrangements ordered by Sir George Campbell in his excellent circular of the 17th November and subsequently, as well as of the manner in which they have been carried out. His Excellency feels entire confidence in the ability of the local officers to execute the orders of Government and to cope successfully with any difficulties which may arise. The energy, the thorough mastery of the details of the subject, and the anxiety not to omit any possible precaution to provide against famine, displayed by all the officers with whom Lord Northbrook came in contact, deserve His Excellency's highest commendation.

4. Lord Northbrook would be much obliged to the Lieutenant-Governor to convey the thanks of the Government to Mr. Levinge, who, when he heard early in October that the rice crop was in danger from drought, immediately made temporary arrangements for opening some branches of the Soane Canal which were incomplete, and has thus already supplied with water, 120,000 acres of land, upon some of which the rice crop has been saved; whilst upon all there is a prospect of fine winter and rubbee crops His Excellency has directed that the Lieutenant-Governor shall be furnished with a copy of Colonel Rundall's observations upon the progress of the works, and he requests that His Honor will authorise the commencement of the western main canal as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made by Mr. Levinge.

5. The general prospects of the country embraced within the three Commissionerships, which include the whole area of distress as defined in the Lieutenant-Governor's circular of the 17th of November, appear to His Excellency to be unchanged, with the exception that

in Behar there is more land sown for "rubbee" than was at first supposed, and that the actual condition of the "rubbee" sowings is reported to be generally satisfactory. In these particulars the situation is certainly somewhat better than was anticipated a month ago. Lord Northbrook found that several high authorities had arrived at the same conclusion as the Government of India and Sir George Campbell (in His Honor's note of the 25th of November) that the present condition of affairs is, on the whole, much the same as it was at the same time in the year 1865.

6. When at Fyzabad Lord Northbrook saw Lieutenant-Colonel Hankin, Commanding the 4th Bengal Cavalry, which regiment had just arrived from Segowlee, having marched through the north of the district of Champarun, a part of the country as to which Mr. Bayley feels some apprehension; His Excellency was glad to hear that there were then no signs of distress. Colonel Hankin, who with great forethought took every opportunity of ascertaining the condition of the country through which he passed, has furnished Lord Northbrook with his observations, a copy of which will be sent for Sir George Campbell's information.

7. The Commissioner of Patna explained to His Excellency in detail the arrangements which he has made both as to local relief works and as to the storing of grain in convenient places. These will all in due course be reported by the Commissioner himself to His Honor. It will be sufficient for His Excellency to say that Mr. Bayley appears to have carried out the orders and intentions of Government with great judgment and ability. The number of centres in which grain is already stored or will be stored is large, and it may confidently be expected that when Mr. Bayley's arrangements are complete,—as they will be before any serious distress can arise,—every portion of his division will be within easy reach of some Government food depôt, from which officers in charge of Public Works, or Relief Committees, if it should be found necessary to establish them, will be able to draw supplies. Lord Northbrook himself saw considerable quantities of rice stored at Dehree, which is 60 miles distant from the nearest railway station.

Time did not permit of the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Bhaugulpore explaining to His Excellency the whole of the details connected with their relief works and storage of food, but from short conversations His Excellency gathered that they had made arrangements very similar in character to those of Mr. Bayley, and equally satisfactory.

8. Arrangements for local transport were reported to be in progress. The Commissioner of Patna and his subordinate officers have already provided largely for the transport of food, and were not under any anxiety that the means at their disposal would prove inadequate to meet their requirements.

9. No relief works, properly so called, have yet been found necessary in the Patna Division, although throughout the scarcity-stricken districts every preparation has been made to start them whenever and wherever they may be required. The number of persons employed on the Soane Canal works has recently somewhat diminished, owing to the employment of laborers in gathering the harvest; all those who were employed at the time of His Excellency's visit were ordinary contract laborers.

10. The preparations for the organisation of Relief Committees have been generally postponed until the more urgent work connected with the storage and transport of grain has been completed.

The local officers in the Shahabad district expressed some doubt as to whether it would be possible to organise Relief Committees properly without increased European agency. Perhaps this requirement may have been met by the schedule of temporary establishments which has been already sanctioned by the Government of India; but should this not be the case, any representation which His Honor may think fit to make as to the temporary employment of more officers, with a view to the supervision of Relief Committees, will receive His Excellency's immediate attention.

11. His Excellency was glad to learn that the zemindars in the Shahabad district are applying for advances, and Mr. Bayley speaks in the highest terms of the assistance which the planters are rendering to him in the neighbourhood of their homes.

12. Almost all the local officers expressed considerable anxiety as to the sufficiency of the supplies of fodder, and some expressed apprehension as to the supply of water for cattle. His Excellency understands that this subject is receiving the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor with a view to every possible precaution being taken to obviate so serious a calamity as great mortality amongst the cattle.

13. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore brought to Lord Northbrook's notice the probability that certain classes of cultivators might be unable to obtain sufficient credit to carry them through the time of scarcity, but would not resort to public works or apply for relief in any other form, and suggested that advances of money or grain might be made to them, to be recovered afterwards with interest.

It is the obvious and natural duty of the landlords under whom such cultivators hold to do their utmost to assist them in passing through this temporary difficulty. The issue of advances of public money to any zemindars for this purpose should be held to come within the authority already given by the Government of India in respect to advances, and where apprehension is felt that this class will experience distress which cannot be otherwise met, it will be the duty of local officers to point out to zemindars the action which they should take, and the manner in which Government is prepared to assist them. The instructions contained in the circular letter addressed by His Honor's directions to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore of the 24th November with respect to advances for the digging of wells appear to His

Excellency to be very judicious, and might perhaps be extended with advantage to other purposes. Lord Northbrook does not doubt that, on such communications being made to them, zemindars will either make advances to such cultivators from their own funds, or accept with alacrity the assistance offered by Government for this purpose; but if these expectations should not be realised, and difficulty is found with regard to the security for advances made directly to cultivators, His Excellency is ready to consider whether some legislative provision should not be made to the effect that their landlord shall stand security for the re-payment.

14. His Excellency endeavoured, whilst in the North-Western Provinces, to obtain the most trustworthy information both as to the prospects of the winter crops in those provinces and as to the surplus stores which are available for export. As regards the winter crops, there is every appearance of an unusually abundant yield in most parts of the North-Western Provinces. It is difficult, if not impossible, to state in figures the amount of surplus stores available, but the autumn crop has been a large one, and there was a remarkable concurrence of opinion amongst all whom His Excellency consulted, including Sir W. Muir, the district officers, and the best informed grain-dealers, that in any case a large quantity of grain will be available to meet the deficiency of the crops in Behar.

15. All the information which His Excellency received tended to show that private trade is active, and that large quantities of grain have been and are being sent to the distressed districts from the North-West and the Punjab. It is of great importance that no check should be put upon the operations of private traders by the importations of grain on Government account, and the Commissioner of Patna and other local officers in Behar pressed upon His Excellency the desirability of doing nothing to shake the confidence of grain-dealers in their ability to find a market for imported food-grains.

16. The position which Government occupies in respect to food-grains which have been or will be imported into the distressed districts cannot be too widely made known. The stores of grain laid in by Government will not be brought into competition with the general supplies of the trade, but will be used for the maintenance of the work-people employed upon Government relief works, and as depôts upon which Relief Committees, should it become necessary to call such Committees into existence, may draw.

Bearing in mind the large number of persons in need of relief for whom food may be required, the fact that many tracts of country which are threatened with scarcity are remote from railway stations, the difficulty which may be experienced in throwing grain in adequate quantities at a short notice into those tracts of country, and the determination of the Government to take ample precautionary measures in order to obviate mortality from starvation, His Excellency decided and announced in the Government Resolution of November 7th, that it would not be sufficient to rely upon the ordinary action of trade to meet these contingencies. Steps have accordingly been taken to secure sufficient food for the full number of persons who, judging by the experience of the past and the estimates of the Lieutenant-Governor and of the responsible local officers as to the future, may be compelled to resort to relief works or require gratuitous relief.

It will be seen that Government relies to a great extent on private trade to supplement any deficiency in the food supply of one part of the country from the surplus of another part; but at the same time, as an insurance against the inability of the operations of trade to meet the expected demands in certain places, stores have been purchased, in order to secure a reserve of food for that portion of the people who may be thrown on the hands of the Government or of the Relief Committees. Some part of these stores are already available in the districts threatened with famine, and the remainder will be available by the time they are required.

17. All the officers who were consulted by His Excellency were of opinion that the orders issued and precautions taken by Government were adequate.

18. The future prospects of the country greatly depend upon the timely supply of the rain which usually falls about Christmas; and, although the prompt action that has been taken must greatly mitigate the severity of the calamity which threatens the affected districts, there is still every reason to press forward to completion the measures which have been decided upon, and to watch carefully the signs which indicate the approach of actual distress throughout the whole Province, in order that any additional measures may be adopted which altered circumstances may require. Lord Northbrook is satisfied that the Lieutenant-Governor and the local officers are fully alive to these circumstances.

No. 4033.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, in the Statistical Department, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, dated 18th December 1873.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 604, dated 16th December, and to express the Lieutenant-Governor's gratification that His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to accord approval to the arrangements made by this Government and the Commissioners and officers of Behar at the present crisis. I am to submit copy of the letter under which the orders of His Excellency have been communicated to the local officers. With reference to the concluding sentence of paragraph 4, I am to say that regarding the Western Soane Canal works the Lieutenant-Governor will address the Government of India separately.

2. In regard to the remark that the prospects of the country at the present time do not differ greatly from the position at the same period of 1865, it must be understood to be the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion that the failure of the present year is much more widespread than in 1865, but the latter year having been preceded by bad seasons, while the crops of 1871–72 were good, it is possible that the country may be now in no greater danger than it was then; but there can be no question that the crops of 1873 have, at any rate in the distressed tracts, been worse than those of 1865.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 18 of 1873.

Government of India.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To His Grace the Right Honorable the Duke of Argyll, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Duke, Calcutta, the 26th December 1873.

We have to report that we have for the present directed that the Special Narrative of the drought in Bengal be submitted fortnightly instead of weekly as heretofore. If the course of events shall hereafter indicate the expediency of collating information at shorter intervals than a fortnight, the submission of the weekly narrative will be resumed. By this opportunity, therefore, we do not transmit any narrative.

2. This arrangement will not interfere with our immediate treatment of any case which may be referred to us by the local Governments.

3. We desire, however, to represent to Your Grace in general terms, that in respect to the consequences of the drought, the situation is unchanged.

4. In Bengal, and in most parts of Northern India, the weather has, during the past week, continued clear and cool. At some places in the north there have been showers, and in Behar there has been some very slight rain. In Eastern and South-Eastern Oude, however, there has been a moderate and seasonable fall of rain, which will be highly beneficial, as it has occurred in some of the localities where it was most needed. As regards the prospect of the winter rains generally, we are not yet able to report anything.

5. On an examination of the local reports of the crops in Bengal and Behar transmitted from the districts to the local Governments, we find the outturn of the winter ("Amun") rice harvest to be in some places slightly better, in others slightly worse than previous reports, the net result being much the same.

6. These reports, too, enable us to test further the previous calculations of the probable area of distress in the event of winter rains failing, and the probability does not seem to exceed the anticipation already made.

7. There are fluctuations in the prices of food-grains and differences between the range of prices in various localities. But there has been no appreciable decline in prices since the first fall consequent on the incoming of the winter harvest. Nor, on the other hand, are there as yet any signs of the rise which is apprehended as likely to occur after the winter harvest shall have been garnered.

8. The internal grain trade of the country is active between the North-West Provinces and Behar, but not so active in regard to the despatch of rice up-country from Calcutta.

9. We continue to receive satisfactory accounts of the despatch and arrival of the grain order to Bengal from beyond sea. The steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company are proving of much use in the conveyance of these supplies.

10. The local preparations to meet distress wherever or whenever it may arise are in due train of preparation; but Relief Committees have not been announced, and are not proposed to be announced, until distress shall begin to show itself, which is not the case as yet.

11. We are in correspondence with the Local Governments concerned regarding the terms of despatching emigrants from Bengal to Burma, also regarding the employment of natives of Behar on the Canal Works of the North-Western Provinces.

12. We are considering the practicability of immediately laying down tramways from Patna to Gya and from Moozufferpore in Tirhoot to Hajeepore on the Ganges, with special view to facilitating the transport of grain.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
R. TEMPLE.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

No. 2 of 1874.

Government of India.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

Famine.

To His Grace the Right Honorable the Duke of Argyll, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Duke, Calcutta, 2nd January 1874.

We have the honor to transmit copies of the special narrative of the drought in Bengal for the fortnight ending the 1st January 1874, and its enclosures.

2. We believe that these papers will be found to contain much matter of interest, as shewing that the local Government and the local authorities in Bengal are energetically yet judiciously applying themselves to the circumstances, according as the results of the drought become developed.

3. Since our last despatch to Your Grace the general situation remains without essential change. If there be any difference at all, it is slightly for the worse.

4. There has not been any more rain in the North-West Provinces since the 26th ultimo (the date of our last despatch). In Oudh there has been rain, described by the Chief Commissioner as general: so much so as to remove for the present the anxiety which had been felt regarding that province. There have been some slight showers in parts of the Patna, the Bhagulpore, and the Rajshahye Divisions, which have done some little good, and which may probably be followed by refreshing dews. But this rain has by no means satisfied the needs of the cultivators, and the want of moisture for the rising spring crops becomes felt with increasing severity. Otherwise the crops are as yet promising: and it is now manifest that the sowing and germination of these crops have been much better than was anticipated when the alarm of scarcity first arose. No signs are as yet apparent of the winter rains. There is yet time for them to come during the current month (January), by the end of which the fate of the spring harvest in Behar—that is how far it will be saved or lost—will probably be known.

5. Prices, despite various fluctuations, are on the whole stationary, the winter rice harvest having been reaped with an outturn much the same as the anticipation. In some places, however, they do shew a tendency to rise, and any such symptom at the present time when the new rice crop has just come in, is a presage of coming distress.

6. The area of distress may possibly extend somewhat in the Burdwan and in the Presidency Divisions beyond the anticipations entertained up to the date of recent advices.

7. Relief works are increasing in extent and in number at various places. The laborers who attend these works are numerically considerable perhaps, but do not at all approach the numbers whom we expect to see employed if distress shall become general.

8. The comparatively greater attendance of laborers on these works is the only sign of incipient distress which is perceptible as yet. And it has not been yet found expedient to commence operations through relief committees anywhere.

9. Among the papers now forwarded there will be found much evidence on the part of district officers as to the activity of the grain trade in the interior of the country.

10. The supplies ordered by the Government of India from beyond sea are duly arriving. A copy is forwarded herewith of a letter* written by our direction, acknowledging the services of the British India Steam Navigation Company in carrying these supplies. The measures for storing and distributing in the interior of the country the stores, whether ordered by the Government of India or by the Local Government, are advancing under the direction of the Lieutenant-Governor.

No. 696, dated 27th December 1878, page 120.

11. Among the enclosures of the narrative there is an important letter received from the British Indian Association, written in compliance with our request that they would state the reasons and the facts which induce them to form an apparently more unfavorable anticipation than that which the official accounts warranted. The reasoning of the Association, proceeding from native gentlemen of so much experience, is highly interesting and important. In respect to facts, however, as observed by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Association rely mainly on the official reports, and do not adduce any counter facts at all, and hardly any new facts. This circumstance may be taken as a corroboration of the official reports. For if any evidence of an opposite character were obtainable, the Association would be in the best position to obtain it. We are not prepared to affirm the general propositions made by the Association, which indeed are very general in their terms. The possible grain resources of Bengal itself—that is the known exportable surplus of certain districts, such as the rice delta district of Backergunj, and even to some extent Orissa—do not seem to have been thought of in sufficient detail. As regards the stocks in North-Western India, the Association form a much less favourable estimate than that repeatedly given by the best native authorities in that part of the country. We are, however, considering most carefully and practically the arguments urged by the Association, and other cognate arguments, in order that we may be prepared to make immediately any arrangements which our well founded anticipations may dictate. And we hope by the end of the current month to be in a position to present a more complete estimate of our ultimate anticipation. Meanwhile our preparations for meeting a degree of distress which may be considered very high, according to experience of past famines in India, have been arranged and ordered, and are in course of active execution.

12. Your Grace will observe that the Appendix G* to the narrative contains confidential letters which were not complete as transmitted by the Government of Bengal and which we have completed.

* Page 115.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servants,

NORTHBROOK.
R. TEMPLE.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

SEVENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF THE DROUGHT IN BENGAL, FROM THE 19TH TO THE 31ST DECEMBER.

Under instructions from the Government of India, the periodical Narratives are now to be fortnightly instead of weekly, the present is the first fortnightly Narrative.

2. During the whole fortnight the weather in Central and Western Bengal has been clear and bright. The complaint that insects were doing great harm to the crops has ceased almost everywhere. There was very slight rain at Patna and in parts of the Chota Nagpore country on the 21st December, but the fall was not sufficient to affect the rain gauge or to do any appreciable good. On the 28th December a little rain fell in Behar and in one or two parts of the Rajshahye division; we have not yet heard exactly how far the rain extended. The amount registered on the several rain gauges is given in the margin as far as it is known. Letters from the Relief Commissioner's camp in Dinagepore speak of rain doing good, and of more rain being expected. From Sylhet and Gowhatty telegrams speak of slight rainfall only. The rain in Bhaugulpore and Purneah will do some good to the young spring crops; even the very light rain in Western Behar may do good and help the dews. In Seetamarhee the rain will do good, but there the breadth put down with spring crops happens to be smaller than in the south of the district. It is as yet too soon to say whether this rain makes a material difference to the general prospects of the year. The Lieutenant-Governor has every hope that we shall have a moderate spring crop, if the dews continue and if we have more rain. But the spring crop will not greatly improve the condition of purely rice tracts like Northern Tirhoot, Soopole, Dinagepore, and Bograh.

Rainfall of the 28th December.

Patna Station Barh „ Behar „	from 0·10 to - - 0·25	of an inch.
Arrah „ - - -	- 0·10	„
Seetamarhee in North Tirhoot -	- 0·50	„
South Tirhoot (about) - -	- 0·10	„
Bhaugulpore Station - -	- 0·35	„
Purneah - - - -	- 0·37	„
Julpigoreo - - -	- 0·15	„

3. There has been no material change in the state of the crops. The rice crop, which is now nearly reaped, has not turned out better than was expected at the time of the last Narrative, unless, perhaps, in parts of the Bhaugulpore district. The Magistrate-Collector speaks (see Enclosure 5) of the rice crop in places being better than had been expected; indeed, with the exception of the Soopole sub-division, where it is very bad, the rice crop of the Bhaugulpore district is now reported to be half of an average crop. From the other distressed districts no improvement can be reported in regard to the outturn of the late rice; but the spring crops appear to be still healthy in most places; only in some of the tracts north of the Ganges, where the total rainfall of the season was extraordinarily deficient, do they seem yet to have suffered much. Regarding the area put down with spring crops, no new information has been received. Copies of the rainfall and crops reports for the weeks ending on the 20th and 27th December are appended.

4. Prices are in some districts lower and in others higher than at the time of despatching the last Narrative. The fluctuation in prices has for the most part been comparatively small; in Mymensing the price of rice has risen from 16 to 14 seers per rupee; in Rungpore, from 15 to 11¼ seers per rupee; in Burdwan, from 15¾ to 14 seers per rupee; and in Calcutta, from 13¼ to 12 seers per rupee. These are the only serious rises of price during the fortnight. In the Patna and Bhaugulpore divisions there has been very little change in prices. In North Behar, where keen distress is anticipated, Indian-corn is nowhere dearer than 16 seers per rupee, and in most places it is considerably cheaper, and the south-east corner of Purneah is the only tract from which prices are reported to be as low as 10 seers per rupee for the food of the common people. Food is reported to be sufficiently abundant in the bazars everywhere, except in the Purneah tract aforesaid. The prices-current statements for the weeks ending on the 20th and 27th December are enclosed; it will be seen that nowhere have prices yet reached famine rates. A Native Inspector of Schools, who has just been on tour in Rungpore, reported to-day that his servants had been paying 3½, 4, and even 5 Rs. per maund (equal to 8 seers per rupee) for common rice; but it may probably be taken that the published prices-current represent fairly well the rates at which food in moderate quantities can be got at any of the larger marts in the district.

It is noteworthy that no unusual number of grain thefts or robberies is reported from any of the distressed districts. With future Narratives will be submitted, as per instructions from the Government of India, a table showing the number of thefts, robberries, and dacoities for each distressed district during the month, as compared with previous years.

5. A short note on the internal and external trade in food-grains has hitherto been added as an Appendix to the Special Narrative. It may not be out of place to give here a general outline of the course of the grain trade since 1st November.

The external trade first merits attention. Since November 1st up to December 30th, the exports of rice from Calcutta to ports other than Bengal ports have amounted to 920,482 maunds, while the imports from beyond Bengal have amounted to 68,969 maunds. Some 2,00,000 maunds of grain imported for Government have not been cleared at the Customs house. These imports consist almost wholly of Government grain; the exports are wholly on private account. From Chittagong there was exported between November 1st and December 15th 260,000 maunds rice and paddy to ports outside Bengal, while the imports were nil. During the same period some thousands of maunds were exported from the Orissa ports out of Bengal, but accurate returns up to date have not been received.

Of other food-grains the exports from Calcutta to non-Bengal ports were, between November 1st and December 30th, as follows:—

Wheat	- 99,766 maunds	Gram	- 54,864 maunds.
Pulse	- 86,687 „	Miscellaneous	13,000 „

Telegraphic advices show that export from Chittagong beyond Bengal still continues. Some 1,00,000 maunds were so exported between the 15th and 27th December.

The trade between Calcutta and Chittagong and the Orissa Ports is not external trade, as those ports lie in Bengal territory. The imports of rice into Calcutta from those ports have been, since 1st November up to 30th December, 151,601 maunds. Taking round numbers, 57,000 tons of food-grains have been exported by sea from this presidency against 10,000 tons imported up to the date of the latest advices since November 1st. Export is still going on briskly, but large Government imports are now arriving.

Next comes the internal trade to Calcutta. That port is supplied by the East Indian Railway with wheat and pulses. The Ganges also brings down small quantities of these grains; at this time of year the Nuddea rivers being closed, this Ganges traffic proceeds to Calcutta by way of the Gorai and the Eastern canals. Rice comes into Calcutta in large quantities from the districts on the south-west by the Ooloberiah Canal and the river Hooghly. It also comes in by boat and cart from the districts on the north-west. From the south-east, it comes in by various water-ways in small boats; but the largest supply is by way of the Eastern canals from the east. None of the three railways carries any rice to Calcutta. The East Indian Railway brought in 245,591 maunds of food-grains other than rice in November. Of the November arrivals, 62,814 maunds were from stations below Buxar, for the most part in the Behar Division. There passed down the Ganges between 1st November and 23rd December, 111,095 maunds wheat and 38,649 maunds gram, consigned from the Behar division to Calcutta. This trade found its way to Calcutta by the Gorai and the Eastern Canals. The Eastern Canals brought into Calcutta, between November 1st and December 30th, 8,86,000 maunds food-grains, chiefly rice. The supplies from other sources have not been registered.

Chittagong is supplied by boat from Noakhally, Tipperah, and Backergunge. The Orissa ports are supplied from their own neighbourhood by small boats.

Of other internal trade in food-grains, that on the East Indian Railway is most conspicuous. Since November 1st, this railway has poured large supplies into Behar both from Calcutta and from the North-West. The total consignments from the North-West Provinces and the Punjab to stations in Behar amounted, between the 1st November and the 20th December, to 4,22,486 maunds, while between November 1st and December and December 30th 8,05,100 maunds of rice were despatched to those stations from Calcutta. The stations in the neighbourhood of Calcutta have also despatched a good deal of rice to the stations in Behar. Chandernagore has sent 70,000 maunds since November 1st. Of this trade on the East Indian Railway a considerable proportion is on Government account. The total weight of grain carried into Behar by the East Indian Railway from both ends was thus about

13,00,000 maunds for November and the greater part of December, besides 4,00,000 maunds despatched from Howrah and Chandernagore in October.

At two places on the Ganges, the upward trade is registered—at Goalundo at the junction of the Ganges and Brahmapootra, and at Sahibgunge, where the hills of Western Bengal abut on the river. There is a small upward trade in rice past Goalundo. This trade dissipates itself in the districts between Goalundo and Sahibgunge. It amounted between 1st November and 20th December to 1,28,000 maunds. There is also a small upward trade, chiefly in pulses, past Sahibgunge. A very small amount of rice finds its way to Behar by this route at this time of year. The figures of this upward trade past Sahibgunge are, for the period between 1st November and 23rd December, pulses 1,05,000 maunds and rice 88,000 maunds. Both the rice and the pulses come chiefly from Moorshedabad and Rajshahye.

The operations of Government have developed a small trade in rice on the Eastern Bengal Railway from Calcutta to Kooshtea and Goalundo.

The consumption of food in these provinces is estimated to be over one million maunds a day, to which large total the amount of food moved bears a very small proportion.

The above is a review of the grain trade so far as anything definite is known of it. There is also much grain of which we have no information. We know nothing definite of the importations now said to be going on into the Rajshahye division.

6. Since the submission of last Narrative very large consignments of Government grain have reached Calcutta and the distressed districts. Nearly all the 1,50,000 maunds bought in Calcutta on public tender has been delivered and despatched up the country. Burmah and Madras rice is now coming in very rapidly; about 7,000 tons have been delivered up to date, and 4,000 or 5,000 tons more are now in the river. Appendix A. shows that during the fortnight under report 2,16,861 maunds of Government rice have been despatched from Calcutta to the distressed districts. Several ships, with Government rice from Madras, Burmah, and Saigon, have arrived during the last week, and as yet unloading and despatch from Calcutta by railway and steamer have kept pace with the arrivals. The first despatch yet made by river steamer left Calcutta during the fortnight, 20,000 maunds having been taken by river steamer from Calcutta to Kaleegunge and Chilmaree, in the Rungpore district, at the rate of 7 and 7½ annas per maund for the whole trip.

7. Exact figures of the arrivals of Government grain from Northern India are not yet available; but about 65,000 maunds of up-country grain (barley, peas, and wheat), had arrived in the Patna division by last accounts, and about 40,000 maunds in Bhaugulpore division: 12,000 maunds of rice, bought by the Commissioner of Rajshahye in the markets of Eastern Bengal, were on their way to the north of the Rajshahye division. The distribution of the grain to storehouses in the interior of the distressed districts is going on in earnest. By the last accounts about—

1,20,000 maunds have been despatched from stations on the railway to places in the interior of the Patna division.

1,10,000 maunds have been despatched from stations on the railway to places in the interior of the Bhaugulpore division.

85,000 maunds have been despatched from the stations of Kooshtea and Goalundo on the Eastern Bengal Railway to places in the Rajshahye division.

Special effort is being made to carry grain as quickly as possible to storehouses in the north of Chumparun, Tirhoot, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, Dinagepore, and Rungpore, where distress is likely to be worst, and to which the routes of access are least easy. Already reports have been received of considerable quantities of Government grain having been stored in the interior of the districts of Chumparun, Sarun, Tirhoot, Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, Rajshahye, and Dinagepore. The precise amounts which have reached their destination are not here given; but the stream of grain transport has now, after some difficulties and occasional stoppages, fairly and steadily begun, and we may hope that it will continue so long as the season remains favorable. The Commissioner of Patna reports that he can now despatch 60,000 maunds of grain to the interior weekly, and that he hopes to do more before long. The rivers are unhappily everywhere low; boats of small burthen only can ascend the inland rivers, and these boats cannot be had in sufficient numbers. The Patna Commissioner's last narrative (Enclosure 9), and Mr. Luff's log of his cruise in the "Flame" (Enclosure 10), advert to or exemplify the tediousness and difficulty of boat journeys this season. Both in Behar and in Rajshahye the local officers seem to be more and more disposed to trust to carts rather than boats for carriage to places off the very great rivers. It is remarkable how much the facilities for water carriage have fallen short of our expectation. On the 28th December the Commissioner of Patna wrote:—"I cannot get boats enough of the size necessary for the Gunduck voyage, and am sending all over the place for them. I hope to get some from Benares and from the Soane. We can only use on the Gunduck boats of 100 maunds burden."

8. Over and above the receipts of Government grain in the distressed districts, very large quantities of grain have been ordered and are actually being imported for estates under the Court of Wards and by Indigo Planters and others who have taken advances from Government for the purpose. The Hutwa and Durbhanga estates, which are in the heart of the distressed tracts of the Sarun and Tirhoot districts, are importing 1,00,000 and 1,20,000 maunds of grain respectively. Much of this grain is already arriving.

9. Places for storage of grain are everywhere being hired or built. In this matter there is no delay whatever; and the tendency is for officers to make their storehouses more numerous as they learn more of the state and prospects of the country.

10. At page 4 of the Narrative of the 21st December, it was stated that three lakhs of maunds of grain had been contracted for in Orissa at the comparatively favorable rate of Rs. 2¾ per maund delivered in Calcutta. The Commissioner of Orissa had been authorised to make agreements for the supply of a certain amount more, provided the sellers would put it down in Calcutta at the same rate and at an early date. He (the Commissioner of Orissa) has now reported that he has secured 1,27,000 maunds more Orissa rice, nearly the whole of which is to be delivered before the end of January. 25,000 maunds of wheat from the Nerbudda Valley have been arranged for at Rs. 2-11 per maund, inclusive of bags, but exclusive of railway hire to the distressed districts. This wheat will be consigned to Bhaugulpore; it is to be delivered in weekly instalments, and the last instalment is to arrive before the middle of February. This consignment will for the present take the place of certain grain bought through the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi, which is turning out badly, and regarding which correspondence is going on. The Commissioner of Dacca has notified the execution in Eastern Bengal of an order he had given for 20,000 maunds of grain before purchases were suspended; he has been instructed to send this rice in boats by the Megna and the Berhampooter to such marts in the Bograh district as the Commissioner may indicate.

11. So far as this Government is informed, the grain ordered or purchased up to date for the distressed districts of Bengal is as follows:—

Government of India's Orders.

	Tons.	Mds.
First order of 5,000 tons from Madras and 5,000 tons from Burmah - -	10,000	2,70,000
Second order of 40,000 tons to be purchased in Burmah up to the end of May, as per Government of India's letter No. 584, dated 13th December 1873 - -	40,000	10,80,000
Her Majesty's Secretary of State's order for 20,000 tons from Saigon and Hong-Kong, as per Government of India's letter No. 680, dated 25th December - -	20,000	5,40,000

Government of Bengal's Orders and Purchases.

	Tons.	Mds.
Bought in Calcutta up to the end of December	11,851	3,20,000
Ditto by the Commissioners of Divisions	11,000	2,97,000
Ditto from the Nurbudda Valley	2,407	65,000
Ditto do. Orissa	15,813	4,27,000
Ditto do. the North-Western Provinces through North-Western Provinces Government officer - -	5,481	1,50,000
Total	116,552	31,49,000

Out of this total about 70,000 tons will, it is believed, be in the hands of Government in this country before the end of January. Intimation * has been received from the Government of India that steamers carrying about 24,400 tons of foreign rice may be expected to reach this country before the end of January next; but it is believed that much of this quantity is a part of the 70,000 ordered by the Government of India as per the above table. So far as the Lieutenant-Governor is aware, the total amount of grain purchased and ordered up to date does not exceed 130,000 tons at the outside. The Lieutenant-Governor is now anxiously considering the question how much more grain he ought to ask for when the supply sanctioned up to the end of January shall have been completed; if the grain has to come from across the sea it must be ordered soon, for any grain that is bought must be delivered and stored in the districts before the rainy season sets in. Sir George Campbell hopes to submit his views upon this matter within a few days' time. Meanwhile he has submitted to the Government of India his view that the rice from Burmah or elsewhere ought all to arrive before the 10th May at latest, inasmuch as transport of grain to the interior will be almost impossible when once the rains have fairly begun.

* Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce Department letter No. 620, dated 18th December 1873.

12. Copies of the district narratives for the fortnight ending on the 13th December, and of the narratives furnished by the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore, are enclosed. From these reports the following general result may be noted here:—

A.—State of the Country.

Actual distress is reported from one part of Chumparun only, and the features of the reported distress are not yet fully known. It is said that actual distress will probably be felt in part of Tirhoot within a month; and from Bograh report has been received that prospects are now graver than was at first supposed. The people generally are said to be more hopeful than they were in November; and this hopefulness is in part due to the measures Government is taking. The fear is that, if prices keep low and private importations slacken from an undue confidence in the power of Government to meet all requirements, the result might be disastrous. The district officers are doing what they can to explain the intentions of Government as widely as possible; but it can hardly be hoped that the people will not exaggerate the importance of the action taken by Government. In the Burdwan and Hooghly districts only do the local authorities consider the early appointment of relief committees necessary; in these districts there is a large laboring population always little above a bare living.

B.—Relief Works.

13. In the Sarun, Monghyr, Tirhoot, Bhaugulpore, and Dinagepore districts, considerable bodies of men are employed on relief works. Elsewhere the number of persons on the relief works is small; scarcely any people are yet coming to the feeder roads prepared for their reception in the Northern Bengal Railway country. The great majority of the work-people everywhere belong to the ordinary laboring classes, who are very few in Northern Bengal. The returns of laborers are not complete, but in round numbers—

10,000 were daily employed in Sarun.
4,000 „ „ in Tirhoot.
5,000 „ „ in Monghyr.
3,000 „ „ in Bhaugulpore.
3,000 „ „ in the Rajshahye Division.

Correct returns of the laborers in each district will, in course of time, come in from the Public Works Department, but as yet the returns do not come in regularly.

14. Food is everywhere obtainable on the works, either from petty dealers who set up shops there, or at neighbouring markets. It has not anywhere been necessary to distribute or sell Government grain on relief works. Questions having arisen regarding the rates at which, and the circumstances under which, Government grain should be sold on relief works, and the Lieutenant-Governor has issued orders (Appendix B.) explaining that some discretion is left to Commissioners as to the price at which they may sell grain on works, but that, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, Bengal rice ought not to be sold cheaper than ten seers per

rupee, maize, barley, Burmah rice being sold proportionately cheaper. The Lieutenant-Governor was unable to accept a suggestion of the Patna Commissioner's, that the price of grain and the rates of wages on Government works should be varied from time to time so as to agree with the prices of food for the time being in the neighbourhood of the particular works. He prefers the plan of selling the Government grain at prices within the limit at which coolies on ordinary wages can support themselves.

15. Schedules of roads and other undertakings proposed for relief works have been received; and the preparation of roads and other works is everywhere going on. The Lieutenant-Governor deemed it right to draw attention to the fact that, while roads and waterways may be prosecuted as relief works from district funds and from such additional grants as the Government may from time to time make, tanks and other landed improvements must be done by landholders themselves from advances under the Act; while river embankments and water-courses must be brought under the new Embankment Act (VI. of 1873) in the regular way. He explained that, if it was necessary that tanks and such like works should be undertaken as relief works, and if it was clear that the landholders would not take advances for the purpose from Government, then the question of ways and means for such expenditure must be faced, and special application must be made. Meanwhile, Commissioners have discretion to proceed with such works if actual necessity arises. General attention has also been called to the Embankment Act, recently become law, and the district officers have been instructed to take steps for bringing the new Gunduck embankments under the law. Copies of the orders on these subjects will be found in Appendices C and D.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

16. Regarding private importations several local officers express a fear that their amount has decreased. The Magistrate-Collector of Shahabad explains that the prices now ruling in his district do not leave any margin for profit on importations from Calcutta. This is no doubt the case, but the prices in the North-Western Provinces are still much below Behar prices, and considerable private importations from the north still continue, as has been seen from paragraph 5 (above) on movement of grains. The planters of Behar are continuing to import considerably. Co-operative Associations have been formed at Moorshedabad and Pootea (Rajshahye district) for importing grain and selling it at cost price (see enclosure 11); at Pootea a general reduction of prices is said to have been thereby effected; the Government is giving and will give to such Associations any support it can. Certain zemindars of the Rajshahye division asked the Government to import rice for their estates and sell it to them at cost price; the Lieutenant-Governor considered that it would be better to refer these gentlemen to dealers in the Calcutta market, and to promise that the Government transport officers and appliances would give every help in forwarding any grain they might buy to its destination. As yet they have not given any orders to the Calcutta dealers. At Appendix G* will be found copies of the correspondence which has passed with the Government of India regarding the effect of Government importations on prices and in facilitating exports; these papers are appended to make the Narrative of the fortnight complete.

* Page 115.

17. The distribution of the Government grain to the storehouses in the interior, and especially to the remoter tracts away from railways and rivers, is perhaps the most important work we now have in hand, and it is engaging the most earnest attention of our officers. It may be well to offer here some brief details of the routes and modes of traffic now being tried. Taking the several districts in order, we have—

Patna.—This district stretches along the Ganges and the railway; storage of grain can be done easily here last of all. But a few thousand maunds have been sent by cart to store-houses in the interior; means of carriage are said to be ample, and there is no anxiety about this district.

Gya.—The different parts of this district are being supplied from the Bukterapore, Patna, and Bihta stations of the East Indian Railway. From the first-named station, grain goes on pack-bullocks to the eastern and less fertile parts of Gya. From the other two stations grain goes on carts by the Patna and Gya metalled road, and by unmetalled roads which are fairly good. As yet the despatches of grain to Gya have been about 35,000 maunds. The Lieutenant-Governor is somewhat anxious about the Aurungabad (extreme western) part of the district, and has asked the

Commissioner to consider how the wants of that tract can be most easily met. He has suggested supplies from the North-Western Provinces viâ the Grand Trunk Road.

Shahabad.—In this district depôts are arranged on the several works, and are to be supplied from five different railway stations. Grain has only now begun to be despatched to this district, most of which is very accessible, except only the Bhubooah sub-division, where distress is likely to be keenest, and to the requirements of which the Lieutenant-Governor has drawn very special attention. The tract will probably be supplied from the Grand Trunk Road.

Soane Canal Works.—The Superintending Engineer at present takes 5,000 maunds of grain a week, and carts it to store-houses as it comes.

Up to the present date there has been no block in South Behar, and the district officers are quite confident of being able to get quite as much carriage as they require.

Tirhoot.—The supply of this district is at once more important and more difficult than the South Behar districts. Grain is being despatched by three routes—namely, from Patna Ghât station by boat to Hajeepore, and thence by cart to storage places in the centre of the district; from Barh station to Chumpta Ghât by boat, and thence by cart up to Durbhanga, Mudhobanee, and Seetamarhee; from Monghyr station up the Kosee and Ghugree rivers to a place eight miles from Durbhanga, whence the grain is carried by carts into northern and western Tirhoot. A fourth route, the Chota Gunduck, which, in ordinary years, is navigable up to Rooshra, had to be abandoned because the water in the river was so low. As yet only 15,000 to 20,000 maunds have reached the Tirhoot district; as 2,50,000 maunds have to be stored there before the end of January, and the store-houses are mostly in the northern and north-eastern sub-divisions, the Lieutenant-Governor is not satisfied with the progress of grain transport in Tirhoot. He is aware that Mr. Bayley is doing what he can to secure greater progress, and he has begged that other matters may be postponed to the urgent necessity of getting grain up at once into the remoter tracts of Tirhoot. The district officers speak of abundance of carts being available, but the transport across the river and its sands causes delay, and as yet the stream of grain transport has not flown so largely into Tirhoot as the Lieutenant-Governor had hoped.

Sarun.—This district is situated on the river and within easy reach of the railway. 25,000 maunds have been sent to Revelgunge on the Ganges and to places of debarkation on the Gunduck, and is in transit on carts to the marts in the interior; more is on its way.

Chumparun.—Forty-eight thousand maunds have been despatched by boat to this district, chiefly for the Gunduck Embankment works. Some of this has begun to arrive, and a little has been moved on to storehouses on local works in the interior, but the transport by boat is very slow; it is difficult to get a sufficient number of small boats to carry all the grain that is wanted at the present season when big boats cannot move up the rivers; and the Commissioner is trying how it will answer to cart 10,000 maunds from the Ganges up to Chumparun, into which district 2,50,000 maunds have to be sent before the end of January.

Monghyr.—Transport is going on very promptly by cart from stations on the chord line and from Luckiserai into the parts of Jumooee, regarding which there is cause for anxiety. There is no hitch here. The despatches of grain to storehouses in the trans-Ganges sub-division of Monghyr has also gone on smoothly.

Bhaugulpore.—The parts of Bhaugulpore regarding which there is most anxiety are those far north of the Ganges. The magistrate has been able to send away across the river all the grain that has come to him, and by the middle of December more than 17,000 maunds had actually started from the river-side in carts for the extreme north of the district. The Magistrate-Collector expects to be able to carry all the supplies of Government grain without difficulty.

Purneah.—The district has drawn its supplies as yet entirely from the Sahebgunge station, and there has been a block at the ferry and station. The railway ferry steamer can only carry a limited amount of cargo, and for some days the Purneah carts could not even carry away that much. A special officer is now posted at Caragola and Sahebgunge, and he is getting the grain across in native boats as fast as he can. More carts also are collected to carry the grain from the Ganges into the interior. The Magistrate-Collector is going to essay the Mahanuddee route, and see if he cannot get up grain from Godagaree, by boat up to Barsooe, in the south-east of the district. As yet the Purneah grain transport arrangements are by no means complete.

Rajshahye Division.—The arrangements for sending grain to Maldah, Rajshahye, Dinagepore, and the North Bengal Railway works are all part of one scheme. Grain is sent by the Eastern Bengal Railway to Kooshtea, whence it is taken by Government steamer and flat and dropped at Dhaparee, Rampore, Beauleah, and Godagaree. From Godagaree it is carried by boat to Maldah and Raigunge; from Maldah and other marts on the Mahanuddee it goes by cart to Gazole, and from Raigunge the Khurbah depôt is supplied. Some 5,000 maunds were sent from Rajmehal by cart to Dinagepore, but that route was tedious and costly. From Goalundo the river route by the Oorasagor, Burrul, and Atrai was tried, and some 20,000 maunds have gone by that route. But the rivers are low, boats of the proper draught are few, and the papers herewith enclosed (enclosure 10) show the difficulties in the way. By making a transhipment depôt up the Oorasagor, this route will still be worked, but Major Lindsay has decided also to try two other routes, from Rampore Beauleah and Dhaparee, partly by land and partly by inland streams. From 60,000 to 70,000 maunds are already either stored in these districts, or are in boats on their inland waters, or in carts going up towards the northern store-houses.

Bograh.—This district is being supplied with grain purchased in Eastern Bengal, and sent up the Berhampooter in native boats. The requirements of Bograh have only lately become emergent, and its supply will be thrown in without great difficulty.

Rungpore.—Grain from Eastern Bengal and Calcutta is on its way to Kaleegunge and Chilmaree at the mouth of the Teesta, both by boat and by steamer. Part will be carried up the Teesta in boats to the ghâts opposite and above Rungpore; part will be carted to the store-houses in the interior from Kaleegunge. Carts and boats are being collected for the internal carriage; the district officer does not anticipate difficulty, but his arrangements have yet to be tested.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

18. Store-houses in most districts have been rented, or have been lent by zemindars at most of the places decided upon; at others store-houses are being built. The places at which, and the quantities in which grain is to be stored for each work, have for the most part been settled. If only we can get the grain to the sites selected, the store-houses will be ready.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

19. In Behar few zemindars have as yet come forward to take advances for landed improvements, and the planters had taken advances largely for grain purchases before the date of last Narrative. In Patna, however, three or four landholders have taken advances for making temporary wells for irrigation. In the Burdwan division the zemindars seem very anxious to effect landed improvements, and the Commissioner has received applications for Rs. 34,800 advances from one district alone. It is hoped that the money will be promptly given and well spent. Advances of money to zemindars who may desire to help their ryots with small loans have been authorised, but have not yet been made. At the instance of the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, the period for repayment of these advances has been prolonged to the end of 1875 (see enclosure 12).

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

20. No charitable relief has yet been organised, though in some districts small sums had been placed at police out-stations for succouring travellers or chance strangers who may be destitute. During the next month it may be necessary to form relief committees in some districts.

21. Hitherto the Government has not wholly recognised that the area of immediate distress extends beyond Behar and part of Rajshahye. During the last fortnight the Lieutenant-Governor has been induced, by reports which have reached him, to accept officially the fact that relief works will probably be required in parts of the Burdwan division, especially in the Burdwan and Hooghly districts, in parts of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and in part of Nuddea. Burdwan and the western districts possess, more than any other districts of Bengal, a large laboring population; the well-to-do ryots ordinarily keep farm servants; the epidemic fever of the last few years has reduced the morale and the vital energy of the people; and we certainly shall have to provide work and perhaps relief, in parts of Burdwan and

perhaps Hooghly. In part of the Sonthal Pergunnahs too there has been some failure of crops; the people are not rich, and the Commissioner considers works absolutely necessary in the north-western corner of the district. Nuddea was in 1865-66 the district of Bengal where the scarcity was worst; already there are threatenings of distress in the Meherpore sub-division, and the Lieutenant-Governor has been obliged to promise to aid the district committee when their funds fall short. The committee has very wisely arranged to spend their available funds on undertakings which will give the best work to the people of the tracts where distress is most likely to appear. The Lieutenant-Governor does not anticipate that any immediate distress in these districts will be as keen as it may be in parts of Behar and Rajshahye; but he has been obliged, to provide against the contingency of distress, to urge the preparation of sufficient works, to promise extra funds, and to grant these districts the most favorable terms for advances for landed improvements. If unhappily it should hereafter prove that grain must be imported into these districts by Government, such importation will be comparatively easy, for these districts lie upon railways, navigable rivers, and metalled roads. Copies of the Burdwan and Presidency Commissioners' reports will be found in enclosures 7 and *7a*.

Colonel Dalton's report upon the prospects of his division (enclosure 6) gives his view of the state of affairs after he had made a tour through Singbhoom, Maunbhoom, and parts of Lohardugga. The Lieutenant-Governor has the utmost confidence in Colonel Dalton's judgment and foresight, has accepted all Colonel Dalton's recommendations, and has suggested that very special steps be taken to promote importation of grain into Palamow, a tract which unfortunately suffered keenly in 1869. The way in which the villagers and headmen in the Singbhoom and Maunbhoom districts are prosecuting village works of improvement under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioners is most satisfactory. The Lieutenant-Governor has no anxiety for any part of this division except the Palamow Sub-division.

22. The Government of India has been pleased to attach two more Assistant Engineers and four more Public Works subordinates to Bengal, and they have been sent off to work in the distressed districts. The first batch of 8,000 tools from Madras is being landed; and it is hoped that, owing to the Chief Engineer's timely arrangements, all Commissioners will be supplied with as many tools as they want before the press comes on the relief works.

23. The Irrigation Department reports that 3,195 additional acres have been irrigated with Soane canal water, making in all 128,890 acres in the Shahabad and 8,365 in the Gya district. This is independent of the benefit done by letting Soane water into the Poonpoon Nuddee, whence some little irrigation is practised by the Patna ryots. The landholders along the new channels have, wherever water could be spared, filled their tanks with Soane water. Messrs. Thompson and Mylne, zemindars of Beheea, report that in this way about 2,300,000 cubic feet have been stored against the coming dry season. The daily number of laborers employed on the works has risen from 20,000 (paragraph 12 of last diary) to 26,951; most of the laborers are imported, and the Executive Engineer reports that "one-fifth are from the neighbourhood of the works where the people stand out for higher wages." Supplies of food are plentiful and tolerably cheap, about 12 seers for the rupee.

The work on the Gunduck embankment in the Sarun and Tirhoot districts employs 972 laborers daily. Land is being taken up for the upper embankment in the Chumparun district.

The Damooda water was let into the Kana Nuddee on the 27th December, but it is as yet too soon to hear what good it is doing to the crops; 978 laborers were employed daily on this work during the fortnight. On the Midnapore and Hidgellee canals the number of laborers is increasing.

24. The Lieutenant-Governor has recommended that a regular emigration agency should be opened in Calcutta for promoting emigration to Burmah, and has submitted a sketch of the establishment that would be required. The Magistrate of Sarun reports that many families have registered themselves as ready to emigrate if only their passage and expenses be paid, but it is not clear yet that these men are willing to go across the sea to Burmah. In regard to emigration to Assam, some correspondence has passed with the Landholders Association (Appendix E), in which the Association lay stress on the unsuitability of Hindustanee (Behar) coolies for work in Assam tea gardens. Reports have also been received from the Assam tea districts to the effect that the tea planters have mostly arranged for their supply of coolies for the present season, that they do not like paying Rs. 10 a head for

coolies who are only to be under a one year's engagement, and that in a dear year like the present they fear to add to the mouths they will have to feed, especially as during their first year coolies are not so useful as during their second and third years. It seems as if it would not be for the interest of the Behar emigrants or of the Assam planters to send men from the famine-stricken districts to the comparatively unhealthy gardens in the backwoods of Seebsaugor and Luckimpore. The Government will perhaps be able to comply with indents of planters in the more open districts of Nowgong and Durrung, where some of the planters are quite ready to receive Behar emigrants. Any other immigrants beyond the requirements of these two districts will find ample employment on the public works of Lower Assam.

The Deputy Commissioner of Julpigoree has requested that surplus population of the distressed districts may be settled in the Dooars below the Bhútan Hills, where there is ample waste land ready for the plough. He has been asked for details of his proposal, but for the present the Lieutenant-Governor is not prepared to recommend heavy expenditure in planting cultivating colonies of emigrants on Government wastes.

25. The Landholders' Association represented that delays in settling the waste land sale rules prevent tea planters from extending their industry and finding employment for immigrants to the extent they might otherwise wish. Their representation on this matter has been laid before the Government of India, to whom the waste land sale rules, as finally re-arranged under the orders of His Excellency the Viceroy in Council, were submitted on the 31st October last.

26. The Opium Agent reported that the poppy fields in Shahabad promised well; he recommended that the January advance on the expectations of the crop should be raised from Rs. 4 to 8 per beegah of poppy land; and he asked permission to extend the same concession to the opium ryots of other districts where the expectations of the opium crop were equally good. The Agent observed that the ordinary Rs. 4 advance always went, according to the custom of the country, to pay the zemindar's rent, and that the ryots would want some advances for themselves to carry them through the present hard season. The Board supported the Agent's proposals, to which the Lieutenant-Governor agreed. Seeing that the land is taken up by the opium crop, it is satisfactory, from a revenue point of view as well as from the ryot's stand-point, that the promise of the crop in Shahabad is so good as to warrant these extra advances. Report has not yet reached Government of the extent to which it was found safe to extend the concession to other opium districts.

27. By way of making the state of the food markets in Behar and Bengal known in distant marts, a weekly telegram of the rice prices is now sent from Calcutta to the Chief Commissioner of Burmah; and a telegram is sent every three days from Patna and Bhaugulpore to Allahabad giving the price of food-grains for publication in a daily newspaper there.

28. As Burmah rice, and especially "cargo rice" are not ordinarily eaten by the people of Behar and Bengal, careful experiments were made in cleaning, dressing, and digesting Burmah rice. The results (see Enclosure 13) were, on the whole favorable; and there seems no reason why Burmah rice should not become acceptable to the people of Bengal, when they are accustomed to its preparation and use.

29. Among the events of the fortnight may be reckoned the liberal offer made by the Ranee of Bobili, in the Madras Presidency, of 40,000 maunds of paddy for distribution in the famine districts. The Lieutenant-Governor has heard of the liberality with which Rajah Jotendro Mohun Tagore has directed the remission, not merely the suspension, of Rs. 40,000 out of Rs. 90,000 the rental for this year of his Midnapore estates.

30. Among special schemes which have been discussed during the fortnight for relief works, or for aiding the transport of grain, may be mentioned—

(*a.*) A new plan for leading a channel behind the old embankment on the Gunduck river; this scheme is distinct from that for making an irrigation channel behind the new embankment. This scheme is rather costly; but if it can be shown that it will answer for irrigation and navigation, the Lieutenant-Governor would be prepared to consider it. Meanwhile, the Engineers are investigating its merits as fast as possible.

(*b.*) The suggestion that a tramway should be laid upon the Gya and Mozufferpore roads to promote the speedy transport of grain, more especially during the coming rainy season. The Lieutenant-Governor has long had under consideration the great advantage to be gained by laying rails on the Gya road over which an enormous pilgrim traffic passes every year. The trade route from Seetamarhee and Mudhobanee in the Northern Tirhoot towards Hajeepore is in ordinary years very large, and might pay for the cost of a light railway.

The Lieutenant-Governor, however, had much doubt whether, by any exertions whatever, it would be possible to do anything in the way of laying rails on either of these roads in time to be of use during the present crisis. The matter seems to turn upon whether the Government of India can spare from its stock now in this country rails and rolling stock enough for either or both of these lines. If the material must be got out from Europe, the rails could hardly be laid before the autumn. The matter is now receiving very careful consideration at the hands of Colonel Dickens and Mr. Leonard. Behar could hardly have two more valuable boons than these two railways.

31. With Appendix F. to the third Special Narrative was submitted copy of correspondence in which the Committee of the British Indian Association offered their estimate of the prospects of the country and their views of the action Government ought to take. The Government of India was pleased to invite the Association to state the grounds of their belief that the prospects were more serious than the Government had supposed; and the Committee have furnished a full and careful statement of the case as it appears to them from the papers which have been published. The Lieutenant-Governor considers that a careful analysis like this, coming from gentlemen who have a very large interest in the land of Bengal, is valuable and entitled to weight; at the same time it will be observed that the Association had relied mainly on official intelligence, and had not laid stress on any special sources of information. The Association's letter will be found in Appendix G.

32. The suggestion made by this government that the transport of grain by the river steamers of the India General Steam Navigation Company should be promoted by Government paying part of the freight has, after some correspondence, been finally disposed of by the Government of India who have deemed it unnecessary to grant any such concession.

33. The British India Steam Navigation Company have agreed to lay an additional steamer on the berth between False Point and Calcutta, at reasonable rates of freight for grain, if the Government would provide a hulk whereon freight could be collected. Accordingly the Lieutenant-Governor has, after consulting the Master Attendant, directed that a hulk shall be hired at reasonable rates and taken down to False Point. This hulk, with the help of the Government hulk "Deva" and the Government flat "Ghazeepore," will be able to stow a full cargo of rice for one of the Company's steamers. The Company have been told of the arrangement which has been made, and asked to put a steamer on the berth as soon as they learn that the hulk is ready. As there was also much want of freight from Balasore and Chandballee to Calcutta, the Lieutenant-Governor has, at the Master Attendant's suggestion, put a Government brig, the "Guide," to carry rice supplied by Government contractors between Chandballee and Calcutta. She will be towed up and down the Hooghly by a Government steamer, and will charge the same rates as the S. S. "Celt" now on the berth. A small charge for warehousing on the flat at False Point will be made, but the charge will not quite cover the cost of the arrangement. The extra steamer and the "Guide" working continuously will, it may be hoped, be able to bring away to Bengal all the Government rice contracted for in Orissa, and also a good deal of private rice which has been bought for the Calcutta market. Without some help of this kind, it seemed doubtful whether the Orissa surplus could get to Bengal before the monsoon locks up the Orissa coast.

34. In some parts of the country there is already complaint that drinking water is scarce. The Lieutenant-Governor believes that, independently of the drought, this want of drinking water is one of the great needs of rural Bengal; even where water is to be had, its quality is often bad, and is one great cause of the bowel complaints which recent inquiries have shown to be so common in Bengal. At Appendix H. will be found copy of the orders in which the Lieutenant-Governor has drawn special attention to this important matter.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,
Additional Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 1st January 1874.

APPENDIX G. to foregoing Narrative.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

No. 605.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

To the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

SIR, Fort William, the 16th December 1873.

IN addition to my letter* of this date, conveying the general impressions which Lord Northbrook received on his journey to Calcutta, I am directed to make some further observations for the consideration and guidance of the Government of Bengal.

2. This letter is marked "confidential" in order that its contents may not be made public. In dealing with the difficulties before us, questions may arise upon which there may be some difference of opinion as to the precise action to be adopted, and upon such questions it is necessary that free official communications should pass between the Government of India and the Government of Bengal. At the same time it is very undesirable that such matters should be publicly discussed, and so an erroneous impression be conveyed to the public that the Government of India and the Lieutenant-Governor are not cordially acting together for the purpose of mitigating the effects of the scarcity. Lord Northbrook regrets to observe that some topics of this nature have already been publicly discussed, and he desires, as far as possible, to avoid this for the future.

3. Lord Northbrook has observed that in the resolution issued by the Lieutenant-Governor on the 3rd instant, which appears to be very well adapted to guide the officers who will have to supervise relief works, it is provided that rice or other food shall be sold to the people employed upon relief works when the market price rises higher than the rate of 10 seers per rupee.

His Excellency thinks that this rule may probably give a correct indication of the price of rice which in many parts of the distressed districts would show sufficient scarcity to make it desirable that the Government stores should be opened for the supply of people engaged upon relief works, or, in other words, that the wages of the labor so employed should be partly paid in grain. He understands, however, from the local officers that it may happen, especially in Behar, where rice is by no means the only ordinary food of the people, that the rate fixed may not be a good practical test. For instance, Lord Northbrook found, on recently passing through Shahabad, that while the general price of rice in the district was 13 seers per rupee it was 9½ seers in one small market in consequence of some accidental cause, and a like circumstance was mentioned to him by the Collector of Gya.

His Excellency is therefore of opinion that some latitude should be allowed to the local officers in acting upon this part of the instructions contained in the circular.

4. It appears to be very desirable that experiments should be speedily made in the use of Burmese rice, in order to ascertain how it can be best made palatable to people who are only accustomed to the use of the Bengal article. Mr. Levinge, who was in Orissa when the Burmese rice was introduced there, informed Lord Northbrook that it requires to be boiled twice in order to be brought to the same condition as Bengal rice.

His Excellency would be glad to have early information as to the result of any experiments upon Burmese rice which may be made in the places to which it has been sent. Its successful use seems to depend very much upon the care and management of local officers when it is first introduced.

5. Lord Northbrook would suggest, although the matter may have already been considered, that when laborers are drafted from a distance to the larger relief works apart from their families, some arrangement should be made whereby they may be able readily to send them remittances of cash.

6. An opinion was expressed to His Excellency that the enquiries made into the stocks of grain in the hands of traders have had a disquieting effect, as indicating some intention on the part of Government to interfere for the purpose of regulating prices. His Excellency is aware that officers have been instructed by Mr. Bernard's letter of the 19th November that their enquiries should not be in such detail as to be deemed inquisitorial, or tend to alarm the people, but he doubts if sufficient attention has in all cases been given to this warning.

7. In the latest famine narrative His Excellency observes the following paragraph:—

"The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore was told that if exportation was going on in his division he might fairly purchase in the local market so much as would practically put a stop to the export of grain. He, however, showed cogent reasons against the appearance of Government as a buyer in local markets, and the matter has been left to his discretion."

His Excellency is glad that the Commissioner has not entered the market with the object of checking the ordinary course of the local trade.

So long as the purchases which the Lieutenant-Governor has proposed to make, and which have been authorised by the Government of India, are incomplete, it will be open to His Honor to buy locally through the agency of the trade, if it should be considered desirable, with regard to prices and the state of supplies, to depart from the general course agreed upon, that purchases

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* Page 98.

should mainly be made from outside; but any purchases made, not on general grounds, but for the special purpose of preventing the free transit of grain from one district to another, would be contrary to the policy which the Government of India has enjoined, and likely to occasion very serious difficulties if allowed generally at the discretion of local officers.

8. I am to add that, while Lord Northbrook is satisfied with the precautions taken to meet distress in that part of the country where the crops have principally failed, he feels some anxiety less distress should break out in parts where there has been less or no failure, owing to the increase of prices and the consequent export of food grains. This consideration leads to the conclusion that the condition of all parts of Bengal requires careful watching, and that the whole of the available supplies should not be localized, but as the quantity of Government purchases at our disposal increases, part at any rate should be kept in reserve; and he is glad to observe from the Lieutenant-Governor's letter of the 6th instant that His Honor proposes to establish such a reserve.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. O. Hume,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 4119.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir, Calcutta, dated 23rd December, 1873.

I am desired by the Lieutenant-Governor to submit to the Government of India some explanations and remarks suggested by paragraph 7 of your letter No. 605, dated 16th instant, in which with advertence to certain instructions of this Government, you state that His Excellency the Viceroy is glad that the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has not entered the market with the object of checking the ordinary course of the local trade, and express the view of His Excellency that, while it will be open to this Government to buy locally through the agency of the trade, if this should be considered desirable with reference to prices and the state of supplies, it would be objectionable and contrary to the policy which the Government of India has enjoined that such purchases should be made for the special purpose of preventing the free transit of grain from one district to another. Your letter also notices that the general course agreed on is that purchases should mainly be made from outside the distressed districts.

2. The instructions of this Government which gave occasion to these remarks, as quoted by you from the narrative of 12th instant, were thus stated: "The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore was told that if exportation was going on in his division, he might fairly purchase in the local markets so much as would practically put a stop to the export of grain."

3. I am desired to explain that, in pursuance of the policy settled by the Government of India that grain should be stored to feed the laborers employed on relief works, it was arranged that the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore should procure, or the Government should procure for him, a certain quantity of grain for use on such works; and the Lieutenant-Governor's view was that, what he may call, the natural and primâ facie course under ordinary circumstances would have been to buy in the local markets, so long as those markets afford an adequate supply. Sir George Campbell considered that the resolution to import from more distant markets was a departure from the ordinary course, due to the apprehended local scarcity, and that a return to the local markets was not a special interference with free trade, but a return to the ordinary course of free trade. Now, it is quite certain that there has been a very considerable export of food-grains from the Bhaugulpore district. It seemed to the Lieutenant-Governor, if he may so express it, unnatural that while private dealers were exporting grain, we should be importing it to the same localities. In one of the Bhaugulpore Magistrate's letters it was gravely stated (whether truly or not the Lieutenant-Governor cannot say) that the cartmen were especially willing to carry Government grain to the distressed parts in the north of the district, because they expected to get return loads of grain to bring back from thence. This did seem to the Lieutenant-Governor to be a sort of reduction to the absurd.

4. The course, then, which the Lieutenant-Governor took was in his view simply this. He said in effect to the Commissioner: "You have authority to buy supplies of grain within certain limits; in the apprehension of scarcity in Bhaugulpore we had settled to get these supplies from a distance; but as it now appears that an export of food-grains is going on from Bhaugulpore, we authorise you to buy in the local market till you come to the point of price when your purchases have rendered it unprofitable to export." Sir George Campbell thought that, on the strictest principles of free trade, that was a fair and proper test, and he hopes that His Excellency the Viceroy and the Government of India will not deem that he has substantially departed from the course which they have enjoined.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor has thus particularly dwelt on this question not so much on account of its great importance as regards the particular case of Bhaugulpore, as because it opens a much larger question with respect to all Bengal and Behar. What was taking place in Bhaugulpore is, in fact, now taking place on a much larger scale in regard to the export and

import of grain by sea. Very large quantities of the food to which the people of Bengal are accustomed and which they like are now being exported, while smaller quantities of food, to which they are not accustomed and which they do not like, are being imported by Government. The ships taking away the rice of a Bengal cross in the Hooghly other ships bringing up the rice of Burmah and Saigon. The Lieutenant-Governor understands that there is now in the port of Calcutta a greater demand for freight for rice, and better prices are obtained for carrying away that article than for any other article whatever. Probably ships are the more readily obtained to bring foreign rice to Calcutta because they will obtain good freight rates for carrying away Bengal rice, following no doubt in this respect the same commercial instincts as the cartmen of Bhaugulpore.

6. Now Sir George Campbell must venture to say that, in this state of things also, there is to his mind something unnatural. These questions of high economy have not been left to his discretion, and he trusts that he is honestly carrying out the policy enjoined on him by the Government of India. But he confesses that he has great difficulty in seeing his way to use the discretion with which he is vested within that policy, so that his action should fully tally and harmonise with it, and there should be no effects not anticipated and provided for.

7. Looking to the greatness of the interests involved, Sir George Campbell thinks it right to state frankly that there has been growing in his mind grave apprehensions lest it should prove that the different parts of our policy in regard to the food supplies do not harmonise, and lest possibly, if things should turn out unfortunately, evil may result. To speak plainly, Sir George Campbell's apprehension is this. It has occurred to him that consistently to follow out the ordinary free trade laws of supply and demand is a course which has its advantages—very considerable advantages; that, on the other hand, to follow, under such emergent circumstances as the apprehension of very widespread famine, an opposite course—viz., to interfere with free trade by stopping the export of food-grains, securing the maximum supply which the country affords, and then importing as much more as possible and sending it to the places where it is most needed—that course has its advantages; and to his mind advantages more considerable than the other. His fear is that to follow a middle course, neither leaving things to the laws of supply and demand on the one hand, nor stopping the export of food on the other, may lead to this, that one set of forces militate against and neutralize the other, and we gain nothing whatever, but may rather lose on the whole.

8. When the Lieutenant-Governor first recommended the stoppage of exports he was, he admits, under the impression that we must trust principally to Burmah for assistance, and that the rise of prices would reduce Bengal exports to a comparatively small amount. He pressed again the prohibition of exports from Bengal almost as much in view to the moral effect on the people of this country as for the quantity of grain which it would secure. It turns out, however, that the export from Bengal is larger than he had thought possible. Taking the 1st November as the date from which active measures were commenced, it appears that from that date up to the latest dates for which we have returns, 40,559 tons of food-grains were exported from Calcutta and Chittagong to places beyond this Presidency, while about 4,500 tons were imported. From Orissa we have no exact returns to a late date; but if the export from thence has not been as large as at one time seemed probable, it has only been checked by large Government purchases. The exports above mentioned have taken place in the dull season of the year, before the new autumn crop has come into the market. At present the export from Calcutta is particularly active. There are now European ships in the river engaged, it is understood, to carry away about 20,000 tons, a quantity which will no doubt much increase as the season goes on; and it is estimated that in the next few weeks Arab and other country ships will carry away about 20,000 tons to the Gulf and other Asiatic ports.

9. It appears that there is every prospect that the quantity of food-grains exported from Bengal in the present season will very far exceed the whole quantity which the Government has arranged to import, and private persons have imported, or are likely to import. In fact the private import has been almost nil, and there is no likelihood that it will be considerable.

After all that is being done, the food supply of the country will be much less than if the Government had simply prohibited exports and had imported nothing.

10. The apprehension which has lately been growing in Sir George Campbell's mind is, that in truth the imports and arrangements to import on the part of Government may, by keeping down prices, have been a main cause of the export. He has begun to fear that it may be possible that Government imports without the prohibition of exports may do more harm than good. The imports facilitate and increase exportation by cheapening rice in the Bengal markets.

11. It is a well-recognized fact that in all these matters the action of Government has an effect quite disproportioned to the actual magnitude of its operations. Sir George Campbell has long believed that in the height of a famine the quantity of grain which Government could throw in, by allaying panic and bringing out private stores, eases the people and the country to a degree far beyond the actual food supplied. He has not the least doubt that, so far, the action of Government in respect of both the import from beyond sea and the import into distressed districts has had a very great effect in averting present distress and enabling the people to live. If we were so far advanced in the season that the end of the scarcity and the advent of fresh supplies could be foreseen with some certainty, this would be an unmixed good. But this is not now the case, and the very grave question arises, "if present comparative ease is attended with no increase of the general food supply of the country but rather by its diminution through

exports, may not the present advantage be purchased at the risk of future calamity, in case the need of the country should at any time get beyond the power of the Government to meet or allay?"

12. There then arises the question which has more than any other perplexed Sir George Campbell, and caused him extreme anxiety and doubt. According to the principle which he has suggested in the case of Bhaugulpore, the correct course would be to buy in the country till the price is such that export is unprofitable, Government imports being diminished in proportion. But while this may possibly be a practicable and a right course in regard to a single district situated as is Bhaugulpore, Sir George Campbell fears that it would not be possible, as regards the country at large, without producing great immediate suffering. The action of Government having, as before observed, an effect disproportioned to its actual extent, there can be no doubt that the attempt to make very large purchases in this country on the part of Government would have disturbed the market enormously and very greatly enchanced prices. It appears that the export trade is the last to be affected by mere enhancement of prices. Merchants have their orders for distant countries; in many of these countries rice is rather a luxury than a necessity; and freight and other charges remaining the same, the prime cost of the article less affects the whole price than in the case of consumers in this country. The exports would not be stopped by mere enhancement of prices without reaching prices which must cause severe famine in this country. Any effect of that kind the Lieutenant-Governor has hitherto striven to avoid; he has made purchases very carefully and thrown very limited demands on any particular market. He has not felt that it would be right to incur a certain present evil to avoid the risk of a future possible evil, even though it might unhappily turn out that this future evil is of far greater magnitude. But he feels that this is a most difficult dilemma, in respect of which he would be glad to receive advice and instruction from the Government of India.

13. Sir George Campbell thinks it right to state the doubts which oppress his mind on the question whether Government imports, unaccompanied by prohibition of exports, may not in the end do more harm than good.

Whatever we may say as regards our importing for relief works only, there is no preventing the people from entertaining a grateful belief that we are making arrangements to feed them in case of famine. So long as the general food supply suffices this is good; but if the result is that more is exported than is imported and the food supply eventually fails it will be a great evil.

14. The Government has not been able to obtain,—it is, the Lieutenant-Governor fears, impossible that it should obtain, reliable information regarding the stocks existing in the country. The Lieutenant-Governor must, however, say that the difficulty he has experienced in making very moderate purchases in any quarter except Orissa has caused him to be apprehensive that the reserves may not be large. It is hardly intelligible whence comes to Calcutta so much rice as is exported from that place. Certainly there cannot now be very large stocks about Calcutta; we have failed to find such stocks in the eastern districts; and if a large share of the crop now beginning to come in from the littoral districts is exported, it is hard to say what reserves we shall have.

15. The fear is lest the action of Government should beget a false confidence, lest confidence should beget large exports, and lest a catastrophe might follow later in the season. The Lieutenant-Governor still hopes that by the blessing of Providence this will be averted, but it would not be right that he should refrain from stating to the Government of India the doubts and apprehensions which he feels. His Excellency the Viceroy in Council will no doubt, on a review of the whole case, direct the machinery of Government for the best.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 710, dated Calcutta, the 30th December 1873.

From A. P. Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I am directed by the Governor-General in Council to acknowledge your letter No. 4119 of the 23rd December regarding the purchases of food-grain in the Bhaugulpore district.

2. The explanation given in the 3rd and 4th paragraphs of your letter regarding these purchases is regarded by His Lordship in Council as generally satisfactory. It appears that there were ample quantities of grain in the markets of the Bhaugulpore district, consequently there was no objection to this article being purchased locally. As the Lieutenant-Governor justly observes "the natural course, under ordinary circumstances, would have been to buy in the local markets, so long as these markets afforded an adequate supply."

3. But while communicating this general approval, His Excellency in Council must advert particularly to the effect of the instruction given by the Lieutenant-Governor to the Commissioner, as described in your 4th paragraph, namely, "we authorize you to buy in the local

market till you come to the point of price when your purchases have rendered it unprofitable to export."

4. I am to state that, in the opinion of His Lordship in Council, the view above stated is wrong in principle, as being an attempt to regulate prices and to interfere with the grain-trade, upon the activity and resources of which the food-supply of the people must mainly depend in event of scarcity occurring. It will doubtless be in the recollection of the Lieutenant-Governor that any attempt of this nature, whether the attempt be direct or indirect, is expressly prohibited by the instructions of the Government in India.

5. The Governor-General in Council now requests that the Government of Bengal will be good enough to take this opportunity of again instructing the local officers that they are to carefully abstain from interference for the purpose either of regulating prices or of preventing or checking the exportation of grain from one district to another.

6. I am next to advert to the concluding part of your 12th paragraph, where the Lieutenant-Governor asks for advice and instruction from the Government of India in respect to the purchases of rice in Bengal and Northern India to be made locally by the Government of Bengal. But the Governor-General in Council observes that the amount of these purchases has been, for the present, limited by the letter No. 3560, of the 6th December, and desires that the amount therein sanctioned may not be exceeded without previous communication with the Government of India. It is believed that local purchases have been or are being arranged fully up to that limit. If this be so, then further instructions do not seem to be necessary. But if in fact any purchases remain to be made within the limit, His Lordship in Council would be glad to receive a special report, on the receipt of which any instruction which might be required from the Government of India would be immediately given.

7. I am to convey the thanks of His Lordship in Council for the general remarks offered by the Lieutenant-Governor in your letter under acknowledgment on the subject of prohibiting exportation of food-grains by sea. But the information on which these remarks are based is, in several respects, evidently imperfect. And the Governor-General in Council deems it sufficient to state that the Government of India have no intention of altering the policy which has been already laid down, and which has received the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

8. The Governor-General in Council agrees with the observation in your 11th paragraph, "that the action of Government has an effect disproportioned to the actual magnitude of its operations;" and His Lordship in Council has noticed the influence on the people produced by the purchases of grain by Government. Great carefulness should be exercised in the explanation of the views of Government. The Governor-General in Council therefore requests that the fortnightly special narratives of the drought may not be published by the Government of Bengal until these papers, prepared in the form in which the local Government proposes to publish them, shall first have been submitted to, and approved by, the Government of India.

9. In connection with the general question of the purchase and distribution of grain, I am desired to call the attention of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to paragraph 3 of the letter from this office, No. 605, dated the 16th instant, relating to the principle on which the Government stores are to be used, and expressing some doubt as to the propriety of the ruling, that food is to be sold to the people employed upon relief works when the market price rises higher than ten seers for the rupee. This principle is of such vital importance, extending as it ultimately will to all the local relief committees, that the Government of India is anxious to know what general instructions the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to issue respecting it, in view to their being carefully considered and decided in conference with His Honor previous to publication.

10. Lastly, I am desired to ask for early information, in detail, as to what progress has been made in forming the Government depôts of grain, in opening the lines of communication with them, especially to the more isolated points of each district, in preparing the organization of relief committees, and in forming the best approximate estimate of the probable demands upon each relief centre.

No. 704.

From A. P. HOWELL, ESQ., Deputy Secretary to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

Agriculture and Horticulture. Famine.

SIR, Calcutta, the 30th December 1873.

I AM directed to draw the attention of the Government of Bengal to the fact that your letter No. 4119, of the 23rd December, was not marked "confidential," as it ought to have been, in as much as it was in reply to the Governor-General's letter No. 605, which was marked confidential.

2. I am to request that your No. 4119 may be duly marked confidential, and that great care may be observed in marking as confidential all letters which are of a confidential nature.

3. I am further to explain that the Government of India understands and expects that when a letter is marked confidential, it will not only be withheld from publication, but will also be made known only to those particular persons who may be necessarily concerned to know it.

4. Such letters will of course be placed on record, but will be recorded in a manner consistent with the observance of the precaution just mentioned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. P. HOWELL,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 696, dated the 27th December 1873.

From A. O. HUME, ESQ., C.B., Secretary to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, to MESSRS. MACKINNON, MACKENZIE, AND CO.

With reference to the telegram from Mr. Mackinnon, of the 7th instant, and the subsequent correspondence that has taken place on the subject between this office and your firm, I am directed to convey to you the cordial acknowledgments of the Government of India for the very liberal concession made by the British India Steam Navigation Company to facilitate importation of rice into the distressed districts of Bengal.

2. This communication will be reported to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

No. 3 OF 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To His Grace the Right Honorable the DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD DUKE, Calcutta, the 9th January 1874.

IN continuation of our previous despatches regarding the drought in Bengal, we desire to report the progress of affairs during the past week.

2. The winter rains have not yet fallen; there have been partial and slight showers in some of the Behar districts, but not enough to do any real good.

3. The spring crops, on which attention and hope are now fixed still continue to promise well in most districts. In some districts, however, they begin to show signs of withering. And everywhere they stand absolutely in need of rain within the next fortnight.

4. Prices are slightly rising in many places. On the whole, the anticipated tendency to rise of prices is generally manifesting itself.

5. It is now nearly certain that at the best there must be distress for several months in portions of Behar, especially in the populous district of Tirhoot. The extent of the area of distress will be enlarged or contracted according as rain may be vouchsafed or withheld during the next fortnight. At the worst, the distress may extend over many parts of the whole Behar Province, and may break out in some parts of the Bengal Province.

6. We trust that our arrangements for importation of rice from beyond sea, together with the amount already purchased in India, will be found adequate to meet the worst of the contingencies above stated. Quantities are coming in regularly by steamer: 24,000 tons have already arrived at the port Calcutta, and 25,000 more will arrive before the end of the current month.

7. Our immediate attention is being given to the transport of the Government supplies of grain into the interior of the country. The railway carriage will, we trust, prove adequate for all demands, whether by the Government or by private trade. It certainly will meet fully the requirements of Government grain transport We wish we could express a similar confidence in the sufficiency of the country carriage in land, which is being arranged for by the district officers under the direction of the local Government. We have not yet been able to obtain from the local Government such information as would enable us to form an accurate

judgment on this very important point. We have repeatedly from time to time since November last drawn the Lieutenant-Governor's attention to this subject. And we have again forcibly impressed on His Honor the importance of timely arrangements being made. We hope soon to have more specific assurances than we possess at present. The Lieutenant-Governor has now accepted the offer which we made some time ago of assistance from the Commissariat Department. And we have accordingly arranged for such assistance being immediately rendered.

8. The time has now come for calling into active operation in some districts the organisation of relief committees. This organisation is not indeed so fully or completely advanced, throughout the districts affected, as we had hoped to find it by the present date. But the attention of the local Government has been urgently drawn to this matter also.

9. We have ordered preliminary measures only to be taken for constituting a central relief committee, as after consulting the Lieutenant-Governor we have decided to postpone for some few days an appeal to the public for subscriptions, that is, until distress has begun to declare itself to some appreciable extent, which is not the case at present.

10. We still await the receipt of a general report from the local Government of the relief works proposed in the several districts. These works have been commenced in several places; but nowhere are they largely attended save in the Sarun district.

11. Large numbers of laborers are employed on the Soane canal, but most of them belong to those classes who would seek this kind of employment under any circumstances. We have authorized the immediate commencement of the western main branch of this project, in addition to the portions previously undertaken. The Gandak embankments and also the Northern Bengal State Railway works are proceeding gradually, being attended only by those whose regular profession is labor. It was at first feared by us that the scantiness of the winter harvest would greatly diminish work in the fields, and so throw much labor out of employ. This fear, happily, seems not to have been realised.

12. We have now finished our considerations of the projects for light railways or tramways between Hajipur on the Ganges opposite Patna, and Mozufferpur, the capital of Tirhoot district, and between Patna and Gya. But after consulting the Lieutenant-Governor, we find that either the work could not be done in time, or that it would occupy resources needed for other operations relating to the scarcity, or that it would not subserve the purposes of relief. We therefore fear that these projects cannot advantageously be undertaken.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servants,

NORTHBROOK.
R. TEMPLE.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

No. 5 of 1874.

Government of India.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

Famine.

To His Grace the Right Honorable the Duke of Argyll, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Duke, Calcutta, the 16th January 1874.

We have the honor to forward the special narrative of the drought and scarcity in Bengal for the fortnight ending the 15th January, together with its enclosures.

2. Since our despatch of the 9th current to your Grace, on this subject, there have been slight and partial showers at some places in the Patna, Bhaugulpore,

and Rajshahye divisions. Some benefit will be produced, but the general prospect of the spring harvest has not materially improved. In some parts of the districts concerned this prospect continues fair, in other parts it is indifferent and even bad.

3. In the districts of the North-West Provinces and Oudh which adjoin Behar, there has been some rain; and excepting only the southern portion of the Mirzapore district, no apprehension seems now to be felt of any general distress in that quarter.

4. There has been a slight increase of prices in some places.

5. Some distress is manifesting itself in Northern Behar, and the Commissioner of Patna reports that, as we had anticipated, the distress in North Tirhoot will be severe. Excepting in Sarun, where the Lieutenant-Governor has enjoined increased activity on the part of the local officers, the relief works are reported to be sufficient to meet the existing demand.

6. In respect to supplies of grain for relief works and relief operations, we have made arrangements to secure such supplies arriving in Bengal and Behar from month to month, in quantities sufficient to meet the highest estimates that have been made of the demand for these important purposes. Among the enclosures of the narrative will be found the confidential letter from the Government of Bengal on this subject of the 5th current. We take this opportunity of appending the confidential letters addressed to that Government in reply, bearing date 6th and the 12th current.

7. We have engaged an adequate amount of steam tonnage for the service relating to these supplies, for the months of February, March, and April, and we shall be able to engage similar tonnage for the months subsequent to April.

8. We have received additional evidence of the ability of the railway companies to carry the daily quantities of grain likely to be despatched by Government in addition to that which will be sent by the trade.

9. The activity of the trade is shown by many of the facts mentioned in the enclosures of this narrative. And the condition of the local money market affords further proof to the same effect.

10. We are not yet free from the anxiety expressed in our despatch of the 9th regarding the conveyance of the Government rice into the interior of the districts. The Lieutenant-Governor expresses confidence in the sufficiency of the means at the disposal of the local officers to distribute the supplies to the extent of the allotments among the several localities. We trust that this confidence may be justified by the result. Despite the efforts which have been made by the local Government and its officers, considerable accumulations of grain still exist at several of the railway stations awaiting transport into the interior. The enclosures of the narrative show that the Lieutenant-Governor is fully alive to the importance and urgency of the matter. Before proceeding further we await the receipt of the detailed returns relating to this subject which we have called for.

11. We hope soon to hear of relief committees having been formed and being in active operation wherever required. We await the submission by the local Government of the rules under which the work of these committees is to be conducted. The final preparation of these rules will be expedited.

12. We enclose a copy of the record of the proceedings at a conference which we held with the Lieutenant-Governor on the 8th current.*

* Page 147.

13. It has been thought advisable to encourage Zemindars to assist their people during the scarcity, and we have notified that in cases where the Zemindar may be in temporary difficulty from rendering such assistance, the land revenue demand may be postponed for a time. A copy of our letter to the Government of Bengal on the subject is appended.*

* Page 154.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servants,

NORTHBROOK.
R. TEMPLE.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
ARTHUR HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

CONFIDENTIAL.

EIGHTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF THE DROUGHT IN BENGAL, FROM THE 1ST TO THE 15TH JANUARY.

THE weather has been for the most part cold and bright, colder than is usual even at this time of year, but it has been varied by a short change to unusually warm weather accompanied by showers in some parts of the country, after which it has again relapsed into clear cold. When the last Narrative was despatched intelligence had just been received of a slight rainfall in Behar on the 28th December. This rainfall extended to Northern and Eastern Bengal as noted in the margin. There was again a better fall at Patna on the 12th instant amounting to ·39. No intelligence has been received of this rain having extended elsewhere in the Patna division, but on the 12th there were slight showers at Monghyr and Bhaugulpore amounting to ·06 and ·07 inches respectively. At Burhee it drizzled on the afternoon of the 12th, and at Purneah they had an occasional drizzle on the same date. As there was rain at Dacca and Furreedpore (·19 and ·35 respectively) on the night of the 12th, and at Goalpara on the morning of the 13th, there is some hope that the fall may have extended into Northern Bengal. As this Narrative goes to press intelligence is received by telegraph of slight rain having fallen in Tirhoot, and at Arrah at the same time. These falls do not amount to much, but at the present crisis it is some satisfaction to be able to record that there are even indications of rain. The latest accounts of the spring crops show that they are still clinging to life. Where considerable rain has fallen they have of course been to a great extent saved for the present. A little rain goes a long way with these crops. The Collector of Patna considers himself safe of getting an outturn of half of an average year, and with a few more seasonable showers he will do better still. Generally in Southern Behar the aspect of affairs, so far as the spring crops are concerned, is still hopeful. In the north of the Patna Division, however, the prospects are still very unfavourable. Much has been done by petty irrigation in Sarun and Patna, and by canal irrigation in Shahabad and Gya. In the Bhaugulpore Division the accounts of the spring crops are still very hopeful.

Dinagepore - - -	·32
Maldah - - -	·24
Rajshahye - -	·01
Rungpore - - -	·88
Bogra - - -	·88
Pubna - - -	·08
Julpigoree - - -	·15
Mymensingh - -	·66
Sylhet - - -	·07
Cachar - - -	·89
Tipperah - - -	·12

There seems reason to fear that in parts of the Patna Division distress is approaching. The last accounts, however, do not show that it is rapidly increasing. In Sarun "the numbers on relief works are increasing." In Chumparun people "are largely employed on relief works." In Tirhoot there is "distress in some villages." From other distressed districts the condition of the people is still reported to be good. The crop returns for the weeks ending January 3rd and January 10th are enclosed. (Enclosure 1.)

2. Prices of common food-grains have changed very little during the fortnight under report. In some districts there has been a rise and in some a fall, and the number of districts which show a rise is somewhat larger than those which show a fall; so that, though prices have on the whole slightly risen, they have not yet by any means reached famine rates. In some districts of Behar they are higher than they appear to have been in January 1866; in others they are lower.

The prices-current returns* for the weeks ending January 3rd and January 10th are enclosed, as well as a table comparing the prices ruling in December 1865 with those ruling in December 1873: it should be noted that we are not very certain about the accuracy of the quotations of 1865.

* Enclosures 2 and 3.

The export of rice from Calcutta and Chittagong continues as brisk as ever. It is said that prices in London will not longer admit of its being sent to that port profitably. It is satisfactory to find that the East Indian Railway is still pouring in supplies of food into Behar both from the North-West and from Howrah. The operations of Government do not seem as yet to have greatly deterred private parties from entering the grain trade so far as the railway traffic shows. The total export of food-stuffs from Bengal to places beyond sea since the 1st November now amounts to 78,500 tons, and the imports from beyond sea to 22,900 tons, of which almost the whole was imported on Government account. Wheat still continues to be exported from Behar. The following extract from the last report under circular

No. 70, from the Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs, shows how the districts in the neighbourhood of Calcutta become depleted for foreign export:—"But whatever the actual amount of the stocks may be, the Assistant Collector of Diamond Harbour thinks it certain that it is smaller now than at this time last year, and for the reason which I have already given in an earlier part of this report, viz., that the high prices are tempting the ryots to convert a larger quantity of their paddy than usual into atop or unparboiled rice for exportation.* The high prices," he remarks, "are present and certain, the scarcity of food is prospective and uncertain, and as with the ignorant and thoughtless the good at hand always outweighs the evil in the future, the cultivators are selling off all their stocks of grain at high prices for export without keeping a sufficient stock in hand for home consumption."

* Note.—Ryots parboil before husking rice intended for their own use.

A note on the movement of food-grains is added in Appendix A.

3. On Thursday, the 8th January, His Excellency the Viceroy held a conference at Government House, and the present position of the Government as to transport of grain into the interior, as to the establishment of relief committees and relief centres, was discussed. A memorandum on certain points was hurriedly prepared by the Secretary to this Government for His Excellency the Viceroy, who wished to have it the same day on which the request was made. The facts were there stated so far they could be given from the latest reports and returns available the day before the conference; but the information then available in a precise form did not, except for a part of the Bhaugulpore division, give the facts to any later date than the 27th December, the date of the last fortnightly Narratives submitted from each district to Government, as previously arranged. The information since received and embodied in this narrative and its enclosures, is drawn from later and fuller reports, which were on the 8th January either in the post or being prepared in reply to the inquiries made by this Government in the beginning of January. "Two letters dated the 12th January, conveying the orders of the Government of India on the subject of grain transport and of relief committees, will be found in Appendices D. and F."*

* Pages 138 and 144.

4. In previous narratives it has been noted that the Government of India had sanctioned a supply of Government grain up to the 31st January 1874, up to a limit of 18,75,000 maunds, and it was subsequently explained that the total provision had come up to 19,25,000 maunds. Out of this total 15,00,000 maunds were allotted to districts and 4,25,000 were held as a reserve, a course which the Government of India approved and emphasised. On the 5th January the Lieutenant-Governor addressed to the Government of India a confidential letter (Appendix C.),* asking that a further supply of—

* Page 184.

(a.) 75,000 tons of grain, to be pushed forward as fast as possible to distant distressed districts during the three months commencing 1st February.

(b.) 150,000 tons, to be provided in the same period as a reserve to replace the vacuum caused by exports from Bengal to beyond the sea.

(c.) 75,000 tons, to replace exports from Bengal to Behar and the North-Western Provinces.

Total - 300,000 tons.

On the 6th January* the Lieutenant-Governor was informed by a confidential letter that the additional 75,000 tons (and more than that quantity) had already been arranged for from beyond the sea, which makes, with 30,000 tons provided to the end of January, a total of 110,000 tons on which the Government may calculate; a subsequent confidential letter of the 12th* January informed the Lieutenant-Governor that arrangements had already been made for a reserve over and above the 110,000 tons promised to the Government of Bengal from beyond the sea, and that additional precautions would be taken as circumstances seemed to require.

* Page 137.

* Page 137.

5. On receipt of the letter of the 6th January, the Lieutenant-Governor arranged for allotting to districts so much of the reserve grain (4,25,000 maunds) that had not been previously* assigned; and he issued a notice (see letter No. 61 of the 9th January 1874, Appendix E.) to local officers that more Government grain would be supplied, and that each necessitous district might expect to receive during

* Note.—A part had been already allotted at the Commissioner of Patna's instance.—See enclosure No. 12.

the next three months (February—April) at least as much more grain as had been given in the January allotment.

6. The total January supply of 19,25,000 maunds will be contributed from the following sources, namely—

From the North-West Provinces and the Central Provinces direct into the Behar districts - - - - -	4,44,000
From Eastern Bengal direct into the Northern Bengal districts - - - - - - -	80,000
From Calcutta, either Bengal, or Orissa, or Saigaon, or Burmah, or Madras rice - - - - -	14,01,000
Total -	19,25,000

Regarding the first two sources of supply, the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that almost [*] the whole quantity will reach the distressed districts and will be more or less forward towards store houses in the interior. Actual returns of the amounts delivered out of these outside supplies have not been received, but the control of these supplies is in the hands of the Commissioners, who report that the whole will be delivered during and before the end of January, and the Lieutenant-Governor is satisfied that such will be the case.

7. In regard to the Calcutta supply, the Calcutta grain officer's statement (Appendix B) shows that 8,39,778 maunds of Government grain had been despatched from Calcutta to the distressed districts up to Tuesday, the 13th January, and that 3,92,910 maunds had been despatched since the date of last narrative. Up to the same day Government grain had been received in Calcutta from across the sea to the amount of about 27,000 tons.[*] During the last ten days rice from Burmah and Saigaon has come into Calcutta more quickly than it could be sent up-country; and convenient places of storage have been arranged for on the East Indian Railway Company's premises at Howrah alongside of the rails.

8. The Saigaon rice, several thousand tons of which arrived within a week, was all packed in bags made of plaited straw; many of these bags had burst on the steamers and all the grain had to be rebagged. About one thousand tons of this rice is being packed at Kooshtea, and the rest is being rebagged at Calcutta. Some extra cost will be incurred for landing and rebagging this Saigaon rice; but the amount per ton will not be very large, and the Calcutta grain officer will, he is fairly confident, be able to unload all these large Saigaon steamers quickly enough to save all charge for demurrage, except perhaps two or three days demurrage of one steamer. The rebagging cannot however be done on board the steamers, as the time allowed for the steamers' stay in port does not admit of this being done. The Government jails are manufacturing one-maund bags as fast as they can, and they hope to give up 200,000 bags a month. The rebagging in Calcutta will be done as far as possible in the one-maund bags, which are more convenient for inland carriage than the ordinary two-maund bags.

9. The Saigon rice is being experimented on as to the best mode of cleaning, cooking, and digesting it. Reports of all the experiments have not yet been received; but so far as information is available, this rice contains about 14 per cent. of quite useless husk, besides 14 per cent. of broken but edible grain. This is a larger proportion of husk than was found in the Burmah cargo rice; but, on the other hand, the Saigon rice is said to be more digestible for Bengalees than the Burmah rice.

10. Towards the end of the fortnight under report there was a block of grain wagons at the Patna ghât station of the East Indian Railway. This was at first due to excess arrivals of Government grain, and when the Government grain had been cleared away there was a block of private grain. One result of this block was, that on the 10th January there was deficiency of wagons for despatch of grain from Howrah. The Government establishments at the Patna stations have been strengthened, and the Agent of the East Indian Railway has promised that as many wagons as the Government here requires, and as its officers up-country can unload and dispose of, shall be forthcoming at Howrah. Other arrangements are under consideration for expediting the traffic at the Patna stations.

11. Quite accurate returns of the despatches of grain to, and of the arrivals in,

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[*] The only doubtful item is 10,000 maunds of Nerbudda valley wheat.

[*] The invoices for some of the arrivals are not yet to hand, so that the quantity cannot be precisely stated. Some of this rice has not yet been passed through the custom house books, and thus the figure here given exceeds the total imports shown at paragraph 2 above.

the interior of the distressed districts have not yet been received, up to the most recent date, the fortnightly statement only now becoming due, weekly returns on this matter have, however, under the orders of the Government of India, been called for (see Appendix E). But from various reports and notices we Appendix E. now know generally what the local officers' arrangements and preparations are, and at Appendix D will be found a letter and memorandum (dated 14th January) from this Government showing to what extent the local officers are or * Page 140. may be expected shortly to be working the local transport of grain.* The totals there shown are very large, namely—

Patna Division	1,69,000	maunds weekly.
Bhaugulpore Division	1,05,000	„
Rajshahye Division	60,000	„
Total	3,34,000	

The Lieutenant-Governor has little doubt but that the whole of the original supply of grain to the end of January, and most of the additional amount lately allotted from the reserve, will be either stored in, or in transit within, the distressed districts by the 31st January.

12. Paragraphs 29–30 of the Patna Divisional Narrative (enclosure No. 8), however, represent that the exertions of Government officers in drawing out all available means of carriage have operated to the hindrance of the local private trade. Private importers, Mr. Bayley writes, have to incur demurrage charges and disappointment, because they cannot hire boats and carts to carry away their grain. The Lieutenant-Governor fully believes that the strenuous efforts of the local officers in drawing together all available means of transport will have been of great use to the country; but he thinks that the Government grain should not monopolise the means of transport which have been brought together, and that room should be left for private importers. The Commissioner has been instructed (see Government letter No 115S.R., enclosure No. 8) to use his discretion in acting in the way he thinks best on the instructions conveyed in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Government letter, No. 10S.R. of the 3rd January (see Appendix E). The paragraphs were as follows:—

"7. While the Lieutenant-Governor thus calls for the strenuous exertions of the local officers to obtain sufficient carriage, and to transport supplies to the more distant tracts not reached by private enterprise with sufficient rapidity, he would also remind them that a great work of this kind, to be done on a large scale, requires discretion as well as energy. Such service as is required of cartmen and others, will not be well done by unwilling men; rough attempts to press carriage indiscriminately may do more harm than good by diminishing the public supply and putting a stop to private supply. Every endeavour should be made to obtain willing and efficient carriage. As before observed, contract rates of transport would be best, but, when necessary, carts and boats may be hired for a period.

"8. At the same time it must be particularly borne in mind that one great object must be to interfere with private trade as little as possible. Wherever private traders or other private persons are importing, or are willing to import, with or without advances, it will always be better to let them do so by preference, and to obtain the Government supplies through them. It is principally for remote tracts where private enterprise fails that, for so much supply to laborers and relief-houses as it may be necessary for Government to undertake, regular transport trains or other means of carriage must be organised."

The Lieutenant-Governor trusts to the discretion of the Commissioners to limit the weekly Government despatches of grain along routes on which there may be hope of a thriving private grain trade. Sir George Campbell fears that for the north of Chumparun, for Dinagepore and part of Purneah, private trade cannot be trusted to do much. For the north and north-west of Tirhoot, too, and for the north of Sarun, private trade cannot, it is apprehended, be expected to do nearly all that is required.

13. As the Lieutenant-Governor has said, he has much cause to be satisfied with the energy and success of the Behar officers in calling out really large means of carriage at a comparatively short notice: The difficulties in the way of rapid transport are much greater in the Rajshahye division, but there, too, the Lieutenant-Governor does not anticipate failure. Boat transport in shallow inland waters is (as pointed out in paragraphs 15–18 of the Patna divisional narrative, enclosure

No. 8) very slow at this time of the year; yet boats are the ordinary and by far the cheapest carriage of the country in the Rajshahye division; and it is only when the water routes have been found too slow, that the local officers have begun to open cart routes on a large scale, and to organize a large number of carts and bullocks. The Lieutenant-Governor must himself say that, two months ago, he himself would have been disposed to trust mainly to water carriage for the transport of grain into the interior of Rajshahye; he is glad to say that the local officers have, under the instructions of Government, done their utmost to essay all routes, but it is now clear that cart and bullock transport will have to be largely employed, and that we cannot trust wholly to the water routes. It is satisfactory that the grain transport began and was pressed on early enough in the season to enable the Rajshahye officers to organise and work cart trains when the water routes proved inadequate. At the same time though the water routes are slow, yet they are cheap; and Mr. Molony (Commissioner of Rajshahye) has, in his most recent letter (9th January) upon the subject, assured the Government that he is going to keep all the water routes working at the same time that the land routes are also fully utilised. The failure of the water routes has at any rate more than ever convinced the Lieutenant-Governor of the great need of the Northern Bengal Railway.

14. Among special measures taken to improve facilities for transporting grain may be mentioned—

(1.) The Government river steamer "Koladyne" has been sent to help the "Teesta" at Kooshtea. The "Teesta" has proved too weak for the duty required of her, and native boats take from 12 to 15 days to go up-stream from Kooshtea to Godagaree; with help of the "Koladyne" the work of crossing grain from Kooshtea to the river side depôts in the Rajshahye district should proceed more rapidly.

(2.) There has been some delay in providing the hulk required (see paragraph 33 of the Seventh Narrative) for False Point. But the Master Attendant writes on the 14th that a hulk has been engaged, and will be at False Point by the 21st. The British Indian Steam Navigation Company have been requested to put an extra steamer on the berth at once. The Government brig "Guide" has reached Chandballee in Balasore, and was to leave yesterday, the 14th, with a cargo of Government grain for Calcutta.

(3.) Mr. H. Hankey, formerly Acting Commissioner of Chittagong, has been appointed to inspect grain transport arrangements, and has taken up his duty at once. On the 12th current, the day after he received notice of his appointment, a letter was received from him showing that he had already reached Rampore Beauleah in Rajshahye. Copy of the orders assigning him this duty has been separately submitted for the orders of the Government of India.

15. Up to the date of last Narrative only in some districts had relief committees been formally appointed, but district officers had been instructed to make preparations, and to organise local committees whenever the necessity appeared, and had a discretion given them to afford relief in any isolated cases of distress that might come under their notice. The Lieutenant-Governor was not desirous specially to press officers to undertake the final formation of committees so long as distress did not seem to be actually pressing, and while they had so much heavy and urgent work to do of other kinds. In anticipation, however, of the early need of such measures, the Lieutenant-Governor instructed Mr. Geddes, an officer particularly well qualified for the duty, to compile from the records of former famines, both in Bengal and elsewhere, all the most approved orders and instructions bearing upon this subject. Mr. Geddes has just brought this work to a close, and the time expended on it has been far from wasted.

In communication with the Government of India it has been decided that the time has now come for making definite and systematic arrangements for the distribution of charitable relief, so that as soon as the actual necessity first appears everything may be found in working order. The reports previously directed have therefore been again called for as the proposed sites for relief centres; the source from which each centre will draw its supply of food; the establishments proposed for each, and the names of the proposed committees of management. Local officers have been authorized to put the committees in actual operation and raise subscriptions whenever there is any appearance of serious distress, giving on behalf of Government contributions equal to the amount of private subscriptions.

16. In order to have all these arrangements under proper control, and that there may be no hitch in their working hereafter, the Lieutenant-Governor has proposed to the Government of India that the arrangements sketched in Appendix A of Mr. Bernard's letter No. 3888, dated 11th December (appended to the Narrative of the 12th December), should come into force at once, *i.e.*, that Mr. Schalch should be appointed President elect of the future central relief committee at Calcutta for all Bengal, and should undertake in immediate communication with the Lieutenant-Governor, the drafting of the rules for the guidance of district committees that these may be submitted for the approval of the Government of India at the earliest possible date. Having done this Mr. Schalch will, it is further proposed, visit the distressed districts and arrange with the local officers on the spot, all that it is possible to settle beforehand, and give such instructions as will ensure the smooth and efficient working of the scheme when put into actual operation. The correspondence* on this subject will be found in Appendix (F).

* *i.e.*, Circular No. 9, dated 3rd January 1874.
i.e., Circular No. 73, dated 10th January 1874, and letter to Government of India, dated 14th January.

17. Copies of the Fortnightly Narratives from the distressed districts, bringing the history of affairs down to Saturday December 27th, together with the Resolutions of Government on them, are enclosed.* The following is a short resumé of the information contained in them. This information is not very recent, the fact being that the narratives of January 10th are now due, but have not arrived in time for this Narrative. It is proposed to ask the Government of India to allow the next special Narrative to be despatched on 22nd January, so that it may contain the latest information.

* Enclosures 4, 5, 6.

A.—State of the Country.

The supply of food in the local markets is still generally ample at the high prices quoted; certain tracts of Northern Behar must be excepted from this statement. These are, in Tirhoot:—

(1.) The eastern corner thannah Singheya.
(2.) The north-western corner of the Seetamurhee sub-division.

And in Sarun:—

(1.) Thannahs Pursa and Bussuntpore in the centre and east of the district.
(2.) Thannah Bhurowlee on the north of the district.

Prices are reported to be in some districts easier, but later information somewhat qualifies this. In Behar they are on the whole higher than they were at the corresponding period of 1865–66. Local officers have been warned not to alarm the people by making inquisitorial enquiries as to the stocks held by them, but such further information on this subject as is contained in these narratives goes to show that things are in this respect not more favorable than had been supposed.

The condition of the people remains on the whole as satisfactory as could be expected. In Northern Behar, however, affairs are beginning to give cause for serious anxiety. In parts both of Sarun and Tirhoot distress is already in some degree felt, and people are beginning to look out for work. In the north of Chumparun there is also some distress. Even in Rungpore the reports say that cases of distress are becoming common, especially among professional beggars. The tracts in which distress is most imminent are these—

(*a.*) Parts of Chumparun.
(*b.*) The northern half of Sarun.
(*c.*) The northern and north-eastern part of Tirhoot and the adjoining parts of Bhaugulpore and Monghyr.
(*d.*) The eastern corner of Gya and the adjoining part of Monghyr.
(*e.*) The eastern part of Purneah, the northern part of Maldah, and all the north-western half of Dinagepore.

The rainfall and the state of the crops have been fully described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the last and in paragraph 1 of this Narrative, and need not be further alluded to here.

B.—Relief Works.

Many works are open, others are ready for opening, and others are being prospected. In the Rajshahye division there is no very great demand for employment, except in Dinagepore, where large numbers are coming to the works. This is very much the case also in the Bhaugulpore division, and in the Patna division south of the Ganges. But in the north of the Patna division the demand for employment is in many parts brisk, and there is occasion for the opening of new works as far as possible. A table showing the number of persons employed on relief works in some districts in the fortnights ending 27th December and 10th January, is enclosed.

The laborers employed on relief works are for the most part local men of the ordinary laboring classes. But in some cases emigrant bands of professional coolies have been taken on. Although relief works are intended primarily for the benefit of the districts in which they are opened, the Lieutenant-Governor would do nothing to discourage emigration in search of work. Emigration is a natural distributor and therefore alleviator of distress, as trade is. Still, it has been considered advisable to allow the professional coolies from Bhaugulpore, who had monopolised the local works in Maldah, to go forward to the railway works.

The laborers are paid for the most part by the task at fair rates, it being desirable to maintain that system as a test till the distress becomes really severe. But as soon as a certain point of distress is reached the system can be changed.

A dearth of tools was much feared. A statement of the arrangements already made by the Public Works Department for their supply is enclosed.* In addition to this the Department has been ordered to arrange for a further supply of 100,000 mattocks and picks.

C.—Transport of Food.

Later and full information on this head has been given in paragraphs 4 to 14, (above), so the district narratives need not be here abstracted upon this point.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

Places for storage of Government grain have been selected in all districts, and store-houses have been rented or are being built. The narratives do not contain exact particulars of the arrangements made in each case, but local officers are confident of being able to house all the grain supplied to them, and their reports are coming in.

E.—Advances to Private Parties.

In the Patna division much has been done and is being done by way of advances. In Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye, this part of the relief scheme has proved less successful. With the exception of the Northern Behar planters, no class has come forward largely for advances to buy grain. In Rajshahye a few applications have been made. In the Patna division considerable advances have been made for land improvements, and the system of advancing money for wells on the system followed with opium cultivators has borne fruit. In the districts of the Burdwan and Chota Nagpore divisions advances for landed improvements are being largely taken, and it is expected that in Nuddea also the zemindars will come forward.

F.—Charitable Relief.

Most officers have selected places for relief centres, and in some districts relief committees, both central and branch, have been constituted. This portion of the relief operations ordered in Circular No. 80 of 17th November, is not very forward in all places, but district officers have been directed to carry out their instructions on this point at once. Paragraph 15 and 16 (above) state at more length the further orders which have been issued on this subject.

18. The monthly reports for the beginning of January under Circular No. 70, dated 13th October, have most of them been received.* The harvest has in most parts been completed, and it is now possible to compare previous estimates of the outturn of the crops of 1873 with the actual yield so far as it can be ascertained. The local officers' estimates were first reviewed in paragraph 4 and Appendix B. of the Second Special Narrative for 21st November. The next set of reports was reviewed in Appendix E. of the Sixth Special Narrative for 18th December. The following is a final review of the local officers' opinions regarding the yield of the crops of 1873. It is to be remembered that it embraces all crops grown in the rainy season of 1873, which are sown at the commencement of the rains and reaped during

* Enclosure No. 11.

* Copy of the Bhaugulpore district report, which is a very good one, will be found in enclosure No. 10.

or after the rains, and it excludes what are ordinarily called "rubbee" or spring crops:—

Midnapore (part of), Jessore (part of), Backergunge, Noakhally, Chittagong, Cuttack, Balasore, Pooree.

(1.) The Lower Delta and the Littoral Districts.—In November it was estimated that the crops of 1873 would give from three-quarters to a full average crop. In December it was said the crops of 1873 will not be more than average ones all round. The final estimate is that, on the whole, they have not been up to the average. Jessore and Midnapore are worse off with two-thirds of an average crop; then come Noakhally and Backergunge with something more than three-fourths of an average crop. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes, however, that these are under estimates and that the districts last-mentioned, with parts of Nuddea and Jessore, have a fair average crop. Pooree and Chittagong have very nearly average crops, while Cuttack and Balasore are better off than usual.

Burdwan, Hooghly with Howrah, and part of Midnapore.

(2.) Western Bengal below the Uplands.—Former estimates varied from under one-half to fully one-half of an average yield. The final result is that the crops of 1873 have yielded rather more than one-half of an average outturn. Howrah appears to be best with two-thirds of an average. Burdwan had a good early rice crop, and the late rice is now reported to be better than half an average. Hooghly has yielded something under half an average crop.

24-Pergunnahs, Nuddea, Moorshedabad, Furreedpore, Pubna, part of Jessore.

(3.) The Central Delta Districts.—The final reports from the 24-Pergunnahs and Nuddea are more sanguine than the former ones; but on the whole there appears no sufficient reason for estimating the outturn for the whole of this tract higher than before. It has reaped from one-half to three-quarters of an average crop all round.

Rajshahye, Dinagepore, Maldah, Bograh, Rungpore.

(4.) Northern Bengal.—The final result of the harvests in Northern Bengal is, on the whole, certainly not better than was anticipated. The former estimate, from one-quarter to one-third of the outturn of an ordinary year, has not been exceeded. The outturn has probably been nearer one-quarter than one-half.

Dacca, Mymensing, Sylhet, Tipperah, Cachar.

(5.) Eastern Bengal.—The last reports fully bear out the favorable view taken in December. The outturn of the crops of 1873 has been from two-thirds to a full average. Tipperah is perhaps better off than before reported, but the difference is not so great as to affect the general average.

Bancoorah, Beerbhoom, part of Midnapore, Maunbhoom, Hazareebaugh, Lohardugga, Singbhoom, Sonthal Pergunnahs, part of Bhaugulpore, and Monghyr.

(6.) The up-land country of Bengal and Chota Nagpore.—The former estimates of the probable yield in this tract were perhaps if anything sanguine. The former estimate was that the crops of 1873 would yield from one-half to three-quarters of a full average year. The result has been that from one-half to two-thirds of an average has been reaped.

Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, parts of Bhaugulpore and Monghyr, Purneah.

(7a.) Northern Behar.—It is now certain that on the whole less than one-third of the outturn of an ordinary year has been obtained in this tract from the crops of 1873. Tirhoot, Sarun, and Chumparun show no improvement. The improvement noted in the last review in the estimates for North Bhaugulpore and Purneah has been justified by the result.

Patna, Gya, Shahabad, parts of Bhaugulpore, and Monghyr.

(7b.) Southern Behar.—In the review of the last set of reports it was stated that the crops of 1873 of this tract would yield one-third of an average. The present reports fully confirm this estimate and somewhat improve on it.

Darjeeling, Julpigoree, Cooch Behar, Gowalparah, Kamroop, Durrung, Nowgong, Seebsaugor, Lukhimpore, Naga Hills, Khasi Hills, Garo Hills.

(8.) Assam and the Hill Districts.—The present set of reports do not greatly qualify the statements made in former reports. The area of somewhat short crops may be extended from Julpigoree and Cooch Behar, mentioned in last review, to Goalparah. In other districts the crops have been fairly good.

(9.) On the whole the estimate that the crops of 1873 would give, more or less, one-half of an average outturn is supported by the present reports, which have been submitted after observation of the harvests. Local officers have few subordinates who are able to take trustworthy observations of so intricate and wide a subject as the outturn of crops; actual survey has of course been impossible. The subordinate executive establishments upon whom much of this work falls are still very raw and untrained, having been but a few months appointed.

19. The following is a general synopsis of the prospects of the spring crops as described in these reports under Circular No. 70 for January:—

In the lower delta and littoral districts and in Eastern Bengal they are doing well, and will in all probability give an average yield, though in these districts they are very small in quantity.

In Western Bengal below the uplands and in the central delta districts the prospect is bad. The outturn will probably not be more than one-half that of an ordinary year. In Northern Bengal the prospect is also bad, but not hopeless, though according to the reports there seems little chance of more than one-third of an average outturn being obtained. Over most of these tracts the spring crops do not contribute largely to the food-supply of the country. Grains produced from these crops form less than one-eighth of the total food-supply.

In Behar on the other hand, the spring crops contribute a very considerable quota of the food-supply of the people, ranging from one-eighth on the borders of Bengal Proper to one-half in the districts bordering on the North-Western Provinces. In all this country the rubbee prospects still largely depend on more rain in the present month. In the Patna division south of the Ganges, on the whole, half a crop is expected, which will be better with seasonable rain, and may be much better. In the Patna division north of the Ganges from one-third to one-half the yield of an average crop may still be obtained. In the Bhaugulpore division the spring (rubbee) crops, taking all the circumstances into consideration, promise marvellously well according to these reports.

20. One other point in this set of reports may be noticed here. Local officers were required to ascertain as far as possible the amount of grain held in stock by landholders, traders, and ryots. The result of their inquiries, which they were warned should not be inquisitorial, is not very definite. But on the whole, looking not only to these reports but also to what is generally known of the habits of the people, the Lieutenant-Governor estimates that the supply of food grown in the country is annually either exported or consumed, and that stocks are as a rule about two or three months in advance of the supply, that is, that if no crops at all had been reaped in the late harvest, the people could still have found support for two or three months from the stocks in hand.

21. It was mentioned in the last Narrative that the Lieutenant-Governor had recognised the fact that relief works would probably become necessary in some districts of the Burdwan and Presidency divisions. The Commissioner of Burdwan has now submitted a report showing the proposals made for relief works in the different districts. The ordinary annual-road-works are in progress, and the Commissioner has not yet decided what works he will sanction as special relief works. His proposal to allot Rs. 10,000 to each district, with the exception of Midnapore, for advances under Act XXVI. of 1871, applications for which have been freely made especially in Burdwan, has been approved. The offer of Government to bear one-third of the cost of works of public utility in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly has been extended to Bancoorah and Beerbhoom. The Commissioner has received full authority to use his discretion in regard to advances, and has been told that no work fit to be sanctioned should be delayed for want of funds. Extra subordinate native constables have been allotted to Burdwan and Hooghly.

22. To the Nuddea district a special sub-deputy has been allotted for work in connection with scarcity and relief. The Commissioner of the Presidency division thinks that, with the grant he has received for advances for land improvements, and the funds now at the command of the District Road Cess Committees, full work can be provided for all who are likely to demand it. If extra grants are required he will make early application.

23. Reference was made in the last Narrative to the state of affairs in the division of Chota Nagpore, and it was stated that anxiety was felt on account of the sub-division of Palamow in the Lohardugga district. This sub-division has been recognised as a tract in which relief works will be required, and preliminary arrangements have been ordered. Happily, however, there has been at least one good fall of rain there.

In Maunbhoom vegetable seeds have been distributed, and the experiment is considered to have been a successful one; barley seed distributed by the Deputy Commissioner has been eagerly taken and readily sown.

24. It has before been mentioned that a limited area in the north-eastern corner of Balasore had suffered severely from drought. The Commissioner of Orissa proposed to remit the January instalment of revenue from the area affected, on con-

dition that the amount remitted should be made good by the landholders in 1875. It was considered that a strong enough case for the remission of revenue had not been made out.

25. Certain estates the property of Government had balances at their credit from the 3 per cent. annually deducted from their rental on account of the Government Estates Improvement Fund; lists of these balances had been circulated, and Commissioners have been informed that the present is considered a favorable opportunity for expending them. The Commissioner of Chota Nagpore had already arranged for expending the balances of his division, and the Commissioner of Rajshahye has reported a full scheme for expending to advantage his district balances at the credit of this fund.

26. It was found that some local officers entertained erroneous notions as to the manner in which relief works should be carried out. They were inclined to prefer professional agency to ordinary local agency in the management of the works. The Lieutenant-Governor has reminded them that the works are to be carried out under the district road fund committees by the officers and local men usually employed, supplemented, when necessary, by professional agency. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that planters and other local men who have usually undertaken the supervision of district works are just the persons who should now, where they are willing to undertake the duty, be employed on relief works. Circular No. 79, dated 12th January, on the subject will be found at enclosure No. 14.

27. Statements having been made in the public prints (whether true or not has not yet been ascertained) that the pay of laborers on relief works in a certain locality had been allowed to get 15 days in arrear owing to the absence of funds, a circular has been issued insisting that on no account shall works or payment be delayed on such a ground. No formal procedure, the Lieutenant-Governor is determined, shall be allowed to delay the opening of new works, or stop the work on old works when they are required for relief purposes. Local officers have been authorised in all such cases to use their discretion in taking measures without waiting formal sanction, and in dispensing with routine and formalities generally. Copy of that circular will be found in enclosure No. .

28. Reference has frequently been made to a scheme for promoting emigration from Behar to the tea districts during the present scarcity. Difficulties, however, have arisen, and it has not been thought advisable to press the attempt. A resolution recorded on the subject, showing at length the Lieutenant-Governor's reasons for abandoning the scheme, is enclosed herewith (Appendix G).

30. In accordance with the orders of the Government of India, a circular No. 8S.R., dated 3rd January, has been issued, requesting local officers to bear in mind the previous instructions on the subject, that no interference with the trade in grain is to be directly or indirectly attempted. It was found necessary to warn the Deputy Commissioners of Julpigoree and Seebsaugor specially against interference with private trade. The circular mentioned in this paragraph will be found in enclosure No. 15.

31. Some correspondence on the subject of the purchases of grain by the Government of Bengal has taken place, and the circumstances under which 25,000 maunds were purchased after the receipt of the orders of the Government of India have been explained. It is now clearly understood that without the previous sanction of that Government no more purchases are to be made.

32. The relief Commissioner of the Rajshahye division had requested to be allowed to sell Government grain to the local public in certain tracts where local trade can in no degree be trusted to supply the wants of the people. The Lieutenant-Governor proposed to allow the Relief Commissioner to exercise his discretion as to the places at which such a strong measure might be necessary. The Government of India, while holding that the Relief Commissioner's proposals are not opposed to the policy of Government for exceptional localities, has asked for further information before it can sanction them. The Relief Commissioner has been requested to furnish further evidence of the necessity of the measure he proposes.

33. It has been arranged that the Fortnightly Special Narrative shall be regularly communicated to the public press after the excision of such parts as the Government of India may consider it undesirable to publish.

34. The Government of India having asked for particulars regarding transport of Government grain and the establishment of relief committees in the Rajshahye division, such information as was then available on these subjects was submitted.

35. The estimate made by the committee of the British Indian Association of the

deficiency in the crops of 1873, as compared with the crops of an ordinary year, did not formally agree with that made by this Government. The Lieutenant-Governor has submitted to the Government of India his reasons for thinking that there is no very great difference in the estimates. The committee thought there would be a deficiency in the late rice crop of two-thirds exclusive of Orissa and Assam, where the crops are good. This Government estimated the deficiency in the crops of 1873, including the early rice and other crops reaped during the rains, at one-half more or less, not omitting Orissa and Assam. A further and final estimate of the deficiency is given in this Narrative.

36. In addition to the extra civil and engineering establishments allotted to the Patna division, intelligence has been received of the deputation on special duty in connection with scarcity and relief measures of six military officers, some of whom have had some civil experience. These officers have been placed entirely at the disposal of the Commissioner of Patna to assist in relief operations. Besides these officers are officers of standing in the Commissariat Department. Colonel Mackenzie has also been directed to place himself under the orders of the Commissioner of Patna.

37. From the Upper Gunduck Embankment intelligence has been received that arrangements have been made with the Raja of Bettiah's agent for taking possession of the land on the Raja's estates required for the embankment; and portions of the work have already been aligned. The Executive Engineer reports, under date January 10th, that he will be able to commence work in a week's time. Sites for store-houses have been selected and materials for their construction are being collected.

38. On the Lower Gunduck Embankments in Sarun and Tirhoot 1,201 laborers were daily employed during the week ending January 3rd, and 1,401 during the week ending January 10th. 1,890 maunds of rice had already been stored and other consignments are in transit. On the Soane works 1,382 additional acres have been irrigated on the western side of the river, making a total of 130,272 acres irrigated up to date. On the eastern bank 7,041 acres in the Patna and Gya districts have been irrigated, making a total of 15,003 acres. The Collector of Gya, however, reports that some 28,000 acres in addition have been irrigated from the Poonpoon river, which had been replenished with water carried from the Soane. The average daily number of laborers employed during the fortnight has been 32,000. Local labor is reported to be only one-tenth of the total. The condition of the laborers is good and food is plentiful. At Dehree 27,650 maunds of food have been stored, and 1,000 maunds of wheat and 2,500 maunds of rice are said to be on their way. In addition to this 2,000 maunds of rice are in store at the out-stations of Navigunj and Dunwar.

39. From the Kana Nuddee works in Hooghly it is reported that water is passing down the new channel at the rate of 250 feet a second. Water to the extent of 100 cubic feet a second has been turned down the Bachorda Khal on the right bank of the river. The daily number of laborers employed has fallen from 1,657 to 1,024. The people are reported to be enthusiastic in their expressions of gratitude for the water, which they are using for irrigation of potato and sugar-cane crops and for replenishing their exhausted tanks.

40. No recent intelligence has been received from the Northern Bengal Railway Works; but arrangements have been made for having information regularly supplied for future narratives.

41. In regard to providing native doctors and other medical subordinates for the charge of field dispensaries on relief works, the latest intelligence from the medical department shows that 20 hospital assistants and local native doctors have already been collected together, and there will probably "be no want of medical subordinates for the relief works." In the letter of this Government the requirements of the works had been put down, as a preliminary estimate, at about 60 native doctors in all.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,
Additional Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 15th January 1874.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

APPENDIX C. to foregoing Narrative.

No. 36 S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, in the Statistical Department, to the DEPUTY-SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, dated 5th January 1874.

AT paragraph 11 of last (the seventh) Special Narrative of the Bengal drought, it was stated that the Lieutenant-Governor was anxiously considering how much more Government grain ought to be bought for the distressed districts when the preliminary supply sanctioned up to the end of January 1874 should be completed. I am now directed to submit a statement of the views at which Sir George Campbell has arrived on this important subject.

2. We still have not and cannot have certainty as to what will happen in Bengal and Behar during the next eight months. We have not and cannot have accurate information regarding the stocks of food held in the country. We do not know for certain that there will be great failure of actual food-supply, but we know that there is risk of it, and we can only estimate for supplies as an insurance against risk. We now know that the failure of the rice crop is, speaking generally, as complete as we had before estimated it to be, except that we hope the rice harvest is better in the Dacca, the Mymensing, and perhaps the south of the Bhaugulpore district than was at first feared. The failure of the rice crop in the districts north of the Ganges will be quite as bad as had been estimated.

3. The sowings of the spring crops were narrowed by the drought in great part of Behar, particularly in the northern parts of the Patna division, though in some parts they were pretty widely sown, and in most places they were better sown and germinated much better than was expected. The Christmas rain in Behar has been as yet only about a quarter of an inch as an average; but rain comes oftener in January than in December, so there is still hope of more rain. The spring crops may be said then still to be better than was anticipated at the sowing season, but to depend much upon further rain, the coming of which is doubtful. The low lying lands, which are flooded every year, will yield a fair crop anyhow; all the rest of the spring crop lands depend on rain.

However the spring crop turns out, we must beware of relying too much on its yield to fill the gap in the food-supply caused by excessive failure of the autumn crops. Unhappily we do not possess for Behar and Bengal any statistics of the area under spring food-crops. But estimates have been furnished for some districts of the area or the proportion of the total cultivation under these crops, while for other districts an estimate has been offered of the proportion in which spring crop food-grains enter into the ordinary food of the common people. The general result is that in Bengal the spring crops contribute very little, and in Behar they contribute in but a moderate degree (very far less than the autumn crops), to the food of the people. There must be uncertainty on a matter of this kind in the absence of agricultural statistics; but the Lieutenant-Governor's general impression is that for Northern and Central Bengal the spring crops (wheat, barley, pulse, and spring millet) furnish less than one-sixth, and that in Behar these crops furnish less than one-third, of the food of the people.

4. There has not yet been serious distress or famine anywhere, and prices are not so excessive as might have been feared. So far then the symptoms are all favorable. It has, however, generally been the case that, in seasons of difficulty and risk, prices and appearances are comparatively favorable in December and January, and get much worse afterwards. Still these symptoms are certainly at the present time so favorable that Sir George Campbell would derive much consolation from them if he were not oppressed with the fear that the present ease may be, to a considerable extent, attributable to an undue confidence in the importations and arrangements made by the Government. The Lieutenant-Governor has submitted (see letter No. 4119, dated 23rd December) at some length his views regarding the effect of Government importations on prices, and on the minds of the native public. From many sides comes the assurance* that natives believe "the Government are this time at any rate checkmating the knavish grain-dealers." And it was only yesterday that an intelligent native officer of Gya, who has served Government for 35 years and has risen to the top of his branch of the service, expressed his opinion that "if the dealers had not seen that Government was importing and storing grain, prices would assuredly have reached 5 or 6 seers per rupee by this time," that is, to say, we should have had famine prices at Gya.

Local trade is not active, except that about 80,000 to 1,00,000 maunds of private grain per week are imported into Behar from the North-Western Provinces; and this comparative dulness of private trade supports the local officers' view that dealers may fear competition with Government. This apprehension that the people may place too great confidence in Government and that private traders may exaggerate the action of Government throws an element of uncertainty over present prices and appearances.

5. Some of the latest reports that have reached Government are as gloomy as the earlier letters; though perhaps it may be said that our officers are beginning to differentiate the probable severity of the distress in different tracts, and are now able to say "here distress will

* See for instance, the Monghyr fortnightly narrative in enclosure No. 5 of the seventh Narrative.

be very bad anyhow, but there we shall pull through." In a demi-official letter of the 28th December, Mr. Bayley wrote to the Lieutenant-Governor: "My hopes have been raised by the late rain, but without this I should have said that the prospects of the north and east of Tirhoot and of part of Chumparun, were worse, even than I had anticipated, *i.e.*, that I had hoped severe distress would not be felt till March or April, and I began to see that we should have to deal with it by the end of January." Mr. Bayley has since explained that the accounts of rain then received were exaggerated, and that his hopes on that score have been by no means fulfilled. Mr. Robinson, Relief Commissioner of Rajshahye, writes* as if grave distress and even absolute absence of food were nearly certain before very long in the north and north-west of Dinagepore; and this is the view of one who has known Dinagepore for many years, has always been a very active officer, and has now been touring in that particular tract and making full inquiries from village to village.

* See the letter submitted under cover of my letter No. 7S.R., dated 3rd January 1873.

6. On the whole, then, the Lieutenant-Governor is compelled to think that there is still serious risk of subsequent running up of prices, of panic, and even of famine. He believes that, if we would ensure against that risk, we must go on laying in large supplies.

7. At paragraph 7 of the seventh Narrative the difficulties experienced in transporting large quantities of Government grain have been adverted to, and mention has been made of the comparative failure of water carriage on inland streams. Sir George Campbell feels that, in the face of these delays and failures, we cannot omit for a single day to employ all means of transport if we wish to guard against risk in the more distant parts. He feels that we have gone so far that we can hardly draw back without going further.

Under this view, then, Sir George Campbell considers we must provide—

1st. For a continual flow of food towards distant and inaccessible distressed tracts.

2ndly. For a reserve of food for the districts nearer the sea-board, the railway, and the navigable rivers in case the supply fails there.

8. I am to observe that though, as stated at paragraph 11 of last Narrative, the traffic to more distant parts will be stopped at the commencement of the rainy season until such time as the rivers fill well; still food can at all times be sent to districts near railways and near perennially navigable rivers. Much country will also be opened to water navigation when the rains have fairly set in. The greatest need in these latter districts has always been at the last in the months of June, July, and August; that is, when the stocks are lowest, and the small residue has been taken for seed grain. A supply for that season should certainly be in reserve.

9. It may, the Lieutenant-Governor considers, be reckoned that supplies received in Calcutta and despatched in February, March, and April will reach the interior of the distant distressed tracts before the beginning of the rainy season; and that supplies despatched in May, June, and July may reach many districts before the new crop comes in.

10. As regards the quantity required for despatch during February, March, and April, everything depends on the view taken by the Government of India on the question of going beyond mere storage of food for laborers on relief works; that question is raised specifically in Mr. Robinson's letter submitted* yesterday for the orders of His Excellency the Viceroy in Council. Since the Government has gone so far, and has induced so much reliance upon itself, we must, Sir George Campbell, thinks, go further, and send into the really distressed tracts as much grain as we can, leaving it possibly to local dealers to distribute it as Mr. Robinson proposes. The Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have, at any rate, another twenty lakhs of maunds (say 75,000 tons) of food to be forwarded into the less accessible parts of the three distressed divisions † during the three months following the 1st February next.

* Government of Bengal letter, dated 3rd January 1874.

† Patna.
Bhaugulpore.
Rajshahye.

11. Regarding the further reserve for other divisions and the country generally, a good deal depends on the course of exports. Sir George Campbell's view is that Bengal Proper might probably, if taken by itself and its produce had been retained, have supported its own population, but that it would not be safe to leave Bengal without replacing the drain caused by exports. If the Government of India should decide* to buy in this country, and if the effect should be to forestall and prevent large exports, the total supply needed from abroad would not be so large as it would be if we had to replace exports. But the Lieutenant-Governor has already expressed † his belief that we cannot stop exports from Calcutta effectually without raising the price so much as to cause a famine; he considers our object must be to keep the price in the supply districts, of which Calcutta is the focus, so low that there may be no such result, so that in fact there may be opportunity of private trade to the parts of the country where food is wanted. If, however, we thus avoid extreme famine prices, he fears we must calculate that much of the new rice crop will be exported. Taking the rice export year to run from the 1st October, he thinks we may expect that the export of food-grains from Bengal will reach 150,000 or 200,000 tons by March or April next. For the purposes of the present letter, however, the Lieutenant-Governor would take the lower figure. Out of this total, about 78,000 tons have been already exported up during the three months ending on the 31st December 1873, the amount of despatch during each month being in round numbers as per margin.* The export

* See paragraphs 4 and 5 of Her Majesty's Secretary of State's despatch of the 1st December 1873, where this procedure is discussed.

† See paragraph 4 of the third Special Narrative.

	Tons.
* October - - -	16,300
November - -	20,000
December - - -	41,600

of food-grains sent from Bengal to Behar and beyond has been, during the last three months of 1873, exclusive of foreign rice imported by Government, about 45,000 tons; and it may by the end of May mount up to 75,000 tons.

12. If the Government of India be pleased to accept the view that we ought to provide another 75,000 tons for speedy despatch to the more inaccessible districts, and that we ought also to supply the vacuum caused by exports from Bengal, then we should require, in addition to the preliminary supply sanctioned up to the end of January, further supplies as follows:—

	Tons.
Supply to be pushed forward as fast as possible to distant distressed districts - - - - - - - -	75,000
Reserve to replace the vacuum caused by exports across the sea - -	150,000
And perhaps to replace exports from Bengal to the Behar districts -	75,000
If the last item be included the total will be - - - -	300,000
If it be excluded the total will be - - - - - -	225,000

It is understood that about 45,000* tons of foreign rice, in excess of this Government's estimate of the preliminary supply up to the end of January, has already been arranged for, so that it will remain to provide in the next three months say 180,000 tons, which is the lowest estimate at which the Lieutenant-Governor can safely put the amount proper to be provided against the risk we run.

13. It is quite impossible, as has been already said, to be at all certain. If a regular famine came upon Bengal and Behar ten times the amount of grain mentioned in the next foregoing paragraph, even if it could be distributed, would not keep the whole population so that no one should starve. But in view of all the present circumstances, and subject to any modifications resulting from the course of the spring crop, of the exports, or of other symptoms, Sir George Campbell would recommend that provision be made for supplying the additional amount of grain last named (180,000 tons) for the requirements of February, March, and April, and he would recommend that matters should be so arranged that in May, June, and July, a further amount, sufficient to fill the vacuum caused in Bengal by exports up-country estimated at 75,000 tons, should be further available. He would himself have preferred that the whole Burmah crop should be held as a reserve, but if that cannot now be without great derangement of trade and enormous expense, he hopes so much as he has named could be obtained.

It will be remembered that if happily the whole amount kept in reserve is not needed it will not be lost, nor will the whole cost fall on Government. Rice keeps well, and a good sum would be obtained on resale.

14. As regards the mode of purchase, and the most difficult question whether it is desirable to buy on the spot so as to enhance prices and stop exports, or whether it is desirable to import everything from a distance, and as regards other economic questions of the kind, the Lieutenant-Governor will not attempt to offer further opinions. The Government of India has already expressed its disapproval of Sir George Campbell's views on these subjects, and His Excellency in Council will best judge what course will be most beneficial.

One thing the Lieutenant-Governor must say as earnestly as he can, namely, that however much the internal trade of the country, if left to itself, might operate, we cannot look for any considerable private imports into Bengal from beyond the sea. We shall not get such imports unless severe famine breaks out in a very acute form and lasts for months before supplies come.

15. Any purchases of grain in this country will not, it must be remembered, add to the general food-supply; though, if such purchases have the effect of diminishing exports, so much might be deducted from the imports required.

From the North-Western Provinces and Central India private imports into Behar will, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes, continue, if the spring crops there continue to fare well, and he hopes that in that case we may look to the northern supplies as a further reserve in case of need.

16. If the additional quantity of grain now asked for be deemed excessive, it will be remembered that one-half of the proposed supply is merely to replace the drain caused by exports, a measure of which Her Majesty's Secretary of State appears to recognise the necessity. The rest of the grain asked for is to supply Behar and the North Ganges districts now classed as "distressed," or to replace the Bengal grain sent thither. If our total imports of grain from beyond the sea, including those already calculated, amount to, say, 350,000 tons, then—

	Tons of Foreign Grain.
(*a.*) We shall have provided for the more remote distressed districts where the failure has been worst, say - - - -	125,000
(*b.*) We shall get to replace supplies sent from Bengal to the same quarters, say - - - - - - -	75,000
(*c.*) We shall get to replace grain exports beyond the sea, say -	150,000
Total - -	350,000

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[*] The figures on which the calculation is made will be found at paragraph 11 of the last Narrative. It is known that 40,000 tons of Burmah rice have already been ordered; and it is believed that some 5,000 tons or so of the Saigon rice will be over and above the 25,000 tons required for the January supply, as per paragraph 2 of Bengal Government letter of 2nd December.—See Appendix B. to Fourth Narrative.

17. After all, this supply is but small in so great a population; but, as Sir George Campbell has before said, it sometimes happens that famine is averted by quantities of food far under what might have been calculated on to feed a whole population. If we cannot obtain or distribute more, so much as has been proposed would go a long way to stave off the risk of famine, and if that risk is averted, the loss sustained in the purchase of grain will have been well spent.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

P.S.—Before this letter had been finally struck off, a further report, No. 54F., dated the 30th December 1873, was received from the Commissioner of Patna, stating that he feared severe famine in part of North Tirhoot. Copies of that letter and of the Lieutenant-Governor's orders thereon, No. 19S.R., dated the 5th January 1874, are appended to the present letter.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 41 A.

From A. P. HOWELL, ESQ., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

Agriculture and Horticulture. Famine.

SIR, Dated Calcutta, the 6th January 1874.

I AM directed by the Viceroy and Governor-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 36S.R. of the 5th inst. received this day, and to inform you with reference to the 10th paragraph of that letter, that the Lieutenant-Governor may, in addition to the 35,000 tons, for which provision was made in compliance with His Honor's request of 2nd December last, rely upon having at his disposal 75,000 tons of rice during the three months beginning with the 1st of February next, provision having already been made for more than that quantity.

2. His Excellency desires to impress in the strongest manner upon the Lieutenant-Governor the absolute necessity of preserving complete secrecy in regard both to the amount of the demands made by His Honor and of the provision made by the Government of India to meet those demands on account of the effect which the public announcement of large purchases may have upon the market, and still more in regard to the probability that any such announcement will check private trade.

3. The information now placed before the Government of India satisfies His Excellency that the time has arrived for the constitution of relief committees, and probably of a central committee at Calcutta. Upon this subject and upon the instructions which should be given to the relief committees, particularly in regard to the sale and distribution of grain, His Excellency considers it to be desirable that a conference should take place with the Lieutenant-Governor, and he therefore requests His Honor's attendance, accompanied by Mr. Bernard, at Government House on Thursday next at 3 o'clock.

4. Your letter of the 5th contains, in addition to the request for the further provision for despatch to the less accessible parts of the distressed districts, the compliance with which has been announced in this letter, further important estimates and suggestions which are not overlooked, and which will be subsequently dealt with.

5. The Viceroy and Governor-General desires in the meantime, without any delay, to satisfy the Lieutenant-Governor that the full requirements specified in the 10th paragraph of the letter under reply are at his disposal, in order that the local officers may be informed at once, and that no time whatever may be lost in making arrangements for the carriage of the grain up country, which His Excellency has always regarded as a matter of great difficulty, and one to which the attention of the Government of Bengal should be specially directed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR HOWELL,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 70 A.

From A. P. HOWELL, ESQ., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

Agriculture and Horticulture. Famine.

SIR, Dated Calcutta, the 12th January 1874.

I AM directed to reply to your confidential letter No. 36S.R., of the 5th inst., communicating the Lieutenant-Governor's recommendations regarding the quantity of food grains to be supplied by Government for relief works or relief operations in the districts affected by drought during the months subsequent to January.

2. The Government of Bengal have been already informed by the Governor-General (see my letter of the 6th inst.) that the 75,000 tons required by the Local Government during the three months, commencing with the 1st February, have been already arranged for from beyond sea. This quantity will be in addition to the 35,000 tons which constituted the demand of the Local Government upon the Government of India, as explained in your letter No. 46 of the 2nd ultimo.

3. The further requirements, in addition to the 110,000 tons above mentioned, as set forth by the Lieutenant-Governor, have received the careful consideration of the Government of India. Arrangements had been made before the receipt of the letter under acknowledgment for a further reserve, and such additional precautions will be taken as circumstances appear to require.

4. This portion of the arrangements for meeting the contemplated distress having been undertaken by the Government of India, I am to request that the Government of Bengal will not make any more purchase of grain.

5. One important point, in respect to the quantity of grain which the Government of India may deem it necessary to provide, is the ability of the Local Government and its officers to supply country carriage for the conveyance of the supplies into the interior of the district affected. On this subject a separate communication has been addressed to the Government of Bengal. At present there appears reason for serious apprehension as to whether the local authorities can convey to the relief works and relief centres the supplies which the Government of India has already provided, and which can be conveyed by railway to the districts in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR HOWELL,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

APPENDIX D. to foregoing Narrative.

No. 82.

From ARTHUR HOWELL, ESQ., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture. Famine.

SIR, Dated Calcutta, the 12th January 1874.

THE Governor-General in Council desires me to urge upon the Government of Bengal the necessity for immediate action in providing an adequate amount of inland carriage for the transport of grain.

2. The orders issued upon this matter by the Government of India will doubtless be in the recollection of the Lieutenant-Governor. I am desired, however, to recapitulate them seriatim.

In paragraph 21 of the general Resolution of the 7th November last, it was stated—

"In those places where the means of water-carriage do not exist, the grain-traders must mainly depend on the country carriage. There may, indeed, be ground for apprehension that, as the dry season advances, mortality beyond the average must arise among the draught cattle. This subject will doubtless receive the anxious consideration of the local Government and of its officers. Every aid that can be afforded by the Commissariat or other public departments will be rendered; and enquiries are being made as to the practicability of constructing tramways in the distressed districts."

Again, in the conference held with His Honor on the 10th November, the subject was specially treated, as will be seen from the following record of it:—

"His Excellency next adverted to the means available for transporting grain from the railway into the interior of the affected districts, as to which he expressed considerable anxiety," and "remarked that the serious attention of the local officers should be directed to this subject; any assistance which the Government of India could give, either by utilizing the Commissariat or Post Office service, or in any other way, would be readily given. A communication had already been made to the Government of Bengal, stating the extent to which the Commissariat could render assistance."

I am to point out that the conclusions of this conference were declared in Financial Secretary's letter No. 3003, dated 13th November, to be instructions for the guidance of the local Government.

Again, in paragraph 11 of the same letter, it was said—

"The Governor-General trusts to the Lieutenant-Governor to obtain from each division and district statements in categorical form of all that is proposed to be done in consequence of the scarcity, to issue suitable instructions on each statement as soon as it is received, and to give the Commissioners and District officers discretion to act on emergency even in anticipation of His Honor's instructions."

This categorical information as respects transport, which would be most valuable, has not yet, I am to remark, been given.

In paragraphs 3 and 4 of Financial Secretary's letter No. 3004, dated 14th November, it was stated—

"One main difficulty will probably be want of draught animals for the transport of food-grains to the interior of the districts."

"4. These considerations are well known to the Lieutenant-Governor, and will doubtless have formed the subject, among many other things, of His Honor's forethought."

In the final paragraph of Financial Secretary's letter No. 55, dated 29th November 1873, it is observed—

"So far as concerns the transport by rail to the stations in the distressed districts, the Government of India trusts that there will be no difficulty. The apprehensions of the Government of India are directed towards the prospect of despatching the grain from the railway stations into the interior of the country. The important subject will doubtless engage the constant attention of the local Government."

3. It was understood by the Government of India from paragraphs 13, 14, and 15 of the circular by the local Government, dated 17th November, that supervision would be exercised over the proceedings of the local officers in respect to inland transport, and that an early and most careful report would be obtained from them regarding the means of transport from the nearest railway or river-side station to the centres of relief works or distress. It was consequently hoped that such reports would by this time have been available for submission if required by the Government of India. That the question was further receiving the attention of the Government of Bengal, was understood from paragraph 3 of the letter from that Government, No. 3563, dated 22nd November—

"The Lieutenant-Governor is very earnestly of opinion that we should transport grain to our places of storage at once before a block comes, at railway stations and on cart-roads, with new rice of the season 1873–74."

4. In the letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 3626, dated 25th November, 1873, some details were given of the provision for inland carriage, and in reply to that letter the Government of India remarked that the information was deficient, and that further details should be submitted as soon as they could be; paragraph 2 was as follows:—

"2. In reference to your concluding paragraph (6), I am to state that the Government of India, while observing with satisfaction the reports of the District Officers as to the present abundance of country carriage in some of the distressed districts, cannot fail to look forward to the time which may arrive but too soon when this carriage may begin to prove deficient; and to this prospect the special attention of the local Government is invited."

5. On the 2nd December the Government of Bengal made a requisition for 18¾ lakhs of maunds of grain to be in the distressed districts or in depôt ready for them by the end of January. It was stated that for a large part of this consignment the Lieutenant-Governor would arrange for its despatch to the interior as promptly as possible. On the 6th December these proposals were sanctioned.

In Financial Secretary's letter No. 3586, dated 9th December, the Government of India furnished the Government of Bengal with a memorandum from the Commissary General on the possible supply of bullocks available for transport in certain localities.

In paragraph 7 of the 4th Special Narrative, the Government of India was assured that the District Officers were forwarding to its destination all the grain which had reached them "without any hitch or hindrance so far." This assurance was repeated in paragraph 8 of the 5th narrative.

6. The Governor-General in Council has learnt at the conference held at Government House on the 8th instant, that while the railway transport was adequate for present requirements, yet the Local Government had no sufficient information in its possession as to whether the inland transport and country carriage would or would not prove adequate and efficient, or whether the local officers had or had not succeeded in doing what was expected of them in this matter. The information that was available seemed to indicate a possible deficiency of country carriage, though the Government of India earnestly hope that such may not prove to be the case.

7. The Government of India fully recognizes the difficulty of the matter, but can no longer remain in uncertainty upon a point on which the success of all relief operations must mainly depend, and I am accordingly desired to enclose two forms, one for Commissioners of Divisions and the other for Magistrates of Districts; and, I am to request, that they may be submitted weekly to the Government of India with the required information to date. The returns should be sent on as received, and no one return delayed until another has arrived.

From each district the first submission of these returns will therefore be looked for on the 24th instant, and at weekly intervals subsequently.

His Excellency in Council desires that the District Officers may be given to fully understand the importance he attaches to the punctuality and accuracy of these returns.

8. The Governor-General in Council is indeed aware that the Lieutenant-Governor has urgently drawn the attention of the local officers to this subject by a circular dated the 3rd current. But His Excellency in Council thinks that the time has come when precise returns should be obtained, so that a remedy may be promptly applied wherever needed.

9. I am further desired to request that in any instructions which the Local Government may think it necessary to issue to the District Officers on this subject, it may be considered—

(1.) Whether it will not be advisable to use the available carriage first, while it is fresh and

S 2

strong, for the more remote centres of relief; the nearer ones can be supplied afterwards by coolies and other means: (2.) what means can be adopted for carefully and continually inspecting and repairing the roads, especially the worst parts, as good roads will double the transport power.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
ARTHUR HOWELL,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 112S.R.

From A. MACKENZIE, ESQ., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce Department.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR,

Calcutta, dated 14th January 1874.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 82, dated 12th instant, and to say that immediate instructions have been issued to obtain precise information as to the means of transport and despatch of grain into the interior of districts in the form prescribed by the Government of India. I am to take the opportunity of forwarding a copy of a circular No. 61 of the 9th instant, on the subject of pushing on supplies of grain to the local depôts.

2. As regards that portion of your letter in which you set forth the orders already issued by the Government of India on the subject, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor has fully understood and acted on the instructions quoted by you. The only point in your recital to which he would take exception is that in which the desire of the Supreme Government to have in categorical form from each division and district statements " of all that was proposed to be done in consequence of the scarcity " is set forth as having a special application to the subject of transport and supply of carriage. The Lieutenant-Governor would only remark that the paragraph quoted was of perfectly general application, and had no special reference to the matter of transport; no special returns of transport were ever called for by the Government of India.

3. With reference to the 6th paragraph of your letter under reply, I am to submit that the manner in which the situation is there described can hardly be accepted as stated in a manner altogether just to this Government. It is true that being suddenly called upon in an unofficial manner to furnish forthwith on the same day precise information on the amount of transport available, the Secretary to this Government had not at hand any precise statement of the kind required, nor had he precise information up to date of the progress of all the grain slowly finding its way through devious water and other channels, many of which were being tried by way of experiment. But I am to submit that this Government is not without sufficient information of all that is going on, and has taken every means in its power to ascertain and develope the best and most efficient modes of transport.

4. The situation in regard to the question of carriage is really as follows. The despatch of a certain quantity of grain to distressed districts was sanctioned by the Government of India on the 6th December, and by orders of this Government No. 3834 of that date specific quantities were allotted to each such district, and local officers were instructed in clear and urgent terms to have the whole of the grain thus allotted despatched to their places of final storage, and as far as possible stored by the 31st of January.

5. As respects the quantity to be so disposed of, I am to observe that it was not 18¾ lakhs of maunds, as stated in paragraph 5 of your letter, but 15 lakhs of maunds. As duly reported and explained, 3¾ lakhs of maunds were kept in reserve, and Mr. Secretary Hume's confidential letter of the 16th December, paragraph 8, especially and emphatically approved of such reserve being made, and dwelt on the necessity of maintaining it.

6. The task, then, which was laid upon the district officers, was that of despatching into the interior 15 lakhs of maunds before the 31st January; and since those orders issued up till now the subject of transport not only has not been overlooked and treated as of secondary importance, but has engaged the Lieutenant-Governor's most anxious thought and constant care. In all his orders and arrangements he has treated it as of primary importance, and whatever has been done or omitted in respect of it, has been done or omitted of set purpose and after full deliberation.

7. To begin with, the Lieutenant-Governor had been assured, in personal communication with the local officers and otherwise, that in the distressed districts there is an abundance of local carriage, and that no serious difficulty would come in the way of storing the comparatively moderate amounts of grain allotted. It will be remembered also that the grain given is solely for expenditure on relief works, and that the Government of India has been most emphatic in insisting on leaving the ordinary supply of the people at large to the operations of private trade. Under these circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor thought it undesirable to interfere too much with local resources, and to disturb the distribution of supplies which the demand for carriage would naturally effect, by pressing for the collection of carts and all manner of available carriage on the part of Government officers. He was, on the contrary, of opinion that our great object should be not to disturb ordinary channels and ways of transport more than could be helped. He looked on this first despatch of Government grain as experimental

and desired to have it so utilized as to lead to the ascertaining of the best routes for future despatches of grain to the places where it is most required. He was especially anxious to test all water routes, and to get at the necessary knowledge of these; maps and statements have been constantly before his eyes. It was, indeed, in the first instance, proposed to the Lieutenant-Governor to call on each district officer to state what amount of carriage he could supply in order to regulate the despatch of grain. But His Honor thought this would involve delay when there was so much besides to be done at starting. He felt that the whole work was new to Bengal officers. He was sure none of them really knew or could tell the resources of their districts in the way of carriage till they had actually tried them; and he deliberately therefore, decided not to call for detailed estimates of available carriage. What he said to each officer in effect was: "Here is so much grain for your district. You must place it in your local store-houses by the best means available to you by the 31st of January." With these instructions the Government set to work to despatch the grain to rail and river-side stations. The Lieutenant-Governor has systematically not waited to hear that carriage was ready, but has sent on the grain and laid it down at main depôts to be forwarded to the interior, urging and pressing on the local officers continually the importance of getting it away and of developing and testing their district transport resources.

8. Reports of progress have been received from time to time, but the Lieutenant-Governor's experience had from the first made him aware that difficulties by land and water would of necessity arise, and that there must be some delays and failures in beginning a great work of this character. He has the satisfaction of believing that his officers have done their very best. But at the end of the month in which they received their orders the situation was this:—Much grain had been despatched; of some despatches information had reached Government, and of some the reports had still to come. Much was known to be in transit from different points, but it was impossible for this Government, at a moment's notice, to follow it and say at once exactly how much had actually reached its destination. Some delays and difficulties had, moreover, occurred, as the Lieutenant-Governor anticipated they must, and it was only gradually that the arrangements began to take shape and get into working order. With the first week of January, however, they did begin to take really effective shape; and though several of the reports had not come to hand when the Lieutenant-Governor conferred with His Excellency the Viceroy on the 8th instant, some important communications were then actually in the post, and we now know that the grain was in fact being distributed much faster than Mr. Bernard could state in figures when he gave the Viceroy's Private Secretary the best information he could, on such short notice, put together.

10. The latest information on the subject is contained in a note appended to this letter. But specific reports have also, as intimated at the outset, been called for, and will be forwarded.

11. The general result is that the Lieutenant-Governor is sanguine that in far the greater number of distressed districts, if not in all, the grain originally allotted will by the 31st have been distributed as ordered.

12. It is only within the last few days since this Government has received by your letter of the 6th instant information that a further supply will be forthcoming for despatch, that the Lieutenant-Governor has felt at liberty to allot the amount first kept in reserve. Still he hopes that most of that quantity also will be despatched by the 31st to the interior of the districts, and he is sanguine that when it is seen how, as the result of the experiments and efforts made, the transport arrangements of the districts are fully brought into play, we shall in the next three months satisfactorily transport the whole of the further supply now promised, and more if need be.

13. As regards the particular divisions, I am first to notice that the Rajshahye division, in regard to which Mr. Bernard's information was least definite, and where His Excellency the Viceroy thought things most unsatisfactory, has been that to which this Government has on its part devoted most thought and care. Dinagepore and other districts of the division have many carts, and had we devoted ourselves simply to moving up the first allotment without regard to other needs and the exigencies of private trade, it might probably have been easily done. The Lieutenant-Governor was, however, particularly anxious to find water routes, and strained all the resources of this Government to supply steamers and flats and get boats. A regular exploring expedition went up the Oorasagur, and by the devious routes of the Chullun bheel and Atrai; every effort was made to use the water route by the Mahanuddi to Raigunge; and much grain is going up by these routes. But, as already reported, the water routes this season are not satisfactory, owing to the abnormal lowness of the rivers, and we are being more and more driven to cartage. The time and labor spent in exploring has not been lost. But a large transport train is now being organised on the Rajmehal and Dinagepore road, and another is working from Dhaparee along the Northern Bengal Railway line, while the water routes will still be utilised as far as may be.

14. In the Bhaugulpore division good water routes are not available, and supply is going on by carts, and works in a more simple way. The Lieutenant-Governor has just heard that the whole of the allotment of one district has reached the store-houses; in the two others things are well advanced; the allotments will be delivered in time, and probably more than the original allotments.

15. In the Patna division the Commissioner has had a very heavy task, and met with many difficulties and disappointments, as was to be expected. Mr. Bayley has, however, striven to overcome these with persistent energy, and the Lieutenant-Governor knows he and his officers are doing all that can be done.

Here also the water routes have proved disappointing. Two or three from the east have been tried and proved failures. We are still trying another, which is more hopeful. Further to the west the Gunduck route has proved very little practicable, owing to difficulties of navigation, want of water, of suitable boats. Ferry services have now been organised on the Ganges; and long trains of carts are taking grain inland, while we still make the most of water carriage, where possible at all.

16. With respect to the offer of assistance from the Commissariat, I am to explain that the Lieutenant-Governor has never lost sight of this; but Colonel Willes, the head of the Department, seemed in conversation to be less sanguine about the Department's ability to supply camels than Colonel Macbean. The Commissioner of Patna also did not take a sanguine view of this mode of transport, and thought his local carriage would prove sufficient for the quantity of grain allotted. This being so the Lieutenant-Governor did not apply for Commissariat assistance, but experimented with our present means, and waited results and reports on our ability to forward the further allotments before indenting for Commissariat carriage.

The Commissioner of Patna has indeed just written to say that after conferring with Colonel Mackenzie, of the Commissariat Department, he is still of opinion that recourse should be had to that Department only as a last resource.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

P.S.—While this letter was in course of issue letters have been received from the Commissioners of Bhaugulpore and Patna, which confirm much that has been said above. The former officer, replying to this Government's letter, No. 10, dated 3rd instant, says:—

"The Government is quite right in believing that no actually pressing effort has yet been made anywhere to test the resources in the matter of carriage to any extreme degree."—"The despatches of grain into the interior of the districts of this division are in a more forward state than would appear from the portion of the report to the Government of India quoted in your letter."

Mr. Barlow then goes on to show what he is doing to push forward grain as indicated in the accompanying note.

Mr. Bayley, writing demi-officially, confirms in a striking manner the view taken by the Lieutenant-Governor of the danger that too great a pressure applied all at once to collect carriage would hamper and injure the operations of private trade. Urgent pressure brought to bear to clear away in a minimum time the deliveries at the Patna stations is said to have interfered much with the operations of that trade.

NOTE as to the present condition and prospects of the Grain Transport Arrangements so far as is known without waiting for Special Reports.

THE total provision of Government grain up to the end of January was put (see Appendix C to the sixth Narrative) at 19,25,000 maunds. By the first orders of the Government of India dated the 6th December, the total was taken at 18,75,000; but the arrangements made by Commissioners of division and subsequently reported brought the total up to 19¼ lakhs. Of this there was to be sent into the distressed districts, by the end of January, 15,00,000 maunds of grain, a reserve being kept of 4,25,000 maunds. The total provision was to come thus—

	Mds.	Mds.
From the North-Western Provinces—		
Commissioners' orders	1,85,000	
Tirhoot dealers, &c.	44,000	
Government of Bengal orders through Mr. Colvin	1,50,000	
		3,79,000
From Eastern Bengal direct into the Rajshahye division, an amount at first reported to be only 40,000 maunds, but afterwards ascertained to be		80,000
From the Nerbudda valley—		
Bunsee Lall's consignment and Manick Chund's consignment subsequently reported		65,000
Total		5,24,000
Balances to be provided from Calcutta, either by purchase there or in Orissa, or by importation from Burmah, Madras, &c.		14,01,000
Total		19,25,000

2. When the arrangements made by the Bengal Government were first reported to the Government of India, it was expected that the amount to be provided from Calcutta would be larger than the above figure (14 lakhs of maunds). But when the Commissioners reported all their

arrangements, and the purchases made* in the Central Provinces were added to the total amount provided from the North-Western Provinces, the balance to be provided from Calcutta remained as above shown. Of this balance 4,25,000 maunds were, as above mentioned, reckoned as unassigned reserve. Subsequently (during the first week of January), when the Lieutenant-Governor learned that he might reckon upon receiving a further supply of grain after the January supply was done, the whole reserve was allotted to the most necessitous districts. But notice of such fresh allotment, and promise of further supplies in February to April, did not reach the district officers until the month of January was well on. At the outset they had been told to arrange for transporting and storing only the 15,00,000 of maunds.

3. The whole of the North-Western Provinces supply, the whole of the Eastern Bengal supply, and almost the whole of the Nerbudda Valley supply are to be delivered in the distressed districts before the end of January. The arrangement of these supplies* is in the hands of the Commissioners; they report that it will all arrive within the required date, and the Government has accepted these assurances. There remain then the Calcutta despatches, which were to have been 9,76,000 maunds by the end of January, but which, now that the reserve has been allotted, should be 14,01,000 maunds.

4. Mr. Toynbee's statement* shows that up to the morning of Tuesday (the 13th January) there had been sent away from Calcutta 8,39,000 maunds of Government grain, and there were thus 5,61,000 still to go out of the January supply. Eighteen days of the month are left. If the East Indian Railway can take away 30,000 maunds a day, then 5,40,000 maunds could, if need be, go to the Patna and Bhaugulpore divisions, while about 1,70,000 maunds are due to the Rajshahye division. Some part of the Rajshahye division consignment must go viâ Rajmehal and the East Indian Railway, but we can hope actually to despatch from Calcutta the full 14,01,000 maunds before the end of January. If we fall short the amount short should not be large.

5. Then, as to what the local officers are doing, can do, or promise to do. The Government has not received absolute final figures of what can be done. Replies to the questions on this point have not come. But we can say this much,—

Patna Division.

Mr. Bayley writes (demi-officially on the 10th January) regarding Tirhoot and Sarun that he can carry away—

	Maunds.
By three different routes to Tirhoot - - - -	50,000 a week.
By three different routes to Chumparun - - - -	44,000 ,,
No recent information has come, but the Lieutenant-Governor estimates that Sarun can take - - - -	30,000 ,,
And that Gya can take - - - - - - -	25,000 ,,
Regarding the Shahabad and Patna districts, no recent information is to hand. The Soane Canal Works are taking regularly 5,000 maunds a week. Mr. Levinge has been instructed to take more. Shahabad and Patna have comparatively small allotments of grain, private trade is there brisk, and no effort has yet been made to carry very large quantities of Government grain into the interior. The Lieutenant-Governor does not propose at present to call upon the local officers of these two districts to make any such effort, and so he reckons the weekly transport of Shahabad and Patna at - - -	20,000 ,,
Total for the division - - -	1,69,000 per week.

Mr. Bayley (under date the 12th January) telegraphed—"Grain despatched from Patna ghât alone during past week, 82,000 maunds." Mr. Bayley has on the same date demi-officially informed the Lieutenant-Governor that, by pressing on exceedingly the Government transport we are exhausting the whole carrying power of the country, and that there is risk of our interfering much with private trade. Under these circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor has directed that the Government consignments may be so managed either by getting carriage and boats from far off, or by (if necessary) limiting daily consignments, that private trade shall not suffer. And thus it is perfectly possible that the Government transport in the Patna division, where private trade is fairly brisk, may not be kept up to the total that might be possible if Government grain only were considered.

Bhaugulpore Division.

The Commissioner, Mr. Barlow, telegraphs (on the 13th January): "Monghyr grain 1,07,000 maunds received; all reported stored." On the 12th January Mr. Barlow sent a statement and reports showing that Bhaugulpore hopes to have his full second lakh (that is, the additional lakh now given to the district, its original assignment being first completed) stored by the 15th February. Regarding Purneah, Mr. Barlow wrote that he had arranged for a second crossing over the Ganges at Colgong, whereat 3,000 maunds of grain daily could be crossed. With the help of the railway crossing at Sahebgunge, Mr. Barlow hopes to deliver from 5,000 to 6,000 maunds of grain daily at Caragola, all of which he believed Mr. Munro, of the police, the officer in charge of the carting work at Caragola, would manage to carry away. The total available transport for the Bhaugulpore division thus amounts to—

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* One of these purchases was, as has been reported to the Government of India, made under special circumstances after other purchases had been quite stopped.

* Except the small Nerbudda Valley supply, regarding the arrival of which there is little doubt.

* Appendix B. to eighth Narrative.

	Mds.
Monghyr, which carries away all it receives, and may be put down at per week - - - -	30,000
Bhaugulpore, ditto ditto - -	40,000
Purneah, which may be put down at - - -	35,000
Total per week - -	105,000

As yet no complaints of hindrance to private carriage have been received from the Bhaugulpore division.

Rajshahye Division.

For this division we have as yet only reports of the grain despatched to a date not now very recent (Commissioner's Nos. 49 and 51 of 5th January); and, owing to the distances to be travelled by letters over non-railway routes, the information from this division can never be so prompt as from Behar. For this division it may be said that during about one month there were despatched—

	Mds.
From Kooshtea - - - - - -	70,000
„ Goalundo viâ the Oorasagor - - -	46,000
„ Calcutta by steamer to Kaligunge - -	20,000
„ Dacca to ditto - - -	20,000
„ Serajgunj - - - - - -	10,000
„ Rajmehal - - - - - -	5,000
Mr. Robinson has now begun to organise a train of carts from opposite of Rajmehal to carry 500 maunds a day, or say per month - - - - -	15,000
Major Lindsay has prepared to cart from Rampore Beauleah and from Dhaparee at least 5,000 maunds a piece per week, or per month - - -	40,000
Total per month - - -	226,000

The Lieutenant-Governor anticipates that the Rajshahye officers will be able to carry into the interior of Dinagepore, Rungpore, Maldah, Rajshahye, and Bograh, about 60,000 maunds a week, If the Dinagepore routes viâ the Mahanuddy cannot be worked up to the full extent required. Mr. Barlow is prepared to go on supplying the north-west of Dinagepore viâ Caragolah, the Purneah road, up to an amount of at least 50,000 maunds a month, when the full Purneah supply shall have been laid in.

6. To sum up the whole, it may be stated that the local officers can despatch to the interior—

	Per week. Mds.
Patna division - - - - -	169,000
Bhaugulpore division - - - -	105,000
Rajshahye division - - - - -	60,000
Total - -	334,000

The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that in districts where private trade is brisk, the large amounts named may not have to be carried. And he does not feel sure that the East Indian Railway can deliver the full amounts shown in the Patna and Bhaugulpore divisions without occasional delays such as have occurred on one or two occasions, till at least additional rolling stock is procured and arrangements made as the railway propose to do.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard.
Calcutta, 14th January 1874. Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Appendix F. to foregoing Narrative.

No. 83.

From Arthur Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture. Famine.

Sir, Dated Calcutta, the 12th January 1874.

I am desired to call the immediate attention of the Government of Bengal to the subject of Relief Committees.

2. In paragraph 28 of the Resolution of the 7th November last it was stated that—

"The Governor General relies upon the Lieutenant-Governor to take steps for organizing district and local committees in seasonable time, and in sufficient numbers, so that the measures for relief shall be far reaching and comprehensive in proportion as the distress may become widespread.

Whatever application His Honor may make for assistance from the ranks of the public service, with a view to effectively constituting these committees, will receive immediate attention from the Government of India."

3. Again, in the conference held at Government House on the 10th November last, the duty "of being prepared beforehand" with all the machinery for relief was strongly urged, and the Viceroy expressed an opinion that immediate steps were necessary for obtaining from the District Officers "detailed recommendations showing the places where relief centres should be established and the names of those who would serve on the Committees." A hope was expressed that the Secretary to the local Government would then be able to frame for the Lieutenant-Governor's consideration detailed regulations for the guidance of these Committees. I am to point out that the conclusions arrived at during this conference were expressly declared in Financial Secretary's letter No. 3003, dated 13th November, to be instructions for the guidance of the local Government.

4. At the conference subsequently held on the 8th instant, the Governor General in Council was informed that the regulations have not yet been prepared, and that the organization of the committees has been postponed, owing mainly to the more urgent calls upon the local officers in respect to the provision of transport and the storage of grain. His Excellency is ready to make every allowance for this, but recent reports, especially from Sarun and Tirhoot, lead the Government of India to apprehend that the preparation for bringing relief committees into action has been too long delayed.

5. The attention of the Government of Bengal was called to this subject in my letter of the 30th ultimo, and a circular was addressed on the 3rd instant, by the Lieutenant-Governor's direction, to the Commissioners of Rajshahye, Patna, and Bhaugulpore, and the Relief Commissioner of Rajshahye, asking for an early report of the state of their preparations. I am to request that the Government of India may be furnished, as soon as possible, with information of the number, names, and sites of the relief centres proposed to be constituted, and of the committees actually formed. District maps should accompany your reply; but if the preparation of these maps will cause any delay, the rest of the required information should not on this account be kept back.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor was understood to say at the conference that the regulations for the guidance of Relief Committees were still under preparation. And as they may involve some questions of considerable importance, it is desirable that they should be submitted as soon as possible for the sanction of the Government of India.

7. The Government of Bengal will receive a separate communication to the effect that orders have been issued appointing certain military officers to place themselves at the disposal of the Commissioner of Patna to assist in the superintendence of the Committees in that division.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
ARTHUR HOWELL.
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 122 S. R.

From A. MACKENZIE, ESQ., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, dated 14th January 1874.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 83, dated 12th instant, regarding the organisation of relief committees and charitable relief. The Lieutenant-Governor is sorry to understand that recent reports have led His Excellency in Council to think that the arrangements for bringing these committees into operation have been too long delayed. The views of the Government of India and of this Government, as repeatedly expressed, had been that the time for general charitable relief had not yet come; but district officers have from the outset had a discretion to start local committees wherever the necessity for this arose in any particular locality, and directions were given them to relieve any isolated cases of distress. The Lieutenant-Governor has not himself seen in the reports anything to make him think that action has been really too long delayed, but His Honor quite concurs with His Excellency in Council that the time has come when steps may very well be taken of the kind indicated. The circulars from this Government to local officers, Nos. 9 and 73, of the 3rd and 10th instant, copies herewith forwarded, will show what action this Government has already taken in this direction.

2. As regards the preparation of rules defining the functions of the committees and prescribing their mode of action, it must be owned that some little delay has occurred, but the Lieutenant-Governor did not feel that this was really urgently pressing, inasmuch as isolated cases and very local distress are best dealt with according to the circumstances of the locality rather than under general rules, and, as already stated, the local officers had a discretion to meet such cases. It is only when operations become large that general rules become necessary and applicable. The Lieutenant-Governor has already explained that he did not think fit to press specially for relief committees while other matters were more urgent, and he thought that till committees were appointed, rules for regulating their action were not immediately required. He has, however, not by any means lost sight of the subject, and Mr. Geddes, an officer peculiarly fitted for the task, was at a very early date directed to compile, arrange, and classify all the most important and approved orders on this subject from the reports of all recent famines both in Bengal and else-

where. No officer could do this sort of work better than Mr. Geddes, who has considered such matters much; but as he is thoughtful his rate of work is a little slow, and delay has certainly occurred, as the Lieutenant-Governor has admitted. The work is, however, now done and in type, and its excellence will, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes, quite make up for the delay which after all has done no practical harm.

3. At the conference of the 10th November it was arranged, among other things, that relief rules for the guidance of committees should be drawn up, and Mr. Bernard was mentioned, being the Secretary in attendance on that day, as the officer who might prepare them. The Lieutenant-Governor wishes, however, to make it clear that no shadow of blame can attach to Mr. Bernard in this matter. He has been working under the Lieutenant-Governor's own eye and direction, and His Honor has deliberately to the full employed him in other matters, and has not made over to him this particular work. Far from Mr. Bernard being to blame in this or in any other matter connected with scarcity and relief, the Lieutenant-Governor desires to take this opportunity of declaring in the most emphatic manner that no mortal man could have rendered more constant, devoted, and efficient work from the very beginning of this famine business. The Lieutenant-Governor's only fear is that Mr. Bernard is injuring his health by excessive devotion to these duties, and His Honor dreads lest, by putting too much upon him, he may detract from his eventual power of work, a misfortune than which nothing could be greater.

4. The Lieutennnt-Governor has no doubt the Government of India will think him right in exercising his discretion as to the particular officers to do this or other work.

5. All the above however being said, the Lieutenant-Governor thoroughly recognizes the urgency and importance of making arrangements for charitable relief, and entirely agrees that both committees should be organised and rules issued as soon as possible.

6. Every effort is being made to get the definite information requested in your 5th paragraph, and as soon as it is received it will be submitted. The rules shall be submitted in draft as soon as may be. Meantime a proposal as regards the best mode of meeting the wishes of His Excellency in Council for the appointment of a central committee, and for regulating and superintending relief operations, will be submitted in a separate letter.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 123 S.R.

From A. Mackenzie, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir, Calcutta, dated 14th January 1874.

In my separate letter No. 122 of this day's date, I have submitted the Lieutenant-Governor's explanations as to the present situation of the question of appointing local relief committees and framing rules for their guidance.

2. In conseqnence of what passed at the conference of the 8th instant, it was arranged that, although an appeal to the general public might be postponed for a short time, it was desirable that the machinery of Chairman, Secretary, &c. of a central relief committee should be prepared at once. The Lieutenant-Governor now, therefore, proposes in anticipation of the formal appointment of such a Committee, to give effect at once to the arrangements sketched in the Appendix A to Mr. Bernard's letter No. 3888 of the 11th December, which have already met with the approval and sanction of the Government of India in Mr. Chapman's letter No. 3690, dated the 12th December 1873. That is to say, he proposes that Mr. Schalch should be set apart as President Elect of the proposed Central Committee, to undertake at once the superintendence of charitable relief arrangements in the interior, and make preliminary arrangements in Calcutta; and that a Secretary should also be appointed to begin work with Mr. Schalch forthwith.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor is sure that no one so well fitted for this duty as Mr. Schalch is, by both general and special experience, could be anywhere found. Mr. Schalch has selected as his Secretary a very competent young officer, who knows well the part of the Behar country where distress is pressing, viz., Mr. A. Forbes, C.S. The Lieutenant-Governor had originally thought that a senior officer would have been required for this post, and had proposed a rate of salary which it will now not be necessary to give. His Honor has full confidence in the propriety of Mr. Schalch's choice, and proposes to give Mr. Forbes a salary of Rs. 1,400 while engaged on this duty instead of Rs. 2,500 as before estimated. His Honor would take this opportunity of begging that he may be permitted to put Mr. Toynbee's allowances on a par with those of Mr. Geddes and Mr. Forbes. Mr. Toynbee is doing very heavy and responsible work, and doing it in a very efficient manner.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor, some days ago, asked Mr. Schalch to note his views as to the functions and rules of working of relief committees, and placed him in communication with Mr. Geddes, the proof sheets of whose work he has seen. Under all the circumstances, and seeing the mass of details with which this office is now overburdened, and looking to Mr. Schalch's most special qualifications, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it will be best that Mr. Schalch should first draft the rules in rough and settle them with His Honor, and that they should then be submitted for the approval of His Excellency the Viceroy.

5. Mr. Schalch is under the impression that it may be desirable to consult the members of the future central committee, and to get their approval to any rules issued. But however this may be, the rules may very well be settled and approved at once, so far as Government is concerned. It will probably be desirable that Mr. Schalch should, in an informal way, associate with himself a few gentlemen who are likely to be active and prominent members of the committee, leaving the rest to be nominated and appointed after His Excellency the Viceroy has, in public meeting, stated the degree of necessity which exists and made a formal appeal to public charity.

6. Mr. Schalch further purposes (and the Lieutenant-Governor quite endorses his view) that after drafting the rules, he should go up-country and visit the distressed districts, see the local officers, and settle on the spot all that can be settled. The Lieutenant-Governor is sure the public service and the interests of humanity will be best advanced by engaging Mr. Schalch at once in this duty. His thoughts have, in communication with the Lieutenant-Governor, been much directed to these matters of late. His Honor trusts that, within a very few days, we shall have a rough draft of rules. The Lieutenant-Governor does not think it would be necessary to gazette the proposed appointments at present, but Mr. Dampier might be gazetted to act as an Additional Member of the Board of Revenue in pursuance of the plans already proposed and approved.

7. I am to add that besides Mr. Forbes, Mr. Schalch would eventually wish to have another Secretary accustomed to dealing with the public, getting in subscriptions, and so on. If the services of Mr. H. Wood, who has done such good work on former occasions without either fee or reward, can be secured, the Government would be fortunate. It may be doubtful whether Mr. Wood's present position would admit of his again undertaking these duties gratuitously, but in that case an honorarium could be given him out of the saving on the original estimate of salaries caused by the appointment of Mr. Forbes.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

MEMORANDUM of the Proceedings at a Conference held at Government House, Calcutta, on January the 8th, 1874.

PRESENT:

THE VICEROY.
THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.
THE HONORABLE SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I.
THE HONORABLE B. H. ELLIS, C.S.I.
MAJOR-GENERAL THE HONORABLE SIR H. W. NORMAN, K.C.B.
THE HONORABLE E. C. BAYLEY, C.S.I.
MR. H. O. HUME, C.B., Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.
MR. C. BERNARD, Secretary to the Government of Bengal.
MR. A. HOWELL, Deputy Secretary in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.
MR. TOYNBEE, Officer charged with the receipt and despatch of grain from Calcutta.
CAPTAIN E. BARING, R.A., Private Secretary to the Viceroy.

The Viceroy said that a Conference had been held at Government House on the 10th of November to concert measures in view of the anticipated famine in Bengal. Two months had now elapsed since that date, and as the latest letters from the Government of Bengal showed that the distress was coming on in some parts more rapidly than had been anticipated, it appeared a suitable time for holding another Conference, in order that stock might be taken of what had been done, and that the arrangement of any further measures which may be necessary might be facilitated.

The first point which he desired to discuss was transport, and in considering this subject His Excellency proposed to deal, in the first instance, with the transport of grain from Calcutta to the main centres in the distressed districts, and secondly, with the local means of transport which were available for distributing grain. Mr. Bernard had furnished returns* of the available means of transport which were at the disposal of the Bengal officers. His Excellency had made a summary of those returns, and he thought the most convenient method to adopt would be to go through them seriatim in order to see what had been done and what remained to be done.

* NOTE.—This information was furnished by Mr. Bernard on the 7th in consequence of a request from the Viceroy made on the same morning through his Private Secretary.

The Lieutenant-Governor had stated in his circular letter No. 10 S. R. of the 3rd January that arrangements had been made to distribute 16 lakhs of maunds before the end of January, besides 3 lakhs of maunds in reserve to supply any demand for quantities exceeding the assignments within that period, and that up to the 3rd of January about 4¼ lakhs had been despatched from Calcutta by Mr. Toynbee, and about 1½ lakhs more from the North-Western Provinces and Eastern Bengal, making 6 lakhs in all. There remained, therefore, 10 lakhs (erroneously computed at 9 in the letter from the Government of Bengal) to be distributed, besides 3 lakhs of reserve; total, 13 lakhs.

Mr. Bernard explained that about 2,85,000 maunds, or say 3 lakhs, had to arrive from the

North-Western Provinces. The amount, therefore, that had to be sent up-country from Calcutta amounted only to 8 lakhs, one lakh of the reserve having been appropriated, or 10 lakhs, including the reserve.

The Viceroy said that he presumed the reserve would be sent up-country, and therefore, estimating the quantity to be distributed to be 10 lakhs, it became necessary to enquire whether it was possible to send that quantity up country from Calcutta before the 31st of January.

Mr. Bernard had stated that "at a pinch" 40,000 maunds a day could be sent by the East Indian Railway, but "for a continuance" only from 25,000 to 30,000 maunds a day could be despatched to Behar, or say 27,500. He also estimated that "quite half as much a day," or say 14,000 maunds, could be despatched to the Rajshahye Division by the Eastern Bengal Railway. The total quantity, therefore, that could be sent daily from Calcutta up-country amounted to 41,500 maunds.

The Lieutenant-Governor remarked that of the total originally assigned about one-fifth was for Rajshahye, and about four-fifths for Behar.

The Viceroy remarked that in that case 8 lakhs would have to go to Behar and 2 lakhs to Rajshahye. If grain were sent to Behar at the rate of 27,500 maunds per diem, in the 28 days between the 3rd and the 31st of January a total quantity of 7,70,000 maunds could be despatched, or very nearly 8 lakhs, and that as Mr. Bernard's estimate of the amount of grain that could be despatched to Rajshahye was 14,000 maunds per diem, it was clear that within the same period 2 lakhs could be despatched in that direction without any difficulty. It appeared therefore that the railways could meet the demands that would be made upon them.

Mr. Toynbee remarked that there was already a block at Calcutta. The greatest quantity of grain which he had despatched in any one day by the East Indian Railway was 28,000 maunds. More rice was being received than could be sent forward.

The Viceroy remarked that without doubt rice was being received by the Government of India at Calcutta quicker than it could be sent up-country, and this would very probably continue to be the case, but the main question now was, whether a sufficient amount of rolling stock was available to send the 8 lakhs which had been arranged by the Government of Bengal to be sent to Behar before the 31st of January.

The Lieutenant-Governor said that Mr. Batchelor, the Traffic Manager of the East Indian Railway Company, had explained to him that the resources of the railway had not really up to the present moment been strained, and that they could work up to a very much larger maximum than was at present the case.

The Viceroy observed that the Railway Company would be asked distinctly to state what they could do in the way of transport.

Mr. Ellis said it would be very objectionable to interfere with the transport of private stores.

The Viceroy assented, but thought it was essential that the Government should know exactly what the railway could do.

Mr. Toynbee said that private traffic was always given a preference to the Government demands.

Sir Richard Temple remarked that Mr. Stephenson, the agent of the East Indian Railway Company, had assured the Government in November that he could send 2,000 tons a day in covered waggons, and could increase the quantity considerably by sending grain in open waggons.

After some further conversation Mr. Toynbee said that he could send off 28,000 maunds a day from Calcutta by the East Indian Railway.

The Viceroy said that the result of this portion of the discussion was, therefore, so far satisfactory, for it became evident that, though the Railway would not perhaps, be able to send up the rice so quickly as it was received at Calcutta, they would be able to send the 8 lakhs which were arranged to be sent to Behar before the 31st of January; and as regards the Eastern Bengal Railway, which would throw supplies into the Rajshahye Division, there appeared to be no difficulty.

His Excellency then passed on to the subject of local transport. He said that the returns on this subject which he had received from Mr. Bernard were very incomplete.

The Lieutenant-Governor observed that the demand for information of this sort had been made suddenly yesterday, and that it was not to be supposed that the papers which Mr. Bernard had given Captain Baring on so short a notice, and which were furnished so hurriedly that he himself had not seen them, represented all the transport that was available. No definite figures regarding the limit of transport capabilities had been in the first instance asked for from the local officers, because they themselves could not tell till they tried. The local officers had not yet stated the utmost they could carry; they had only stated what they had actually done when their reports were written. The plan which in the first instance the Lieutenant-Governor had deliberately followed was this:—The grain sanctioned by the Government of India was put down at the Railway and river side stations for the local officers, and they were told to do the utmost they could to get it into the interior. They had been making experiments, and a variety of routes and modes of transport had been tried with a view to see which was the best.

The Viceroy said that he regretted that the information was incomplete, but the stage for experiments had now passed, and we were approaching a period when the whole of the transport service must be thoroughly well organized. The importance of this subject had been frequently pressed on the Government of Bengal by the Government of India, and he had hoped to receive more full information upon the subject and to hear that the organization of the transport was in a more complete state than it appeared to be. As it was, it appeared to him that, so far as he could judge from the returns he had received, the local transport which had been provided was not sufficient. Perhaps the best course would be to go through Mr. Bernard's returns in detail. First, as regards the Patna Division.—Mr. Bernard states that 37,000 maunds have to be supplied to the Patna district to make up their full requisition of 50,000 maunds before the end of January, which the Magistrate says he can send off "in a few weeks' time if need be; say, therefore that rice can be despatched into this district at the rate of 1,300 maunds a day. Mr. Bernard states that grain can apparently be carried into Gya at the rate of about 3,000 maunds a day." In Shahabad, Mr. Bernard states that "when transport begins in earnest there, the Soane Canal and the local works could carry away quite as much as Gya could do, *i.e.*, 3,000 maunds a day." Tirhoot, Mr. Bernard states, "ought to work for some time to come" up to a total of 4,000 maunds a day. In Sarun the transport is reported to amount to "barely 1,000 maunds a day." Mr. Bernard states that "scarcely any grain has been carried to the interior" of Chumparun, but "contracts for carrying 8,000 to 10,000 maunds a week have been made;" say, therefore, that 1,300 maunds a day would be carried.

The Lieutenant-Governor explained that the Patna and Shahabad districts might, for the purposes of the present argument, be left out of account. The Patna district could be easily supplied, and the Shahabad district was not considered by the Commissioner to need immediately as much as had originally been assigned to it. It was proposed to divert some of the stores which had been originally proposed for these districts to other tracts which stood more in need of them. It was desirable to push as much grain as possible to the north of the Ganges.

The Viceroy said that if Shahabad and Patna were left out of account, the available amount of transport according to Mr. Bernard's report, which seemed to him to embody the latest information, would be as follows: Gya, 3,000 maunds per diem; Tirhoot, 4,000; Sarun, 1,000; Chumparun, 1,300;—total 9,300, or about 65,000 maunds a week.

Next, as regards the Bhaugulpore Division, Mr. Bernard said that "the Bhaugulpore and Monghyr Collectors are transporting about 2,000 maunds a day each, and the Purneah Collector, who has been rather behind-hand hitherto, hopes to carry away 4,000 maunds a day." This made a total of 8,000 maunds a day.

It appeared, therefore, that in the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions together there was, so far as we know at present, local transport available for 17,300 maunds a day; but as 28,000 maunds a day would be brought up by the Railway from Calcutta, besides what is expected from the North-West, it followed that the local transport fell short of what was required to meet the exigencies of the case by more than 10,000 maunds per diem.

Turning next to Rajshahye, His Excellency said that Mr. Bernard had stated as follows:—"Of the internal transport we cannot, I am afraid say much at present." It appeared, therefore, that there was little or no information on the subject of transport in this Division. Rajshahye was the place where the greatest difficulty was immediately apprehended, and it was doubtful what quantity of grain was now in store there.

Mr. Bernard observed that the transport of grain in the Rajshahye Division was a very tedious matter. He could not say that there was any considerable amount altogether in store there. There was certainly more than a lakh of maunds which had left Kooshtea and Goalundo, but very little of it had arrived at its final destination.

The Viceroy said that he thought, on the whole, that the question of local transport was not in a satisfactory state. He did not wish to express any want of confidence in any of the Commissioners or district officers, but what he wished to say was that the ultimate responsibility rests with the Government of India, and that they were not at all satisfied with the present condition of the transport. So far as the means at our disposal enabled us to judge, the transport in different districts was not sufficient to carry out the Lieutenant-Governor's original programme for distributing grain up to the 31st of January.

It was possible that Mr. Bernard's report did not represent the whole of the transport that was available, but this was a matter of the first importance, and the Government could only go by the official information which they had before them. The Government of India had constantly called attention to this subject, and had suggested early in November that Commissariat transport might be made use of.

The Lieutenant-Governor repeated that Mr. Bernard's note did not represent the whole of our means of transport, and it would be found that we could carry and were carrying more than His Excellency supposed. He further said that he was not aware that any public letter had been received on the subject of Commissariat transport. The suggestion had certainly been made, and he had talked on the subject to Colonel Willes, the head of the Commissariat Department, but he found that Colonel Willes did not agree in the sanguine estimate of Commissariat power which Colonel Macbean had given the Viceroy.

The Viceroy observed that he believed such a letter had been written,* but at any rate the suggestion was made. In the present condition of affairs he thought the best thing to do would be to send an experienced Commissariat Officer to Patna, to consult with the Commissioner and to give him carte blanche to do what he could.

Sir Henry Norman said that without doubt a good Commissariat Officer could be found for this service.

The Lieutenant-Governor said that north of the Ganges the risk was so great that he should be glad to have assistance. He did not ask for any Commissariat assistance in Rajshahye. He thought it would be advisable, if possible, to bring supplies from Oude into Behar.

The Viceroy said that he was unable at present to state positively whether any supplies would be available in Oude. From enquiries he had made during his recent visit to Oude some anxiety had been caused to him as to whether the supplies in that province would be sufficient to meet its own demands. Later accounts were somewhat better, but he was unable at present to say whether it would be possible for any large quantity of grain to be transported from Oude into Behar.

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* Note.—The public letter to which the Viceroy referred has been subsequently ascertained to be No. 141 from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Military Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated 6th November 1873.

Sir Richard Temple said that he had ascertained from the Commissary-General that 5,000 pack-bullocks could be supplied in one month and 7,000 in another at the rate of Rs. 4 a month. He had received a specific enquiry from Colonel Willes on this subject, and he wished to know what answer should be sent to him. Was the special Commissariat Officer to ask the Commissioner whether or not he wanted those bullocks, and if so, was he to get them ?

The Lieutenant-Governor said it was clear that the Commissariat Officer should consult the Commissioner, as it was impossible that the conference could settle such a matter.

Sir Henry Norman said that as it was arranged to depute a special Commissariat Officer to Patna with full authority to act, this officer would be able to see for himself what were the requirements of the case.

The Viceroy observed, before leaving the subject of transport, that he thought the Commissioners and Collectors should be called upon to state distinctly what their powers of transport were, not only for the present but for the next four or five months.

There was another point on which he should like to have the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion. Proposals had been made for light railroads, one from Patna to Gya and the other from Hajeepore to Mozufferpore. These railroads could not be constructed in time to meet the present distress, but Colonel Dickens had drawn up a memorandum showing that a tramway on which bullocks would be used might be laid between Hajeepore and Mozufferpore, and be ready by May.

The Lieutenant-Governor did not think it was advisable to construct such a tramway, and it was therefore decided that the project should be abandoned.

The Viceroy said that the next subject to which he wished to call attention was the distribution of gratuitous relief. The last narratives had made it clear to him that in Sarun and Tirhoot the time had arrived for the distribution of relief. The reports from Dinagepore, where severe distress was anticipated, were not quite clear as to the absolute necessity for gratuitous relief yet.

The Lieutenant-Governor remarked that the last narrative seemed to say that such necessity had not yet actually arisen in Dinagepore.

The Viceroy said that the last narrative was to that effect; but Mr. Robinson's letter of the 25th of December was a little inconsistent with his narrative of the 28th. As, however, the narrative was the later of the two, it might be assumed that there would be no immediate necessity.

The reports from Sarun were very bad, and he could not but think that the local officers there had been somewhat slack in carrying out the orders of Government. These officers had been asked for reports on the constitution of Relief Committees, but they had not been yet organised, which might now give rise to difficulty.

The Lieutenant-Governor did not think that serious blame was to be attached to the local officers in this matter. The Government of Bengal did not, in the first instance, press specially for these Committees. They felt that the most pressing thing was the transport of grain and the commencement of relief works, and that this might take precedence of the formation of Relief Committees. The Government had since more especially required the officers to proceed with Relief Committees. There were certain parts of the country in which it was desirable that Relief Committees should now be organised, and he thought that the time had arrived to consider the question.

The Viceroy said that he would read Mr. Bernard's return, which would show how matters stood in respect to the formation of Relief Committees. Mr. Bernard said—

As yet we have not received replies from districts on paragraph 18 of Circular No. 80 about Relief Committees. We have recently drawn attention to the subject in Circular No. 9 of 3rd January.

As yet we have received no report from the local officers as to the constitution of the Relief Committees, and no general expression of opinion or advice on the subject has been received. Under paragraph 18 of Circular No. 80 we had left much to the local officers' discretion, saying—" When it is evident that charitable relief must be given in any district, the Magistrate will call a meeting of Native and European gentlemen who may be willing to serve on Relief Committees; he will nominate Branch Committees under the sub-divisional officers or other fit persons."

Taking the several distressed districts in order by the light of the latest reports, we can say—

Patna Division.—No general remarks by the Commissioner at present.

Patna District.—Sites for relief centres in two of the sub-divisions not yet fixed. Magistrate
* 28th Dec. has* the illustrated map in hand.

* 29th Dec. Gya District.—Sites for three classes of centres chosen, map sent* to Commissioner not yet reached Government. Buildings being arranged for; plenty of names of committee-men can be got, but Mr. Palmer is doubtful if Native members will exert themselves actively.

* 30th Dec. Shahabad District.—Plans not yet* settled. Paragraph 18 of Circular No. 80 still under
† Narrative of 16th Dec. consideration. Centres will be established† where European supervision can be brought to bear.

* 31st Dec. Tirhoot District.—Nothing yet* done. We have now begged to have Relief Committees or agency organised at once, and in anticipation of orders in one part of the district.

* 31st Dec. Narrative. Sarun District.—The* different indigo factories in the district have been selected as relie centres, and a map of the nature prescribed by Government order is under preparation.

Chumparun District.—Scheme not yet drawn up, attention being given to it.

Bhaugulpore Division.—General remark by Commissioner that "Magistrate-Collector will shortly have all machinery ready for action. Sites for centres in all three stages of famine had been selected in all districts, and Relief Committees are being rapidly organized everywhere."

Monghyr.—Thirty-one centres for charitable relief have been selected, and the district and sub-divisional officers are going round arranging for the appointment of committee-men. Map showing relief centres has been sent to the Commissioner.

Bhaugulpore District.—Relief centres not yet reported. Magistrate writes (30th December) :— "I met both sub-divisional officers while in the north, and noted several places to which grain may have to be sent hereafter. I have not had time yet to put these notes into proper form."

Purneah District.—For the three sub-divisions Mr. Kemble has selected 25 sites for relief centres. As 13 of these committees have been formed either under the sub-divisional officer or under the Deputy Collector, who is sent out in charge of the distressed proportion of the Sudder sub-division.

RAJSHAHYE DIVISION.

Moorshedabad District.—A meeting was to be held on the 3rd January at the Commissioner's Office with a view of appointing Relief Committees.

Subscriptions have been opened at the Lallbagh sub-division.

Scheme for relief centres in interior not yet prepared.

Maldah.—Scheme for relief centres, &c. not yet completed. A District Committee and two Branch Committees of Relief have been organised. The Head Quarters Committee was formed on 30th November, and some small funds were collected.

Rajshahye District.—Committees not yet formed ; scheme for relief centres not yet framed.

Dinagepore District.—Same as preceding.

Bogragh District.—Ditto. Meeting of a Central Committee convened for 7th January.

Rungpore.—A Central Committee has been formed at the head quarters ; a branch is being formed at one out-station ; others are being prepared. Scheme of relief centres is not yet matured.

The Viceroy said that he would read a further return by Mr. Bernard on the distribution and sale of grain, which was as follows :—

For the distribution or sale of Government grain to the public or to purchasers, as distinguished from people on works, we have as yet received proposals from Mr. Robinson only. His letter has been laid before the Government of India.

Mr. Ravenshaw in the note he drew up of his experience in Orissa adverts to the question of selling grain to the public, but he does not give any particulars as to procedure.

Mr. Bayley made* demi-officially a proposal that food should be sold at the market rates of the neighbourhood, and wages should be raised proportionately: to this proposal the Lieutenant-Governor could not agree.

Beyond this we have had no opinions or suggestions, except that Mr. Worsley of Tirhoot suggested we should aid middle-class women by furnishing them with in-door work and food through the village headmen.

At page 10 of the last (29th December) Monghyr narrative will be found the instructions which Mr. Lockwood gave to his officers for starting local Relief Committees and regulating the distribution of food. He has been told that his action in this matter is a little premature.

The Viceroy then remarked that the point to consider now was this—the Relief Committees being constituted, what should be their functions ? He should like to know what instructions it was proposed to give the committees.

Mr. Bernard explained that they were collecting information with a view to determining what instructions should be given. Mr. Geddes had been entrusted with this duty. No final instructions had yet been issued.

The Viceroy said that he thought that no time should be lost, and that the matter had better now be discussed. The primary object of the Relief Committees would appear to be to distribute food gratuitously to those who were unable to buy it.

The Lieutenant-Governor entertained a similar view, but thought that the change from relief works to charitable relief should be by gradations, of which there were several. All relief which was given apart from public works should be under the Relief Committees, and great care should be taken as to the manner in which relief was to be dispensed.

The Viceroy thought that this, as a first principle, might form the foundation of the instructions to committees. A very important matter was the manner in which relief should be given to the respectable class of persons, especially women, in regard to whom inquiries must be made, as they would not apply for relief, and he presumed that this could only be done by employing natives to distribute the relief. He might mention that he had seen a letter from Mr. Bayley, who stated that his former anticipations had turned out worse than he had expected, and that whatever we did he was very much afraid that a number of this particular class would die. The Government would do all they could to prevent this, but the question was a very difficult one.

The Lieutenant-Governor thought that it was the most difficult question of all, and that it must be very carefully dealt with.

The Viceroy said the next thing was to consider, having formed the Relief Committees, what amount of superintendence was necessary. It would appear necessary to provide ample European superintendence, and, therefore, at once to strengthen the present European establishments.

The Lieutenant-Governor said that he would be very glad to have additional European superintendence.

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* Mr. Hewitt's demi-official of the 11th December 1873.

The Viceroy thought that in regard to this no time was to be lost. Unless we took measures at once, the local officers could not be held responsible. At the former conference it had been mentioned that the Government of India were prepared to give the services of some military officers to the Government of Bengal, if necessary. He thought the best thing to do would be to place military officers at the disposal of the Commissioners of the distressed divisions.

The Lieutenant-Governor wished to explain in regard to the Rajshahye Division that the people were, as a rule, rich, so that in a great portion of the district they would not want money, but grain. There were no large laboring classes. On the other hand, in Patna there were thirteen millions of people, of whom the greater part were laborers, very poor, and if once severe famine set in, he thought that the numbers who would require charitable relief would be quite in the proportion of ten in that division to one in Rajshahye.

The Viceroy thought that the only thing that could be done at present was to arrange that the best officers who could be found should be directed to proceed at once to the districts in question.

After some further conversation it was arranged that Sir Henry Norman should make out a list of the unemployed military officers who were available for service in the distressed districts, and that six should at once be ordered to place themselves at the disposal of the Commissioner of Patna.

In regard to the probable amount of distress likely to arise, the Lieutenant-Governor said that the information from Chumparun was very imperfect; the Commissioner was dissatisfied with the reports hitherto furnished; there was a good crop of Indian corn, but the reports of the rubbee crop were very bad. As regards Monghyr, there was no cause for alarm, as it was in close proximity to three Railways, and there would be no difficulty in sending large quantities of grain into that district. The Gya district had turned out better than was expected. In Rajshahye the people were not poor, and there was not much cause for anxiety as regards money. He hoped we should find the means of throwing sufficient supplies into Rajshahye. Sarun was to a considerable extent a rubbee district, and if the rubbee failed, it would be possible to throw supplies into the district from the rivers on the sides of it. If rain fell within the next ten days, it would have an excellent effect in Sarun. He believed that the greatest pinch would be in Tirhoot. This was a thickly populated district, and the relief operations would probably be heavier here than elsewhere.

The Viceroy next desired to discuss the propriety of forming at once a Central Relief Committee in Calcutta for the purpose of raising public subscriptions and aiding the Local Committees. It was a sound principle that when the Government came to give gratuitous relief, the people should be expected to contribute to a certain extent, and it had been already declared that the Government would double any subscriptions that were made either locally or generally, although they would, of course, be prepared to give more, if necessary.

The Lieutenant-Governor thought that before going further it might be well to look at the state of the country all over. On the whole he did not think that the apprehensions need now be greater than they were a few weeks ago. Burdwan division now seemed to be better than we had at one time feared; Bhaugulpore was certainly better; as regards Eastern Bengal, our minds were a good deal relieved; the greater part of Rajshahye he did not think was worse than we expected; from South Behar the accounts were apparently better; so that it came to this, that the prospects of the country as a whole did not appear worse than we had anticipated. The fact was that the apprehension of distress was now becoming more localised, and we were more prepared to say that in certain parts of the country the danger was becoming more immediate. The question was, if we once decided to appeal to the general public, in what form should we do so? Were we to say that the appeal would be final or only partial, and that it would be necessary to make a larger appeal afterwards? A final appeal could not be made so as to command the greatest amount of success unless the public believed that famine either existed or was very imminent. Some persons still believed that there would be no famine, whereas even they probably would believe if another fortnight passed without rain.

The Viceroy thought that if the distress became at all bad, there would be great disappointment expressed both here and in England if Relief Committees were not instituted and subscriptions invited. He was inclined to think that even though it might not be expedient to call a public meeting and actually set on foot the Central Committee at once, in consequence of the information not being yet sufficiently complete to lay before the public, it would, at any rate, be desirable that the Lieutenant-Governor should have the Members of the Committee, Chairman, Secretary, &c., ready, and thus the people would know we were working in the matter. It would be unfortunate if action should be forced on the Government by pressure from without.

The Lieutenant-Governor agreed in the advisability of immediate preparations, and said that he would at once take the matter in hand.

The Viceroy said that the next point was a very important one. Mr. Robinson, the Relief Commissioner of Rajshahye, had been over a part of Dinagepore, and had reported that there were very small supplies and no trade, and that unless Government came forward and sold grain to the people, there would be within the next two months in the part of the country that he visited an actual dearth of food. That raised a great question. It was not very pressing as regards the particular district concerned, because the report stated that there was no great want at present, but it raised a very important principle to which he would now refer. When the anticipated famine first came before the Government, they had discussed the question whether Government ought to interfere with private trade, and it was laid down in the resolution of the 7th of November that it was most undesirable to interfere with private trade, because on private trade alone the general supply of the country must depend, but at the same time we added—

It has, however, been proved by the said experience of famines in India that exceptional circumstances may arise whereby numbers of persons may be exposed to danger of starvation or to disease arising from want of food. In all such cases, where human life may be at stake, the Government and its officers will do their utmost to apply the most effectual remedy that may be practicable, and will strive, by forethought and management, to prevent the occurrence of any such misfortunes.

If the peculiar circumstances of any district upon full enquiry were found to be such that we could not depend on private trade to bring in supplies, it appeared to His Excellency right to supplement the private trade until such time as private trade could bring in supplies. That course was exactly in accordance with what took place during the Irish famine. In Ireland the potato crop failed over the whole country. It was the only food of the people. There was no trade organization capable of supplying the people with food. Relief Committees were, therefore, organized and Government stores placed in convenient localities. The principle laid down in Ireland was that there should be as little interference as possible with private trade, and, therefore, where there was food to be had from private traders, the Relief Committees confined themselves to distribution of gratuitous relief, and only where there were no supplies in the hands of private traders did Government sell food to the people. In the latter case, the way in which Government sold was to take the market price at the nearest great mart where the fair price of grain could be tested, and to add to that something for the cost of carriage. Therefore when the Government took the place of the grain dealer, it charged somewhat the same as the grain dealer would have charged, and the moment the private dealer came in, Government closed its stores. Now, the question was, supposing such circumstances to arise in India, should that principle be carried out, or was there any other principle which would be better? Of course as we have everywhere in India local grain dealers, either Relief Committees or officers of Government, or whoever it might be found right to employ, might be authorised to advance to such dealers grain on behalf of Government, and let them sell it on their own account, or simply on Government account. This was a very important matter, and it struck him that the first thing to be done was to decide on the general principle which should be adopted.

The Lieutenant-Governor said that his own feeling was to get the grain upon the spot, and having done so, to decide according to the circumstances of each case. He was inclined to think that the Government might in some places with great advantage take the place of wholesale dealers, which in the end would seem to be much the same thing as His Excellency had recommended.

The Viceroy replied that it was very essential not to take any action of that kind, except in particular localities where it was distinctly proved to the satisfaction of men who had considered the subject carefully that the trade was not acting. All the local officers feared that trade might be paralysed by the action of Government, which he hoped would not be the case.

The Lieutenant-Governor said that in Behar there was a very large trading class; on the other hand, we were told in regard to the Dinagepore district, about which Mr. Robinson had reported, that in ordinary times large quantities of grain were exported, but none was now imported. Mr. Robinson, he thought, should be told that he would get a good supply of grain to take up there, and if it were necessary to sell it, that he might do so.

The Viceroy thought it would be expedient that Mr. Robinson should submit his proposals more in detail. He did not think that a general authority to sell at a great mart, such as Raigunge, as proposed by Mr. Robinson, could be given without doing harm.

The Lieutenant-Governor thought that if they kept in mind the possibility of eventually selling the grain, there could not be anything wrong in sending up a large quantity.

The Viceroy said that in regard to this subject he had taken the precaution from the beginning to say as little as possible about the action of Government in importing grain, and especially as regards the quantity which had been ordered. He was so apprehensive of the effect upon private trade, if the Government were supposed to be making large importations, that he thought the less said about the quantity of grain imported the better. The Government, however, were ready to meet further demands, and there could be no objection to Mr. Robinson storing the quantity which he suggested, namely, about 2,000 tons, but he thought it most essential that no idea should get abroad that Government was going to open stores and take upon itself the task of feeding the whole population. All the Government could do would be to supplement the action of private trade. This could not be too distinctly understood. But in special limited districts, where from one cause or another private trade might be found not to bring in supplies, Government might, he thought, properly sell grain at its price at the nearest large grain mart, with the addition of something for carriage, as was done in the Irish famine. The sale of Government grain in this manner would continue until the supply brought in by private trade was found sufficient to meet the wants of the people. It would then at once be discontinued, and the grain in Government stores would be devoted to its legitimate object, namely, the supply of food to people engaged on Government relief works, and the distribution through the Relief Committees of gratuitous relief to that limited portion of the population who stood in absolute need of it.

Sir Richard Temple could not understand how Raigunge, where Mr. Robinson proposed to form "a large reserve," being a place with water communication, could be destitute of supplies. In his judgment Mr Robinson's report was vague and unsatisfactory. He believed that if Mr. Robinson's plans were adopted, great difficulties would ensue. He had no local knowledge in the matter, but it appeared to him that Raigunge being a large place centrally situated between the Dinagepore and Purneah districts, and being celebrated for trade, if it was known that Government had a great quantity of grain stored there, it would be hard to say what the effect would be. Whilst entirely assenting to the principles laid down by the Viceroy, he thought that the information as to the condition of the extensive tract of country mentioned by Mr. Robinson was insufficient to show the necessity of opening Government stores for the sale of grain there.

After some further conversation, the Viceroy said that a reply should be written to the Government of Bengal on the subject of Mr. Robinson's proposal.

The proceedings then terminated.

No. 112.

From Arthur Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture. Famine.

Sir, Dated Calcutta, 15th January 1874.

In reference to this passage quoted in the margin in the letter, No. 604, of the 16th December 1873,* from the Governor General to the Government of Bengal, I am to address you further as follows.

> Lord Northbrook does not doubt that on such communications being made to them, zemindars will either make advances to such cultivators from their own funds or accept with alacrity the assistance offered by Government for this purpose. But if these expectations should not be realized, and difficulty is found with regard to security for advances made directly to cultivators, His Excellency is ready to consider whether some legislative provision should not be made to the effect that the landlord shall stand security for the repayment.

2. The Governor General in Council has observed with much satisfaction that, in view to the scarcity in the provinces under the Government of Bengal, many zemindars have incurred or are incurring outlay for the benefit of their estates or of their tenantry and dependents, and it is hoped that many more zemindars will act in a similar manner. Under these particular circumstances, some zemindars may find temporary difficulty in paying the instalments of land revenue with the punctuality which is usually observed and enforced. In such cases Government would by no means desire to adopt the coercive measures which are authorised by law, and is ready to allow some reasonable period within which the zemindar might discharge fully his obligations to the State. But it would, on the other hand, be necessary that this measure should be restricted to cases where, by reason of his exertions for the public benefit, the zemindar might be in temporary difficulty. And it is to be understood that the occurrence of scarcity is not by itself a reason for postponement of revenue instalments in Bengal and Behar, where the land revenue has been permanently settled at rates which represent a small proportion of the revenue which would have been realised under temporary settlement, or of the rent paid by the land.

3. But it is not inconsistent with these principles that the State should deal liberally with those zemindars who may have distinguished, or who may yet distinguish themselves, by employing labor on works of permanent improvement of the land, or importing grain for distribution, or sustaining their ryots in a season of difficulty—or by any act of munificence towards their tenantry, or of charity towards the people in reference to the scarcity, which may be shown to the satisfaction of the Collector.

4. In such special cases the Collector should refrain from the application of any coercive process in respect to unpaid arrears of the instalment now due (12th January), and may exercise a discretion in postponing the discharge of part or whole of the coming instalments of the 28th March and the 28th June. Care should be taken that this course is adopted only in the cases specified above; and each case where the Collector may exercise this discretion should be afterwards fully reported for the information of the Divisional Commissioner and the Board of Revenue.

5. Ordinarily the arrear would have to be discharged together with the subsequent instalments, but the Collector might, with the sanction of superior authority, distribute the instalments over a longer term not exceeding two years from the date of the original postponement.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) A. P. Howell,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

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* Para. 13, see page 100.

No. 6 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.—Famine.

To His Grace the Right Honourable the DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD DUKE, Calcutta, the 23rd January 1874.

WE have the honor to forward the special narrative of the drought in Bengal from the 16th to the 22nd instant.

2. The narrative extends over a short period, and is submitted in order that the dates of future narratives may fit in more conveniently with the dates of the reports from local officers.

3. The district reports show that in the south of the Patna Division, and, on the whole, throughout the Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye Divisions, the recent rain-fall, although not large, has done good; and altogether the prospects of the rubbee throughout that area of country cannot be considered as unsatisfactory.

4. The latest price lists show a slight increase in prices generally throughout the country, but the price of common rice in Calcutta has somewhat fallen.

5. Our anticipation that the most severe distress would occur in the northern part of the district of Tirhoot and in the districts of Champarun and Sarun has been realized, and the time has now arrived to put into full activity those measures upon which we originally determined to meet that distress. It is clear from the reports of the district officers that they are fully alive to the responsibility which rests upon them, and that active measures are being taken for the organization of relief committees and for the provision of relief works. *We have in communication with the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, associated Sir Richard Temple with His Honor, for the purpose of providing the presence of a high officer in Behar with full powers to direct and control the relief operations under the general instructions which have been issued by the Government of India and the Government of Bengal. * See page 166.

6. We believe that the presence of Sir Richard Temple on the spot, with full authority, will materially conduce to the early and complete organization of those operations.

7. Your Grace is aware that Sir Richard Temple will succeed Sir George Campbell as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal at the commencement of the hot season, and it will be an additional advantage that he should personally visit the distressed districts previous to his assumption of the Government.

8. We have at our hand ample supplies of grain from beyond the sea to meet any demands that may come upon us from the distressed districts. Notwithstanding this provision, your Grace will be glad to observe, from the reports of the district officers generally, that private trade is active, especially in Behar, and that the measures taken by Government for the importation of grain in connection with the relief of distress are understood by the traders and have not interfered with their operations.

9. Our letter No. 126† of the 17th January, addressed to the Government of Bengal, will show the view that we then entertained as to the sufficiency of the arrangements for transport and the organization of relief committees. Although full particulars of the power of local transport have not yet been received, we are glad to be able to assure your Grace that so far as we can judge from present information, every effort is being made to convey the supplies to the depôts that have been selected, and that the Commissioner of Patna has availed himself of the assistance of Lieutenant-Colonel Mackenzie of the Commissariat Department, for the organization, and supply, if necessary, of means of transport throughout that division. Further assistance from the Commissariat will be rendered in other parts of the distressed districts, and we are prepared, after communication with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, who has willingly rendered his assistance in the matter, to reinforce the local staff by a considerable number of excellent officers of the Quarter-Master General's Department, should their services be required. We have immediately complied with the request of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to hire steamers for the transport of grain across the Ganges. We have, † Page 164.

moreover, given full authority for the construction of any temporary appliances on the railroads that may be necessary to prevent a block of grain at the different stations, as also for such an increase in the number of engines as the East Indian Railway Agency may consider desirable.

10. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has undertaken to submit the regulations for the relief committees on Saturday next, on which day we hope to be able finally to arrange for their issue. We shall then decide upon a day for the institution of the central relief committee at Calcutta.

11. We propose to make an arrangement by which ships bringing rice from Chittagong and Orissa shall be relieved of all port charges at Calcutta, other than those for the payment of services actually rendered. By this means the disadvantage that at present exists with respect to shipments of rice from those ports to Calcutta, as compared with shipments to other ports, will be removed.

12. Further, we have undertaken to establish a systematic scheme of Government emigration from Bengal to British Burma, and we have appropriated a sum of £50,000 as a fund from which advances will be made to cover the expenses of the transport of the emigrants, who will be required to refund a portion at any rate of those expenses, the refund being credited to the original grant. The measure appears to us highly desirable in itself and the present opportunity is most favorable for commencing it, as we have arranged for very favourable rates for the conveyance of emigrants to Burma in the vessels employed by Government for bringing rice from that Province to Calcutta. We shall have the honor of forwarding to your Grace the details of this measure by the next mail.

We have the honour to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servants,
(Signed) NORTHBROOK.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
ARTHUR HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

NINTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE of the DROUGHT in BENGAL from the 16th to the 22nd January.

This Narrative is submitted by special arrangement for the past week instead of being forwarded on the 29th January, in order that the dates of submission of future Narratives may fit in more conveniently with the dates of receipt of reports from local officers.

The weather has continued cold and bright for the most part and frosty in the northern districts. The Meteorological Reporter thus describes the weather since the 1st of January: "The cold has been unprecedented in the records of the last " nineteen years. On the mornings of the 8th, 9th, and 15th, the thermometer at " the Surveyor-General's Office marked 51·8°, 51·4°, and 51·5°, the lowest " temperature previously recorded having been 52·7°. The ordinary minimum " temperature during the month of January is between 55° and 57°. The winds " have been variable; chiefly they have blown from the north and east, whereas the " prevailing direction in this month is usually from the north-west." From Behar, too, intelligence of extraordinary cold has been received. There water has frozen at night.

A fall of rain in Behar and Eastern Bengal on the 12th and 13th was recorded in last Narrative. This fall extended, as was hoped, to Northern Bengal, but the quantities recorded are very small. They are noted on the margin. Though the quantities recorded at the various stations are not large, the fall was in some cases heavier in outlying parts than at the head-quarters station. It has benefitted the cold weather crops in several districts, and has enabled the people to recommence agricultural operations in the field.

Patna - -	·39
Shahabad - -	slight.
Sarun - -	·19
Tirhoot - -	·09
Monghyr -	·12
Bhaugulpore -	·07
Purneah - -	·07
Dinagepore -	·03
Maldah - -	·09
Bograh - -	a few drops.
Rajshahye - -	·15
Kooshtea -	a shower.
Furreedpore -	·35
Dacca - -	·19

2. In regard to the crops there is little to report. In the Burdwan Division the spring crops are turning out better than was expected, but there they were

expected to be very bad. In the Presidency Division and central districts they are still bad, while in Eastern Bengal and the littoral districts they continue to give a fair prospect. In Moorshedabad the extreme cold has done them injury. In Northern Bengal the rain has done good. In Rungpore much improvement has resulted from the previous rain.

Turning to Behar, the officers of the Bhaugulpore Division still report favourably of the prospects of the spring crops. Perhaps the Purneah report may be less favourable this week than before. From the southern part of the Patna Division it is reported that the spring crops are very promising and doing remarkably well. They have suffered from the cold, but have been benefited by the rain. Mr. Levinge, of the Soane Canal Works, has been making a tour through the western part of the Gya district and fully confirms the Magistrate-Collector's favourable report. Great activity is displayed by the people in irrigating their fields.

The northern half of the Patna Division has been to some extent afflicted since last report by west winds, which dry up the spring crops, and by frost, which kills them. Any benefit which may have been derived from the slight fall of rain noted above has been in places neutralised by the dry west winds and hoar frost. In Sarun the mud wells are drying up.

The fear expressed in the last Narrative, that distress was approaching in parts of the Patna Division, has not, unfortunately, proved ungrounded. There can now be no doubt that distress must soon be severe in parts of the three northern districts of the Patna division. Attention is requested to the fortnightly narratives[*] of 10th January from these districts. Later reports confirm what is said in those narratives. From Purneah, too, distress is now reported to have commenced in thannah Kudbah, the south-eastern corner of the district.

[*] Enclosure 4.

The weekly rainfall and crop reports for the week ending 17th January are enclosed herewith.[†]

[†] Enclosure 1.

In Behar the price of common rice has slightly risen at three stations, but remains stationary at seven stations. In Central and Northern Bengal it has risen in five districts, it has fallen in one, and remains stationary in six. In the Dacca Division there has been a general rise; in the Chittagong Division a general fall. In Orissa there has been no change. The price of lesser millets and maize is clearly rising in Behar.

The return of prices-current for the week ending January the 17th is enclosed herewith,[‡] and also a return[§] comparing the prices of rice which prevailed in January 1866 with those now prevailing. As before explained, such wide limits of variation are given in the records of prices prevailing in January 1866, that it is difficult to fix a mean with certainty. It is not safe to assume from a record that the prices varied from 9 to 15 seers to the rupee, that the mean was 12 seers. The usual note on the movement of food-grains is appended.[||] The exports of food from Bengal to non-Bengal ports now amount to 91,400 tons since November 1st, besides 16,380 tons exported in October. As against this, Government has imported up to date about 33,000 tons of rice from beyond the sea.

[‡] Enclosure 2.

[§] Enclosure 3.

[||] Appendix A

3. As the condition of parts of Behar is becoming critical, it has been arranged, in communication with the Government of India, that Sir Richard Temple should proceed first to Behar, and afterwards to other distressed tracts, and should personally inspect and direct the relief operations and arrangements now in progress. Full authority will be delegated to Sir Richard Temple to act and issue orders in behalf of the Government of Bengal in the distressed tracts which he may from time to time visit. Copy of the Gazette Extraordinary under which this arrangement has been made will be found in Appendix I.,[¶] the necessary orders and instructions are about to issue, and Sir Richard has arranged to start on Saturday the 24th current.

[¶] Page 166

4. During the past week Government grain from Burmah has continued to arrive; the Orissa supplies are also coming in gradually. No more Saigon rice has arrived; all the 10,000 tons previously received has been unloaded; 7,500 tons are rebagged and housed in engine sheds close to the East Indian Railway. The rebagging had to be done in a hurry, and the grain will have to be weighed in the Howrah store-house. About 2,500 tons of the Saigon rice has been rebagged at Kooshtea and is rapidly going off to the Rajshahye Division from that place. The Government of India has been pleased to place the duty of receiving grain from beyond the sea in the hands of a competent officer directly under its own orders; so that the Bengal Government grain officer will now be able to give up his whole time to

* Page 164. the despatch of the grain up country.* (See Government of India letter No. 126, dated 17th January, Appendix H.)

Appendix B. shows that 152,327 maunds of Government grain were despatched from Calcutta during the week. The largest amount of grain sent away by the East Indian Railway in any one day of the week was 14,000 bags (28,000 maunds); on one day only 5,000 maunds, and on another day only 9,000 maunds, were sent away. The Calcutta grain officer had always more grain on the platforms to send away than the Railway Company could furnish wagons for. The Traffic Manager of the East Indian Railway has, however, reported to the Government of India that his line can send away from Howrah some 1,000 tons to 1,500 a day without interfering with the private traffic; but he has asked that he may receive three days before the beginning of each week a table of the despatches of grain which Government intends to make from Howrah during such week. Accordingly a table has been sent him showing the intended despatches for the week beginning on Monday, the 26th January (see enclosure 8). It must be noted here that one great reason of the shortness of wagons at Howrah was that some hundreds of wagons containing grain for Patna ghât station were standing on the line in Behar because there was not sufficient station room or appliances at Patna for unloading them. Matters are, however, improving, for on Tuesday, the 20th current, 40,000 maunds of Government grain were despatched from Howrah, a larger quantity than had yet been sent in any one day. The despatches of last Tuesday being made at night, do not come into the figures shown in Appendix B.

5. Before proceeding to notice the progress in despatching grain from railway stations into the interior of the district, it may be well to state what has been done or is doing to obviate the block of traffic at Patna, and so enable the East Indian Railway to work rapidly and smoothly. The first step to be taken was to provide † more station room on the river-side at or close to Patna. Over 8,000 tons of private grain, and over 4,000 tons of Government grain, were thrown in fourteen days into the Patna ghât station, which, being in the heart of a great city, is necessarily more or less cramped. Wagons could not be unloaded fast enough; they had to be drawn up outside the station, and at one time each bag of grain had to be carried on men's heads from the wagons 1,400 yards to the boats. The first thing to do was to stop the despatch of Government grain to Patna until the block had been cleared. This was done, and yesterday (the 20th January) a telegram was received from the traffic department saying the Patna station was clear, and Government grain might be pushed on faster again. This is accordingly now being done. But there was every hope that much more private grain would continue to come down from the North-West into Behar; and the Commissioner reported that ordinary traffic had been much hindered, and discouraged by the large Government transactions which occupied so much of the station room, of the railway coolies, and of the boat power. It was therefore necessary to make permanent arrangements for giving relief, and the Lieutenant-Governor suggested that one or more special river-side stations should be made to accommodate the Government grain, while the Patna Ghât and other stations much frequented by private traffic might be left for private importers. The suggestions most approved were, that a river-side station should be made close to Patna city, and that another river-side station should be made either at Barrh or Mokameh. It was also suggested that, if much North-West Provinces' grain came down, the branch line from the Buxar station to the Ganges might be relaid. The Government of India has been pleased to despatch its Consulting Engineer to the spot with full power to order the immediate construction of such temporary lines and river-side stations as may be necessary. The railway officers are sanguine that the temporary lines required could be laid in a very few days' time. When these stations are made Patna Ghât station will

† Page 169. be left free for private importers. (See enclosure 10.)†

One other difficulty was that the number of station coolies (railway porters) who could carry large grain bags was limited, and they were nearly all taken up in unloading Government grain. The ordinary untrained Patna coolies could not, it was said, do this work. Colonel Mackenzie, the Commissariat officer, has set himself at once to organise and train a body of railway coolies who shall do the Government work at the new river-side stations, and so leave the ordinary railway coolies available for private importers. Arrangements are now being made to send as much grain as possible in smaller bags.

Another, and a very serious difficulty, which has occurred in several places was the crossing of the Government grain over the Ganges. When the grain traffic set in so briskly as it has done during the last fortnight, the native boats on the river could not carry the grain over fast enough. Government officers, being the more active and energetic, had secured most of the boats, and private trade could not be accommodated. This was a very great evil, and the Government of India has been pleased to assent to the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal for hiring two steamers and four flats, which should carry the Government grain across the Ganges from the two new river-side stations, thus leaving private boats for the use of private traders. The steam ferries will cost a good deal more than ordinary native boats would do; but if the Government did not hire steamers for the duty, no one else could, and the native boats on the river are not nearly numerous enough or strong enough to accommodate the whole traffic now setting in from the railway to northern Behar. It is a very singular fact that in this country of water channels and boats, our difficulty has been in regard to boats and water carriage far more than in regard to land carriage. (See enclosure 9.)*

* Page 166.

6. As was observed in enclosure No. 8 to last (the eighth) narrative, the energetic action of the Government officers was not to be regretted, seeing that it had gathered together a large number of boats and carts, and seeing that, by the arrangements above detailed, the Government hopes to leave full room for private traffic. So far as carts in North Behar are concerned, there has not yet been any ground for fearing that Government operations engross all the cart power of the country. Hitherto the Government officers have reported that there are enough carts in Behar to serve all the Government and all the private traffic. It was noticed in last narrative that private traders to Patna Ghât station had incurred heavy demurrage, because they had been unable to remove their grain promptly during the railway block. The Government of India was pleased to intimate that such demurrage charges should, under the circumstances, be borne by Government. The Lieutenant-Governor had, however, during last week communicated with the railway authorities on the subject, and had, before the receipt of the Government of India orders, ascertained from Mr. Cecil Stephenson that "under the circum-" stances which occasioned the detention of grain consigned to famine stations, the " Railway Company would make no claim for demurrage up to and inclusive of " the 24th January."

7. At paragraph 11 of last (the eighth) Narrative it was stated that the local officers might be expected shortly to despatch to the interior—

Patna Division	1,69,000	maunds weekly.
Bhaugulpore	1,05,000	ditto.
Rajshahye	60,000	ditto.

The district narratives now forwarded show that during the fortnight ending on the 10th January 2,03,000 maunds of Government grain were despatched from stations in the Patna district mainly to the interior of the North Behar districts. The store-houses in the interior of Patna are being filled, but about them there is no present hurry. There has been delay in getting the Gya grain for the Nowada sub-division away from the railway, but the difficulty is being overcome. The store-houses in the interior of Shahabad contained at the end of the fortnight 33,000 maunds of Government grain besides 35,000 maunds in store-houses on the Soane canal works, and a great deal more in transit from the railway. 32,000 maunds of grain had reached the Tirhoot store-houses, and about 33,000 maunds more were said to have nearly reached their destination. This rate of progress was insufficient, and the local officers have promised to send forward from the river-side into the interior of Tirhoot at least 50,000 to 60,000 maunds a week. In the Sarun store-houses 31,000 maunds of grain have already been housed, and the Magistrate reports that all the Government grain that comes to him from the railway stations is despatched to the interior as fast as it arrives. 18,000 maunds of grain have been stored in Chumparun besides the stores at the Gunduck embankment works, and the Magistrate reports that 45,000 maunds a week are being sent forward to his stores.

8. In the Bhaugulpore Division the transport and storage of Government grain has gone on well. 1,05,000 maunds were lodged in the Monghyr store-houses; and all the grain delivered at railway stations was carried away as fast as it came. Contrary winds and the formation of a sandbank opposite Bhaugulpore station impeded the Magistrate's arrangements for some time, nevertheless, 35,000 maunds were in store at the end of the fortnight, and about 30,000 maunds more were in transit from the Railway. A consignment of 24,000 maunds that went up the Kosee river in boats for Soopole had not been heard of for some days, but the boats

are supposed to be near their destination. The Magistrate of Bhaugulpore expects to send off 4,000 maunds a day northwards until he has finished his allotment. The Purneah store-houses contained 58,000 maunds at the end of the fortnight; and complete arrangements have been made for crossing 6,000 maunds a day from Colgong and Sahebgunge to Caragola.

9. The Government grain has taken longer to reach the interior of the Rajshahye Division, and the difficulties have been greater than elsewhere. Mr. Molony's report (Enclosure 7) shows what the grain routes are and how they are being worked. *All* the grain delivered at Goalundo up to the date of last Narrative (*i.e.*, 37,000 maunds) had passed the point in the Oorasagur route where the despatching officer (Mr. Clay) stationed himself for some days to expedite the passage of the boats up the river. More grain is now being sent to Goalundo for despatch by the same route. From Kooshtea 1,12,000 maunds have been sent off, but nearly all of it went in native boats which took fourteen days to beat up the river to Godagaree. Now that two powerful steamers have been set to work at Kooshtea, the grain will get across the river much more rapidly. Up to the date of the informations embodied in the last narratives only 38,000 maunds of grain had been actually stored in the interior of the Rajshahye Division, besides the grain stored on the Northern Bengal Railway. But about 2,00,000 maunds more were actually in transit by land and water to the interior of the division. The Magistrate of Rungpore has reported that he can move into the interior of his district, by carts and boats, 2,000 maunds a day, and that he might carry 3,000 maunds if he used every endeavour. A cart train from Rajmehal viâ Maldah to Dinagepore is being organised, and the Relief Commissioner intends to carry 500 maunds a day by this route. The supervising staff has been greatly strengthened; the two steamers and flats at the Kooshtea ferry will carry grain across the Ganges much quicker than heretofore; at the end of the season the rains and floods, which will more or less completely bar the transport of grain into the interior of Behar, will open a number of water routes into the farthest parts of the Rajshahye division.

10. It has been mentioned that Colonel Mackenzie, of the Commissariat Department, had been placed under the orders of the Commissioner of Patna to assist him in organising transport services. Copy of the orders passed by the Commissioner of Patna after consultation with Colonel Mackenzie is herewith enclosed.* The Commissioner of Patna is consulting with Colonel Mackenzie as to the advisability of procuring camels, bullocks, or other means of transport from a distance. At present the Commissioner's view rather is to collect together carriage of this kind from a distance and to hold it in reserve till the local means of transport—carts—are shown to be inadequate to the demand made upon them by Government and private traders. The importation of foreign carriage involves difficult questions regarding feeding the animals, &c. The Lieutenant-Governor has asked for further aid from the Commissariat Department to assist in organising services for the transport of grain across the Ganges and its adjacent sandy flats at Patna, Sahebgunge, and Rajmehal. The river crossing has already been shown to be the weakest link in the chain of transport.

* Appendix G.

11. The information contained in the fortnightly narratives from the distressed districts† for the fortnight ending January the 10th may be briefly summarised as follows:—

† Enclosures 4, 5, 6.

A.—State of the Country.

Food is still generally obtainable without difficulty at the high prices quoted, except in one or two places in the special tracts mentioned below. The prices indicate rather the expectation than the presence of scarcity. Coarse rice is selling at 12 to 14 seers to the rupee, that is, from Rs. 2-13 to Rs. 3-5 a maund. In some places it is cheaper than this, while in others it is as high as Rs. 4 a maund. In Behar Indian-corn is selling at 14 to 18 seers to the rupee; but the former figure is rapidly taking the place of the latter. Wheat is to be bought at 11 to 14 seers to the rupee.

The condition of the people is still generally satisfactory. There is no very brisk demand for employment in most places. The report from Bogra is that "the condition of the people cannot be considered favorable," but the Relief Commissioner who has lately visited the district declares it to be in no present danger. The Moorshedabad Magistrate-Collector infers from the high price of food that the laboring classes are in distress. So in the Bhaugulpore division, where wages are very low, the high prices must have already affected the condition of those who are dependent upon wages paid in money for their subsistence. Generally, greater distress may be in this way inferred than has manifested itself.

To these remarks on the general position of affairs, the northern part of the Patna Division is an unfortunate exception. In Tirhoot the condition of the people has "become decidedly worse." In the sub-division of Mudhoobunnee people are feeling the scarcity considerably. In Sarun the distress must certainly be said to be increasing. The Chumparun report is still more alarming. People are in that district taking to the relief works in large numbers. The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that parts of Tirhoot are already in a critical state, and that relief arrangements, in addition to the road works already commenced or prospected, will, in those parts, soon become necessary. Grain thefts are not causing any alarm. The table enclosed* of the chief crimes against property during last December in the distressed districts, as compared with the same month of former years, shows a decided increase of such crime in 1873. This table is submitted under orders contained in No. 601, dated 16th December, from the Under-Secretary in the Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce Department. An account of the rainfall and the state of the crops up to the date of the latest intelligence is contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Narrative.

* Appendix C.

B.—Relief Works.

In the Rajshahye Division there is generally no very excessive demand for employment except in Dinagepore. In the Dinagepore district, however, work is readily taken up. Nor again in the Bhaugulpore Division and the southern part of the Patna Division do the people seem in great want of employment. The Soane canal works do not attract much local labour. But, on the other hand, in the northern half of the Patna Division and in part of Monghyr nearly all the work provided has been taken up, and in special tracts it has been found necessary to provide more.

A table† is enclosed showing the numbers employed upon relief works in the different districts up to January. These returns are incomplete, district officers intending to send the precise returns to the Public Works Department in a return due a few days later; they have been reminded that the returns of labourers must be punctually submitted. From the narratives the following information is extracted:—Tirhoot employed nearly 10,000, besides about 4,000 people employed by the Durbhanga Estate; Sarun about 13,400; Dinagepore upwards of 6,000; Rajshahye about 500 laborers, daily during the fortnight under review.

† Appendix D.

C.—Transport of Food.

The latest information regarding the transport of Government grain has been fully detailed in paragraphs 6 to 9 of this Narrative. Only in the Patna Division and some of the eastern parts of the Rajshahye Division does private trade in grain appear to be active. The private importations by rail and river into the Patna Division have been as follows:—

	Mds.
Into the Patna district - - - -	2,20,931
„ Shahabad district - - -	1,11,011
„ Bhaugulpore „ - - -	4,922
„ Monghyr „ - - -	18,271

In addition to this it is stated that 81,000 maunds has found its way into Sarun from Oudh and the North-West. In the north-eastern parts of Tirhoot, and still more in Dinagepore, very little is being done by the trade to supply the necessities of the population. In these parts there appears to be no ground for supposing that Government importations have in any way deterred private parties from entering the grain trade.

In enclosure 5 will be found mention of a practice whereby grain dealers import wheat into the distressed districts at the specially low rate and then attempt to re-export it to Calcutta. The railway authorities refuse to re-book such grain as far as they can; if this perversion of the objects of Government is carried to any great extent further steps will have to be taken.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

There is nothing further to report regarding the selection of places for the storage of Government grain, and the arrangements made for storage-houses. The movement of Government grain is described in paragraphs 6 to 9 above. Regular tabulated returns of amounts stored in each storage-house will be submitted with the next and succeeding narratives.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

In the Patna Division advances both for land improvements and for purchase of grain are still applied for; and a further credit to meet advances, for purchase of grain has been allotted to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore. On the representation of the relief officer of Tirhoot, it has been decided to make small advances to petty traders who take grain into the interior of districts for sale. A man who buys grain at Patna to sell at Madhoobunee, some 80 miles distant, can hardly be said to buy locally.

In the Bhaugulpore Division, some small beginnings towards taking advances for land improvements have been made. With the exception of the districts of Dinagepore and Bograh, the system of advances has been favourably received in the Rajshahye Division. The applications, however, are not always *bonâ fide*.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Some progress has been made in the Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye Divisions in the organization of systems of charitable relief, but some districts are backward in this respect. The Patna Division is still backward, and the district officers have postponed giving information on the subject until they submit the special report called for by Circular No. 9 S.R., dated January 3rd.

At a meeting held on the 19th January at Patna for the purpose of organizing charitable relief, subscriptions to the amount of Rs. 36,000 were promised.

12. The Commissioner of Chota Nagpore has submitted plans for relief works in the Palamow sub-division of the Lohardugga district. His plans have been sanctioned on the understanding that the necessary expenditure on Government estates shall, in the first place, be met from the balance in hand to the credit of the 3 per cent. Government Estate Improvement Fund. Palamow is to some extent owned directly by Government. The Commissioner has been authorised to grant advances to the farmers of Government lands in Palamow on the same terms as have been conceded in Singbhoom.

The Commissioner of Burdwan has recommended the commencement of relief works and the organization of a system of charitable relief in the Beerbhoom district. The Lieutenant-Governor has heard of want of employment in the Raneegunge part of Burdwan, and has called the Commissioner's particular attention to the subject. The needs of this division will be carefully considered.

13. It has been found necessary to divide the large district of Tirhoot, which contains more than four millions of inhabitants, and where affairs are looking specially threatening, into two districts for scarcity and relief purposes. The three sub-divisions of Seetamurhee, Madhoobunnee, and Durbhangah, containing 2¼ millions of inhabitants, have been placed under the charge of separate civil and engineering officers, the former Magistrate-Collector of Tirhoot retaining full charge of the whole district for general purposes, but leaving all business connected with scarcity and relief in the three sub-divisions above named to the new staff. The orders constituting this new jurisdiction are contained in a resolution dated 20th January.* It has also been arranged to attach an extra-judicial officer to the three northern sub-divisions of Tirhoot, as well as to the sub-divisions of Bettiah, Chumparun, and Sewan, in Sarun, in order to set free the sub-divisional officers upon scarcity and relief business.

* Appendix E.

14. It has been found necessary to issue some further orders regarding the reports to be submitted from the various districts and divisions. Much of the information submitted in the monthly reports under Circular No. 70, of October 13th, is now no longer required. In its place a report is to be submitted from districts not ranked as distressed in the first week in each month, containing information on the following points:—

A.—General result of the past harvest, the prospects of the spring crops, the extent of the preparations for the early rice crop, and other early crops and their prospects.

B.—The supply of grain in the district bazars, and the extent of district import and export.

C.—The range of prices, and the general condition of the people.

D.—The amount of immigration (if any) from the distressed districts, and the disposal of the immigrants.

E.—The extent to which local works have been utilized, and district funds spent, for purposes of relief.

F.—Any special matters relating to the scarcity, *e.g.*, establishment of relief committees on account of dearness of food, or any other measure taken in consequence of scarcity.

The circular letter containing these orders and recapitulating former orders is enclosed.*

* Enclosure 11.

15. In order to make it quite clear what methods of relieving the impending scarcity have been sanctioned, and to what districts they severally apply, a circular letter has been issued, summarising, in a convenient form, the orders hitherto passed regarding relief measures. Particular attention is invited to this letter, No. 175 S.R., dated 17th January.†

† Enclosure 12.

16. The Government of India having directed that Collectors should refrain, in the case of zemindars who distinguished themselves by expenditure for the benefit of their ryots in their extremity, from using any coercive process in collecting unpaid arrears of the January instalment of the land revenue, and should be authorised to postpone in such cases, if they think fit, the collection of the March and June instalments, these orders were circulated to district officers with this Government, No. 155. S.R., dated 16th January, in which attention is called to the limitation of the orders to cases where the zemindar actually distinguishes himself by his liberality.‡

‡ Appendix F., see page 164.

17. Major Lindsay reports, under date January 13th, that the 100,000 maunds of rice allotted to him for the Northern Bengal Railway was thus distributed:—

		Mds.
At Sultanpore (Nowgong)	-	18,000
„ Goalundo and in transit to Sultanpore (Nowgong)	-	23,734
„ Parbuttypore	-	5,872
In transit to Rampore Beauleah	-	20,000
„ transit to Bamungaon	-	30,000
Balance to be sent *viâ* Rajmehal to Parbuttypore	-	2,394
Total	-	100,000

He adds: "As regards the future transport of rice, supposing pressure to come a " month hence, I think that I should have no difficulty in passing up 30,000 maunds " a month from Bamungaon and Rampore Beauleah to Sultanpore. I could also " count upon taking 10,000 maunds a month *viâ* Rajmehal to Parbuttypore. In " addition to this the route from Goalundo to Sultanpore would be open."

Major Lindsay is strongly of opinion that the contract system should be adopted in making arrangements for transport, and that a permanent service of carts should be organised on the lines of transport. Major Lindsay has succeeded in doing something to improve the channel of the Oorasagur. People are coming in pretty fast to work on the feeder roads which are being constructed from Neetpore in the Dinagepore district. Regular reports from the whole length of the Northern Bengal Railway have not yet come in. But Major Lindsay writes (under date the 17th January): "A considerable length of the line is ready for earthwork to begin, " the side-widths having been laid out and profiles erected. On this section, near " where I am now encamped, people asked for work, and some 600 odd are now " employed. On the feeder roads many miles are ready for the people to work on, " and near Syedpore some hundreds are employed. * * * * * I trust " the Lieutenant-Governor will be satisfied with the knowledge that any amount of " work is ready for the people, and that all who ask for it get it."

18. From the Gunduck Embankment Works in Chumparun it is reported that work has been commenced in two places, and that a daily average of 460 men is employed on the upper embankment. 7,900 maunds of grain are in store on the works. People are coming in readily for employment. From the Gunduck Embankment Works in Sarun and Tirhoot we learn that the number of men employed daily has fallen from 1,401 to 1,077.

19. On the Soane Canal Works 32,000 is the daily average of laborers employed. Here, too, there is a decrease in numbers since last week. The number of acres under irrigation is 133,057 on the west or Shahabad side, and 22,152 on the east or Gya side of the river. Some 35,000 maunds of grain are in store on the works.

20. Work has almost ceased on the Kana Nuddee, only 418 men being now employed. There is now but a small demand for work. The supply of water down the new cut continues good. The zemindars are said to be charging 6 annas a beegah for the water which Government has provided; inquiry is being made into the truth of this statement.

21. The British India Steam Navigation Company was asked to provide additional freight from the Orissa ports to Calcutta. The Company is unable to do this unless it withdraws a steamer from the mail service between Bombay and Kurrachee. The Government of India has been asked to sanction the temporary withdrawal of one steamer from that service.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,
Additional Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 22nd January 1874.

APPENDIX H. to foregoing Narrative.

No. 126.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

To the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL.

SIR, Fort William, the 17th January 1874.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of letters No. 105 of the 13th, and Nos. 112,* 122,† and 123 ‡ S.R., of the 14th instant.

2. In reply to letter No. 105, I am to say that the Governor-General in Council approves of the allotment of 19,25,000 maunds of grain for distribution in the distressed districts up to the 31st of January, and of the provisional orders issued by the Lieutenant-Governor in his confidential Circular No. 61, of the 9th instant, for the allotment of 75,000 tons placed at His Honor's disposal during the three months commencing with the 1st February. The Lieutenant-Governor will probably before long be in a position to form an estimate of the relative necessities of the different parts of the country, and to make the final allotments accordingly. As at present informed, His Excellency agrees with the Lieutenant-Governor that the interior of Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, and Dinagepore comprise the area of country where Government stores are particularly required.

3. With reference to the remarks contained in the 3rd paragraph of letter No. 112, I am to observe that there has been no intention whatever of describing the situation with respect to local transport in a manner unjust to the Government of Bengal. The information furnished to the Viceroy by Mr. Bernard was asked for expressly with reference to the Conference of the 8th; the circumstances admitted of no delay, and the returns cannot be regarded as unofficial. Moreover, the Viceroy believes that they conveyed an accurate statement of the official information then in possession of the Local Government. His Excellency thinks that the 6th paragraph of Mr. Howell's letter of the 12th instant does not materially differ from the opinions expressed by the Lieutenant-Governor himself in his Circular of the 3rd of January, No. 10 S. R., in the Resolution issued by His Honor in the Statistical Department on the 6th January on scarcity and relief in the Patna Division, and in the Circular No. 61, of the 9th January, paragraph 7. Allusion was made in the 8th paragraph of Mr. Howell's letter to the fact that the Lieutenant-Governor had urgently drawn the attention of the local officers to the subject by his Circular of the 3rd instant.

4. The only desire of the Government of India was to ensure proper arrangements for the inland transport, and the Viceroy is most anxious to give every aid in his power to the Lieutenant-Governor in the efforts which His Honor is making to secure such arrangements.

5. His Excellency agrees with the Lieutenant-Governor that the success of the endeavours of Government to meet the distress which is reported to be imminent in some districts hinges on the transporting power, and he is glad to find that since the Conference of the 8th further information leads His Honor to hope that the local officers will be able to transport all the grain allotted to them up to the 31st of January, and that their powers of transport for the future will be much greater than was known at the Conference. His Excellency awaits the returns that have been called for, and will only now observe that the Government of India expect to be able to furnish as much grain as the local officers will be

* Page 140.
† Page 145.
‡ Page 146.

able to transport to the distressed districts which may require additional supplies, and will, moreover, retain a reserve at Calcutta to meet the case of an unexpected outbreak of distress elsewhere.

6. The Viceroy entirely agrees with the Lieutenant-Governor's remarks and instructions as to the great importance of interfering as little as possible with the transport of grain imported by private traders.

7. Upon this point I am to observe that the observation made by Mr. Bayley that the operations of trade have already been much interfered with at Patna by demands of the Government upon the local transport, and the remark of the Lieutenant-Governor that "Government transport in the Patna Division, where private trade is fairly brisk, may not be "kept up to the total that might be possible, if Government grain only were considered," would seem to lead to the conclusion that there should be no further delay whatever in bringing to bear the resources which the Commissariat can supply from a distance, and the Viceroy is, therefore, surprised to hear that Mr. Bayley "is still of opinion that recourse "should be had to that Department only as a last resource." His Excellency can hardly conceive it possible, in the face of the alarming reports sent by Mr. Bayley as to the prospects of Tirhoot, that this assistance can safely be neglected, and if it is not at once accepted, His Excellency requests that a special report may be made without delay upon the subject.

8. With reference to the letters Nos. 122 and 123 on the subject of the instructions to be prepared for the Relief Committees, and to the constitution of the Central Relief Committee, I am to observe that the Viceroy had no intention, in alluding to what took place at the Conference on the 10th November, to attach any blame whatever to Mr. Bernard, because the general instructions for the Relief Committees had not been prepared sooner. His Excellency is well aware that Mr. Bernard fully merits the praise which is bestowed upon him by the Lieutenant-Governor, and that he has acted entirely under His Honor's directions with respect to the order in which the famine work has been proceeded with.

9. The recommendations which His Honor has made in the last-mentioned letters for the provisional constitution of the Central Relief Committee and the employment of Mr. Schalch to draw up rules for the Relief Committes are approved, as well as the employment of Mr. Forbes and ultimately, perhaps, of Mr. Wood as Secretaries. Orders will be passed in the Financial Department as to the remuneration to be given to these two latter gentlemen. As soon as a day can be fixed when the rules will be ready for consideration His Excellency desires to be informed, as he would arrange to consider them immediately at a conference, and thus avoid the delay which would ensue from their being submitted in a letter.

10. Now that all purchases of grain will be conducted by the Government of India, it is desirable, in order that business may be properly divided, and also the weight of the duties which are thrown upon the Local Government be lightened, to place under the immediate direction of the Government of India the whole business of receiving and storing grain at Calcutta, and of preparing it for issue to the Local Government for despatch up-country. Arrangements will, therefore, be made for the transfer of that part of Mr. Toynbee's present work to the Government of India. Mr. Toynbee, who, the Viceroy is glad to hear, is considered by the Lieutenant-Governor to have done heavy and responsible work in a very efficient manner, may still be advantageously employed under the Lieutenant-Governor in arranging for the despatch of the grain from Calcutta; but as his duties will be considerably lightened, the Government of Bengal will not, perhaps, wish to press for any further addition to his allowances.

11. This change is not made from any feeling on the part of the Government of India that the work has hitherto not been properly performed, but merely as a better and more convenient distribution of work for the future. The date of the transfer and the detailed arrangements for the transaction of business will be settled by communication between the Departments concerned. The questions raised in your letter No. 168 S. R. of this date had also better be considered in personal communication with the officers concerned, and a joint report submitted.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. Howell,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 127.

Copy, with connected papers, is forwarded to the Financial Department for information, with special reference to paragraph 9.

A. Howell,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

APPENDIX I. to foregoing Narrative.

GAZETTE OF INDIA—EXTRAORDINARY.

No. 178.

NOTIFICATION.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

Fort William, the 21st January 1874.

The accounts which the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has communicated to the Viceroy of the present condition of parts of Behar made it, in His Excellency's opinion, essential that some high officer should be present on the spot, with full powers to direct and control the operations in connection with the relief of scarcity and distress under the general instructions which have been issued by the Government of India and the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

2. As it is impossible, under existing circumstances, that the Lieutenant-Governor should himself proceed to Behar, the Viceroy has agreed to associate with His Honor, for the above purpose, the Honorable Sir Richard Temple, who will visit first Behar, and afterwards other parts of the county where distress may exist, with full authority, to be delegated to him by the Government of Bengal, to direct the relief operations.

3. It has been arranged that the Lieutenant-Governor will give the necessary orders to all officers concerned.

4. Sir Richard Temple will report his proceedings from time to time to the Government of Bengal.

A. O. HUME,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure No. 9 to foregoing Narrative.

No. 195 S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, in the Statistical Department, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, dated 20th January 1874.

IN the papers at enclosure No. 8* of the eighth Special Narrative, much was said regarding the hindrance caused to private trade, by the Government grain operations taking up so large a share of the boat-power for crossing the Ganges. It was said that the Commissioner had been authorized to charter a steamer and two flats to work the Government grain over the ferry opposite Patna ghât.

* Patna divisional report, and orders thereon.

2. Since those papers were submitted, it has become more and more apparent that one great difficulty in getting Government grain into the districts north of the Ganges is the Ganges-crossing. From Patna, from Barrh, from Kooshtea, and elsewhere comes the same report, "We have collected all the boats to be had, and yet we cannot get nearly enough, and the boat "transport (in Rajshahye at any rate) is very slow and tedious." At the Caragola and Colgong crossings, in the Bhaugulpore Division, no complaint has recently been made that boats are insufficient.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor has accordingly reviewed the position in the accompanying memorandum regarding the Ganges-crossings and the disposal of the Government steamers† which are available. The memorandum was prepared after Captain Baker, Master-Attendant, had returned from his visit to Kooshtea; and Mr. Hankey, who has just returned from a visit of inspection along the Ganges front of the Rajshahye Division, has annotated upon it. It will be seen that for the Rajshahye Division crossings sufficient arrangements can be made with Government vessels. But for the Patna Division ferries we have no Government steamers or flats available. It is therefore necessary to hire such vessels as we require.

† The small steamer *Flame* is no good for the Ganges-crossings; she is now plying on the Mahanuddee between Godagaree and old Maldah.

4. The enclosed copy of a demi-official letter from Mr. Hewitt shows that if we are to leave any large share of the native boats available for private traffic, and if we are to leave the Patna ghât station free for private traffic, we must have two sidings down to the Ganges, one probably at the Barrh or Mokameh station and one at the new temporary river-side station to be made between Patna and Futwa. We must also have a steamer with flats for each of these river-side stations. It should be explained that it will probably cost considerably more to ferry Government grain across in hired steamers than in native boats. But, as has been already said,

there would be no hope of our leaving sufficient native boats for private trade if we were to trust to ordinary boats for crossing the large quantities of Government grain we hope to send to the northern districts. The great importance to the country of leaving sufficient room for private grain may be gathered from the fact that during the fortnight ending on the 10th January 2,20,000 maunds (say 8,100 tons) of private grain came into the Patna stations as against 1,20,000 maunds (say 4,500 tons) of Government grain.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor has now concluded an arrangement with the India General Steam Navigation Company for hiring for one month at Patna one steamer and two flats, with power to continue the hiring for three months if the state of the river permits the steamer to work usefully. The charge is to be Rs. 15,000 a month[*] plus the difference in the price of coal between Patna and Calcutta if the hiring is by the month; or Rs. 15,000 a month without extra allowances if the hiring be for three months.

6. But as it is clear from Mr. Hewitt's letter[†] that two steamers and four flats will be required, the Lieutenant-Governor is in treaty with the India General Steam Navigation Company for the hire of a second steamer and two more flats. One steamer[‡] and two flats are now at Patna and will be stopped there; another steamer[§] and two flats are expected to-day (20th January) or to-morrow at Kooshtea, on her way down the river from Behar. The Lieutenant-Governor would propose to arrange for hiring her at once on the same terms, and sending her back to work the Mokameh and Barrh ferries to Champta Ghât, while the *Chunar* and her flats work from the new river-side station near Patna, to Revelgunge, and perhaps to Hajeepore.

7. I am now to solicit the sanction of His Excellency the Viceroy in Council to hiring these two steamers and flats for one month certain, and to keeping them for the full three months if the depth of water in the river permits.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

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[*] Bydays caused by break-downs of machinery are to be deducted.

[†] Mr. Bayley, who is on tour in North Behar, writes, though at less length, that two steamers will be required for the Ganges ferries if sufficient room is to be left for private trade.

[‡] The *Chunar*.

[§] The *Patna*.

MEMORANDUM prepared under the Lieutenant-Governor's orders on the subject of Steam Transport across the Ganges, after Captain Baker's visit to Kooshtea and Goalundo.

The great difficulty of our present transport is getting the grain across the Ganges. We require—

Steamer-Ferry with flats—

1. At Patna for Hajeepore.
2. At Patna for Revelgunge.
3. At Rajmehal.
4. At Kooshtea.

The heaviest work by far is at Patna, where we hope to put across 1,50,000 maunds a week.

Then at Kooshtea we want to put across at least two lakhs of maunds a month.

At Rajmehal we want to cross about 1,000 maunds a day now, and probably a good deal more hereafter.

Captain Baker cannot tell us how many native boats are available at Kooshtea, but 5,000 maunds in boats were just starting as Captain Baker was there. The last letter I saw from Mr. Dawson (dated Saturday last) said he had got *all* the boats he could lay his hands upon, and that he was now awaiting their return from their first trip.

Captain Baker has available steamers *Koladyne*, *Peel*, *Teesta*, and four flats.

He reckons that the *Koladyne* and *Teesta* with three flats could only put across from Kooshtea to Godagaree about 1,00,000 maunds a month.

The *Peel* can easily take two flats. The *Koladyne* would do better with one flat, but might carry two. The *Teesta* can barely take one full flat up-stream, and can hardly get on. It takes from 24 to 36 hours to load or to unload a flat. But two or three flats can go on loading or unloading at the same time.

Note by Mr. Hankey.

Eight hours is quite sufficient to unload a flat in if both sides are worked simultaneously, and no flat should be over 12 hours in loading.

At present we have engaged the India General Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Chunar* with two flats for the Patna work. And we are awaiting Mr. Hewitt's detailed report to learn if they want a second steamer and can use them.

I would now—

(1) put the *Teesta* and the *Gogra* flat to work from Sahebgunge down to opposite Rajmehal; she will have her heavy load down-stream, and ought to do the job in six hours. She will go back empty, and can get back in a day. The time saved in loading from the Sahebgunge ghât will quite make up for the extra length of river. We must tell the Rajmehal officer to arrange a trestle landing place opposite Rajmehal.

Providing the *Peel* can work two flats, and four flats, viz., *Gogra*, *Ganges*, *Isla*, and *Kanai* are available. 1¾ lakhs per mensem should be conveyed with the supplemental aid of country boats.
H. HANKEY.

(2.) I would keep the *Peel* and the *Koladyne* at work between Kooshtea and the Rajshahye trans-Gangetic receiving depôts. These two steamers with three flats should be able to put across 1⅓ lakhs of maunds a month.

Not necessary.
H. HANKEY.

But we must hire a fifth flat to be always loading at Kooshtea. The hired flat should be a large one and would work between.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 191.

COPY forwarded to the Master-Attendant for information, with an intimation that the fifth flat need not be hired.

No. 192.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshaye for information, with remark to the Commissioner of Patna that the Lieutenant-Governor, on receipt of Mr. Hewitt's demi-official letter of the 17th January 1874, has directed arrangements to be made if possible for the hire of two steamers* and four flats for the Patna district ferries.

* *Patna* and *Chunar*.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 16th January 1874.

MY DEAR BERNARD,   Bankipore, the 17th January 1874.

I HAVE just had a conference with Mr. Allen, the Traffic Superintendent, and Colonel Mackenzie, who will be in charge of the transport arrangements during next month.

According to my calculations we ought to be prepared to send off a lakh of maunds a week to Tirhoot, and a similar quantity to Sarun and Chumparun together.

Tirhoot, I certainly think, can be most satisfactorily worked from Chumpta Ghât between Barrh and Mokameh on the opposite side of the river from those two stations.

It appears that it has been already proposed to lay down a tramway from Mokameh to the river-side, a distance of about ¾ of a mile, and that the line was surveyed last year by Mr. LeMesurier, and the proposition is now pending before the Board of Directors. Mr. Allen, who originally made the proposal, has been over the ground, and says he believes the line could be laid down in a fortnight. Mr. LeMesurier is now at Allahabad, it is believed, but Mr. Allen has telegraphed to inquire, and if he is he will call on me on his way down. Should he be at Jamalpore, I am sure Colonel Mackenzie will arrange to meet him at Mokameh early next week, and if arrangements can be made for getting immediate sanction, the work could be put in hand at once.

We should then require a steamer to take the grain across the river, and I would propose that all grain imported by dealers should be taken across at the ferry charges usually paid, Rs. 4 per 100 bags* The steamer and flats ought to be able to take a load of 20,000 maunds.

Mr. Allen recommends Mokameh in preference to Barrh; *first*, because the places for a tramway there are all cut and dried, and can be put in hand at once, and also because the Tirhoot trade is tending towards Mokameh rather than Barrh. He says that traders used formerly to send goods to Barrh, but that they find now that Mokameh is better suited for the downward trade, which is the direction Tirhoot traffic generally takes. When we are about it we may as well make a road that will be permanently useful. A third recommendation is, that the Mokameh line can be made much quicker than that at Barrh. The only objection is that the grain would have to go up-stream from Mokameh instead of down, but, with a steamer, that would be matter of no consequence. For the Sarun and Chumparun grain he recommends that a short tramway be made from between Futwa and Patna city down to Doomri Ghât on the river bank. The line there runs very close to the river, and he says, from what he has seen of the place, he believes there will be no difficulty in carrying it out, but he will have a regular survey made early next week, and see whether there are any practical difficulties. If there are none the line could be completed in three weeks, and arrangements made for receiving grain by the 9th February.

As an alternative project, a tramway from Bankipore was suggested; this would be of advantage to the Railway Company, as they could turn the waggons off at Bankipore, and so avoid the necessity of having an extra station staff, which must necessarily be employed at the intermediate station proposed between Patna and Futwa; but, on the other hand, the distance is much greater from the rail to the river at Bankipore, and the line would require a great deal of earth-work, which would take time and would hardly consolidate at present. The tramway at this intermediate station will probably not be made sufficiently strong to bear engines, and will require a considerable gang of coolies, from 200 to 300 men there, to push the waggons if we cannot manage to get elephants to do the work.

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* Owing to the difficulty of getting boats our rates have been raised to Rs. 6 per 100 bags.

We are going to try the experiment. As for goods' sheds, both Mr. Allen and Colonel Mackenzie concur in thinking that if we cannot get galvanised iron at once, and the railway authorities have no stock in hand, it would be safer to stack the grain on raised platforms and cover the stacks with tarpaulins.

The grain ought never to be there more than one night; and they both say that tarpaulins would afford perfect protection against any rain that would be likely to come in that time, while there would be much less danger from fire than would arise in thatched sheds.

To work this ghât we should also require a steamer, which we would send alternately across the ghât and to Revelgunge, working by boats when the steamer was on its way to Revelgunge. She ought not to carry less than 20,000 maunds, and if she could take more so much the better.

At this intermediate station I would propose to take nothing but Government grain, leaving Patna Ghât free for private trade, and by sending a large portion of the Chumparun grain to Revelgunge, we would leave the Hajeepore Ghât almost entirely, and the Mozufferpore road entirely, free for private trade I am sending a copy of this to Bayley and Halliday.

I am, yours sincerely,
H. Hewitt.

Enclosure No. 10 to foregoing Narrative.

No. 124 P.S., dated Calcutta, the 16th January 1874.

From C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

It will be in the recollection of the Government of India that at the conference held by His Excellency the Viceroy at Government House on the 8th January, Sir George Campbell stated his belief that there would not be any block of grain on the East Indian Railway line, and that the railway could carry for us as much grain as we required to send. At the time of speaking Sir George relied on the local Traffic Manager's statement, that there had up to that time been no block on the railway, except a short stoppage at Patna Ghât. Up to the date of the conference the facts were as the traffic department represented. Since the conference the Lieutenant-Governor has communicated with Mr. Cecil Stephenson, and learnt from him that the East Indian Railway will, if need be, borrow rolling stock, and can arrange for despatching from Howrah as much grain as the Government can send, or as its officers can dispose of at the up-country stations.

2. During the last two days, however, it has become clear to the Lieutenant-Governor that there is a very heavy block in the grain traffic at Patna Ghât station, and the block works back to Howrah, where it is now much felt. Large importations of Government grain are going on, and large private consignments are coming in; most of the grain is intended for districts north of the Ganges, and so the great bulk goes to the river-side station at Patna Ghât; the platform room at a station in the heart of a city like Patna is necessarily confined; the sidings for shunting empties are perhaps insufficient, and the consequence is that hundreds of wagons stand unloaded, sometimes for days together, outside the Patna Ghât station or at adjoining stations.

3. The appended extract of a demi-official letter from Mr. S. C. Bayley, dated Chuprah, the 14th current, shows how serious the railway block at Patna Ghât is becoming. Mr. Hewitt's demi-official letter, which was submitted to you with my demi-official letter of yesterday, described the circumstances at length, and paragraphs 29 to 31 of enclosure No. 8 to the last (eighth) narrative give less recent information on the same point. So far as information has reached this Government, the block is not caused by the failure of Government officers to remove Government grain, but by the inability of private consignees to take their grain, when Government despatches takes up so very large a share of the platform room and the coolie power, and so much of boat resources of the country.

4. At any rate, whatever may be the cause, the result is very obvious, and the Lieutenant-Governor believes that a remedy can only be applied by increasing the railway appliances and establishments in the Patna Division. The railway department is under the immediate control of the Government of India, and Sir George Campbell would solicit that the Government Consulting Engineer (or such other officer as the Government of India may be pleased to trust) may be sent to the spot with authority to sanction the East Indian Railway Company's incurring such reasonable expenditure as may be needed for giving more platform room, and carrying sidings down to one or more favourable points on the river near Patna.

5. My demi-official letter of yesterday's date submitted one proposal for a siding near Patna, the suggestion for which came first from Mr. Rivett-Carnac; and the extract now forwarded from Mr. Bayley's letter recommends some such plan. It might also be considered whether

the Buxar siding down to the river could be used as a place of debarkation for the Sarun and Chumparun grain; and whether a siding coud be advantageously carried down to the river at Mokameh opposite to which a road runs through Rooshra to Durbhangah.

6. At any rate the Lieutenant-Governor would recommend that the temporary line to the river side near Patna should be constructed as soon as the site can be selected and the temporary way put down. The land can be taken up temporarily, and the Collector can arrange that there should not be an hour's difficulty on that score. The best site could probably be selected in a single morning by the local Railway Engineer in consultation with the local Traffic Manager and the Magistrate-Collector or Mr. Hewitt. Care would have to be taken to lay down sufficient rails to allow of ample shunting room, and if the site were well chosen and appliances for loading into boats hastily run up, it might be possible in two weeks time to do all the Government grain business of Patna Ghât at the new station and to leave Patna Ghât station free for private traders.

No. 124 A.P.S.

Copy, with copy of the extract, forwarded to the Commissioner of Patna, with the request that he (or in his absence Mr. Hewitt) will advise with the railway officers as soon as orders are received for the construction of the siding or temporary line.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 16th January 1874.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. S. C. Bayley, dated 14th January 1874.

"I hope to be able to report to you by the 1st of February that we have arranged to despatch 50,000 maunds weekly to each of the three northern districts. Our first difficulty is the railway. They have not the room, and they have not the means and appliances at Patna Ghât for delivering rapidly even what we are now getting, and the interests of private consignors are being sacrificed as it is, and will be so still more in the future if our consignments are increased. More room and an additional siding might help them, but the Traffic Superintendent, Mr. Allen, tells me this cannot be carried out while the work is so rapid. It occurred to me that a temporary tramway leading from the railway say at Bankipore to some other point of the river, with a large yard and facilities for unloading, the whole rice to be specially for Government consignments, would answer our purpose and afford relief to the public, and if our consignments run on, as doubtless they will, to a million of maunds, the money would be well spent. If you think there is anything in the project, will you ask the railway people to try and work it? * * * * *

"As I said before, I shall be very much disappointed if I am not able to tell you on the 1st February that I have arranged for the (weekly) carriage of 50,000 maunds to each of these three districts besides what you may have to allot to Gya and the south of the Ganges."

No. 7 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

AGRICULTURE and HORTICULTURE.
Famine.

To His Grace the Right Honourable the Duke of Argyll, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

Calcutta, the 30th January 1874.

My Lord Duke,

In continuation of our former despatches regarding the scarcity in Bengal, we desire to report the progress of affairs during the past week.

2. On the 24th instant we held a conference with the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, attended by a considerable number of experienced officers, and we discussed at length the principles on which the local and central relief committees should be formed and the rules by which they should be guided. We have forwarded these rules to the Local Government for circulation among the district officers, and we enclose a copy of them. We desire to call your Grace's attention to the fact that

we have not disregarded the varying circumstances of different localities; on the contrary, the rules contain an express provision to the effect that they are not intended to preclude relief committees or officers of Government from adopting special measures to relieve sudden or severe distress wherever it may occur. Nevertheless we believe that on the whole the rules, as they stand, will be found to work well and to provide for some of the peculiar difficulties by which the relief of distress is attended in this country.

3. Among the subjects discussed at the conference was the question of calling a public meeting at Calcutta in view to the constitution of a central committee, composed of official and non-official members, and charged with the duty of collecting subscriptions and aiding and supervising the district committees. We have often referred to this question, and we have now decided on forming the central committee not because the distress has already assumed proportions beyond the capacity of the local committees to cope with, but because in this, as in other matters, we think it better to be prepared beforehand with every measure that a sudden outbreak of severe distress may demand; whereas, if our arrangements were deferred until such a contingency actually arose, they would be less able to bear the unexpected pressure upon them. As to the constitution of the committee we enclose our correspondence with the Government of Bengal; it will be seen that so far as superior agency is concerned, we are anxious to provide for the work of central relief being carried on with as little charge as possible upon the funds of the committee. We propose to hold the public meeting on the 4th proximo, of the result of which your Grace will be informed next mail.

4. Sir Richard Temple, whose delegation to Behar we reported in our last despatch, left Calcutta on the evening of the 24th and is already in the centre of the distressed districts. We await with interest the receipt from the Government of Bengal of intelligence as to his movements, and whether the estimate we have been led to form of the probable extent of the scarcity is confirmed by his observation and enquiries. We are also desirous to learn whether the measures that have been ordered by the Government of India and the Local Government are really in that state of progress which district reports have led us to expect, and of which we have assured your Grace. While we feel great confidence in the exertions of the district officers, we anticipate much good from Sir Richard Temple's presence in Behar.

5. It is with no little satisfaction that we are able to report that on the 25th and 26th instant there was a heavy rain-fall, varying from half an inch to three and a half inches, all over Bengal, and extending to Oudh and the southern portions of the North-Western Provinces. In Mirzapore it has been very beneficial. As regards the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions in Bengal, the rain is too late to do any appreciable good to the cold-weather crops on the ground, but everywhere it will have done something to fill the tanks and promote the growth of fodder, besides rendering more easy the ploughing of the fields for the next early rice crop. A statement in detail will be found among the enclosures of our despatch, and it may be hoped that the rain which fell at Rajmehal, Bograh, Julpigoree, and Rungpore extended over the intervening district of Dinagepore, from which actual reports have not yet been received. Unhappily the rain has not extended to the chief spring crop areas of the Patna and Bhagulpore Divisions, though it reached to Rajmehal on the one side and to Lohardugga on the other. From Tirhoot and Chumpáran no return has been received. In the Patna District there were only partial showers amounting to about one-tenth of an inch, but even this cannot fail to have been useful to the low-land crops. What effect this fall may have upon prices has yet to be seen, but at present they still show the same gradual tendency to rise, and this so generally as to prove, coupled with the activity of trade, that the distressed districts are drawing largely upon the more favoured regions to the East and South.

6. We forward a correspondence* with the Government of Bengal, prescribing the principle which, we think, should regulate the grant of advances to private companies for the purchase of grain in districts removed from the operation of ordinary trade, as also our reply to an appeal preferred by the landholders and others in the Hooghly District from the decision of the Local Government refusing to remit the levy of the road cess or to suspend the ordinary land revenue demand.

* Pages 175 to 180.

7. As to the remission of the port dues at Calcutta, which we mentioned last week, we have decided for the present to postpone it.

8. We now enclose† the details of our scheme of Government emigration to Burmah. The arrangements contemplated in the scheme are actually on foot, and

† Pages 180 to 185.

we hope shortly to see set in from Calcutta a steady and continuous stream of emigration relieving the distressed districts of Bengal and diffusing itself over a Province where a scanty labour market and a sparse agricultural population have hitherto formed the only obstacles to development.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

Enclosures to foregoing Despatch.

INSTRUCTIONS TO RELIEF COMMITTEES.

I.—ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES.

There will be three classes of Committees,—first, the Central Committee at Calcutta; second, District Committees; third, Sub-divisional Committees. The latter will generally be organized for a sub-division, but where necessary more than one of such Committees may be appointed in a sub-division.

2. The Central Relief Committee at Calcutta will be organized under the immediate supervision of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

3. The District Relief Committees will be organized in such districts as the Commissioner of the Division may think it desirable. The Magistrate and Collector of the district will usually be the Chairman of the District Committee, and will arrange for the appointment of the Members in communication with the Commissioner of the Division.

4. The Sub-divisional Committees will be organized wherever the Magistrate and Collector of a district considers it desirable. The Sub-divisional Officer will usually be the Chairman of the Sub-divisional Committee, and will arrange for the appointment of Members in communication with the Collector of the district.

5. The District Relief Committees will communicate direct with the Central Relief Committee at Calcutta.

6. The Sub-divisional Relief Committees will act under the general supervision of the District Relief Committees.

7. The Sub-divisional Relief Committees will be responsible for organizing the agency for the relief of distress within their area. They will be authorised to employ Sub-Committees, or any other agency which, with a view to local circumstances, they may think best suited for the purpose, or to delegate any portion of their duty to the other Members. The Sub-divisional Committees will be responsible that the whole of the relief operations within the sub-division should be constantly inspected, once a week at the least, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the relief operations have been properly carried on, and whether there are any places in the sub-division in need of relief where relief operations have not been instituted. For this purpose they will apply through the Collector of the district for such additional assistance, whether Native or European, as they may require.

II.—DUTIES OF COMMITTEES.

The functions of the Central Relief Committee will be to collect subscriptions and to supply money or food, as the case may be, to the District Committees; to exercise a general supervision over the proceedings of those Committees; to receive their reports; and to examine their accounts.

2. The functions of the District Relief Committees will be to draw supplies of money or food from the Central Relief Committee; to collect subscriptions on their own behalf, but so as not to interfere with the resources of the Sub-divisional Committees; to supply the Sub-divisional Relief Committees with money or food; to exercise a general supervision over the proceedings of those Committees; to receive their reports; and to examine their accounts, forwarding reports and accounts to the Central Relief Committee at Calcutta.

3. The functions of the Sub-divisional Relief Committees will be—

(*a.*) To collect subscriptions and to distribute the resources which will be at their disposal from local subscriptions, from the contributions of Government, and from the grants received from District Committees.

(*b.*) To provide food for relief purposes from local sources or Government depôts.

(*c.*) To transport food to convenient places, and to provide for its proper storage.

(*d.*) To distribute gratuitous relief to persons in need of it and unable to work.

(*e.*) To provide useful employment for those people who apply for it, and are able to work, by instituting minor relief works and providing other employment, such as spinning, weaving, husking rice, &c. Sub-divisional Committees will have full information of the Imperial and Provincial Public Works in their neighbourhood, in order that, if desirable, able-bodied labourers may be despatched to those works, together with their families.

(*f.*) To provide in such manner as may be considered the best, in each particular locality, for the relief of such persons whose caste usages and feelings prevent them from going to the Government Public Works—women of good family and others—who would die of starvation if not relieved. Relief for this class of persons might be afforded either wholly gratuitously, or partly gratuitously, by the sale of grain under the market rates, or even in some cases, with due precautions, by the advance of money or grain to be subsequently repaid.

(*g.*) If there should be an absolute deficiency in the supply of grain in any part of their district, the Sub-divisional Committee may, with the previous approval of the Collector, make arrangements for the sale of grain from Government Stores. The arrangement should be made through the agency of the traders, which will probably be available everywhere. The price should be fixed at that of the nearest large mart, where supplies are readily brought in by railroad or river, together with such addition, representing the cost of transport, as may be considered proper. Such sales should be stopped at once as soon as the local trade receives supplies, and any competition with local trade should be carefully avoided.

(*h.*) It will be probably found necessary for the Sub-divisional Committees to establish in certain parts of their districts Poor Houses, where those who apply may be received and furnished with cooked food. It will be essential, however, that besides such Houses relief centres should be established, if possible, in every large village in which severe distress exists, from which centres the distribution of food, either cooked or not, might be made to those who, under the general principles laid down, should receive gratuitous relief as unable to work. It appears highly desirable to avoid the congregation of large masses of people together away from their homes for the purpose of relief.

III.—ACCOUNTS.

The Central Relief Committee at Calcutta should draw up forms of account for the use of the Sub-divisional and District Committees. Provision will be made, in communication with the Central Committee, for the proper audit of their accounts.

IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Nothing in these Rules is intended to preclude Relief Committees or Officers of Government from adopting special measures to relieve sudden and severe distress wherever it may occur, reporting the measures they have taken at once for the approval of superior authority.

2. Further and more detailed instructions for Relief Committees will be given from time to time by the Central Relief Committee at Calcutta in communication with the Government of Bengal.

No. 198 A., dated 21st January 1874.

From A. P. HOWELL, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL.

In continuation of my letter No. 126, of the 17th instant,* and with special reference to the arrangements proposed for the constitution of the central relief committee at Calcutta, I am directed to request that the subject may be further considered by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

* Page 164.

2. In Financial Secretary's letter No. 3690, of the 12th ultimo, the Government of India expressed its willingness to give all due assistance to the Bengal establishments, and yet desired that all reasonable economy might be practised, and no appointment created before its absolute necessity should arise. The Government of India desires to repeat this assurance, but wish to be informed by the Government of Bengal whether the preliminary arrangements for the constitution of the committee will require the whole time of an officer of so much ability and experience as Mr. Schalch, the proposed President of the committee. The Governor General in Council is disposed to believe that until the committee is actually at work, and the daily pressure of business is found to be such as to require the undivided attention of the President, the precedents of the Agra Central Committees of 1860–61 and 1867–68 might be followed, and no special officer be appointed to superintend its deliberations. When the committee comes actually to be constituted, the Governor General in Council trusts that it will be found practicable to place upon it many officers whose interests in the work, and whose special experience in relief operations, will give material assistance to the Chairman.

3. Again, as regards the proposed appointments of Mr. Forbes and, ultimately, perhaps, of Mr. Wood, as Secretaries to the committee, the Government of India would wish to know whether it could not for the present be arranged that one of the two Secretaries of the Board,

who are both officers of long Secretariat experience, could not assist Mr. Schalch in framing, on the precedents of former occasions, the few simple regulations that will be required for the control of the local committees. This arrangement would not prevent the appointment of special officers, whenever such appointments may be found actually necessary to conduct the business devolving upon the committee.

4. I am accordingly to request that, pending a reply to this enquiry, Mr. Schalch's place in the Board of Revenue may not be filled up, and that, at least until the committee is actually constituted, the proposed appointment of the Secretaries to it may be kept in abeyance.

No. 138 P.-S., dated 23rd January 1874.

From C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 198 A., dated 21st January, regarding the appointment of Mr. Schalch to be Chairman elect of the central relief committee, and of Mr. Forbes to be its Secretary.

2. In reply, I am to submit that, until the central committee is regularly constituted, there will be no extra charge to Government from Mr. Schalch's employment on this special duty, and when it is established, the charge will be very small, no extra man being appointed, and the allowances confined to those proposed in this office letter No. 3888, dated 11th December, and sanctioned by the Government of India. Mr. Dampier will take the greater part of the land revenue work of the Board along with his Secretariat work, making over part of his side of the Secretariat to Mr. Rivers Thompson. The fact that other current business is slack, while so many officers are occupied with famine work, makes this arrangement possible.

3. But the Lieutenant-Governor would solicit permission to allow Mr. Schalch to have Mr. Forbes as his Secretary for relief purposes from the day when he first took charge of the work. It is not quite certain when the central committee will be convened, but it is very desirable that matters should be thoroughly in train before the committee are appointed. There is already in some parts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, Purneah, and Monghyr need for charitable relief committees to begin work at once; and indeed such committees are in some of these tracts already at work. Mr. Schalch is shortly going up-country to visit some of these tracts, and it is desirable that the operation of the local relief committees should be under Mr. Schalch's direction from the beginning. The Lieutenant-Governor would therefore be greatly obliged if the Government of India would sanction Mr. Forbes to taking up the duty of Secretary to the central relief committee at once, as proposed in this office letter No. 123 S.-R., dated 14th January last.

No. 245, dated 26th January 1874.

From A. P. Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

In reply to your letter No. 138 P.-S. of the 23rd instant, on the subject of the central relief committee at Calcutta, I am directed to state that, until the committee is formed, it appears to the Governor General in Council to be hardly necessary to appoint a paid Secretary who has no other work, or to relieve Mr. Schalch of his duties at the Board of Revenue. I am therefore to request that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will bring forward the proposal again after the central committee has been formed and has met.

2. With regard to the deputation of Mr. Schalch to Behar, I am to add that it is not considered necessary that he should visit the distressed districts at present, especially while Sir Richard Temple is there.

3. While the Government of India is anxious to strengthen the European superintendence on the spot, it seems desirable, as far as practicable, to abstain from increasing appointments or salaries at head-quarters, especially in constituting a central relief committee, the expense of which will be partly borne from private subscriptions. The Government of India would be glad if the work that may devolve upon the committee could be performed, so far as the superior agency is concerned, with as little charge upon the funds of the committee as possible, and at any rate that the committee should be consulted before any expenditure of the kind is incurred.

4. Possibly His Honor may be able, upon further consideration, to suggest some arrangement under which this can be done, by utilizing the extra establishments which have already been sanctioned on account of the impending scarcity; if not, the Government of India will endeavour to make some such arrangement.

5. Meanwhile, sanction to the proposals contained in your letter under acknowledgment is deferred.

No. 246.

Copy, with copy of the letter from this office, No. 198 A. of the 21st instant, is forwarded to Financial Department for information, in continuation of endorsement No. 127 of the 17th instant.

STATEMENT of RAINFALL as reported from the Districts of Bengal and Behar on the 24th—26th January.

	Inches.
Burdwan	1·16
Bancoorah	1·25
Beerbhoom	0·47
Midnapore	0·44
Hooghly	0·84
Howrah	0·60
24-Pergunnahs	0·58
Nuddea	1·16
Jessore	Gentle but steady rain all day on the 25th, varying from ·33 to ·90.
Rungpore	3·8
Moorshedabad	0.35 at Rampore Hât.
Maldah	0·25
Bograh	2·48
Pubna	0·55
Julpigoree	1·08
Cooch Behar	1·40
Dacca	Heavy rain.
Furreedpore	0·70
Cachar	0·81
Tipperah	1·00
Bhaugulpore	Slight rain in interior; none at head-quarters.
Rajmehal	2
Darjeeling	Heavy rain on the 25th.
Patna	Partial showers, ·01.
Purneah	·40
Sonthal Pergunnahs	2 inches at Rajmehal.
Lohardugga	1·50
Singhboom	0·75
Maunbhoom	1·77
Goalparah	Rain steadily falling.

LETTER from A. MACKENZIE, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, No. 165 S.-R., dated Calcutta the 16th January 1874.

I am directed to forward, for the orders of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, the accompanying application from the managing directors of the Indian Terai Tea Company of Darjeeling, asking for a loan to enable them to lay in stores of rice for coolies working on their gardens. A note by Mr. Metcalfe, Commissioner of the Cooch Behar Division, on the subject, is also enclosed. It will be seen other planters would probably take advantage of such loans if sanctioned.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor would propose to grant such advances to Darjeeling planters only on the ground that they employ free labourers upon monthly wages, and do not guarantee rice to their labourers under agreements. If they import rice from a distance, they will benefit a district which produces little, and to which distressed labourers are sure to resort.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor would charge six per cent. interest upon such loans.

4. The Commissioner thinks that the lands of Cooch Behar, Sidlee, and Bijnee can probably supply as much rice as will be required without any trenching on Purneah and Bengal supplies.

Enclosure 1.

LETTER from T. CARRETT, Esq., Managing Director, Indian Terai Tea Company, Limited, to C. BERNARD, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, dated Calcutta, the 7th January 1874.

With reference to a letter from the Officiating Commissioner of Cooch Behar Division, to the Chairman of the Central Committee, Darjeeling Planters' Association, of date 11th December

1873, I have the honour to ask you to grant a loan to the Indian Terai Tea Company, Limited, who are carrying on tea operations at Chenga, near Pankabarree, of Rs. 6,000 for rice supplies for the coolies working on the estate. In asking you this favour, I need scarcely add that the loan is asked for *bonâ fide* for rice supplies in consequence of the impending scarcity. A great lot of the rice and other supplies has been already bargained for, and a part of it is already stored.

Mr. R. F. Graham of Darjeeling, who is a Director of the Company, and who has superintended the supply of rice, will, if you wish it, corroborate this letter, and is now in Calcutta.

Enclosure 2.

LETTER from C. T. METCALFE, Esq., Officiating Commissioner, Cooch Behar Division, to the CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, DARJEELING PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION, No. 421 T., dated Camp Doobree, the 11th December 1873.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 2nd of December 1873, bearing Mr. Gouldsbury, Assistant Commissioner's endorsement of the 8th December 1873.

2. I quite appreciate the difficulties under which the Darjeeling tea planters will labour in obtaining cheap food for their coolies while the tendency of the grain export is towards the plains. The tea coolie is probably dependent upon a local shopkeeper, who again is guided in fixing the selling rates either by the selling rates at the local hâts when the grain is plentiful, or, when grain is dear, at the rate at which the goladar will sell it.

3. The suggestion in your paragraph 5, whether it will not be advisable to stop the export of rice, seems to me open to the objection that a very large portion of the local rice would go into the hands of the golandars, who, in the case of the Darjeeling Terai, are also jotedars and cultivators.

4. It would be quite impossible to stop local traffic. Indeed, it would be very unadvisable to do so; and where districts are adjoined to each other, and where there is no organized custom agency, it is almost impossible successfully to prevent export of grain.

5. My instructions to the district officers some weeks ago were to explain to the holders of large stocks that prices would rise excessively, and that it was to their benefit and profit to withhold stock for the market for the present. This advice was, I believe, acted upon in many instances.

6. With reference to future supplies for the Darjeeling district, a few days ago I demi-officially communicated to the Assistant Commissioner in charge of Darjeeling that I was quite prepared to assist in the import, where grain is required *bonâ fide* for factory purposes, to the extent of 1,000 maunds per factory.

7. The suggestion contained in your last paragraph to issue weekly price current has my entire approval, and will be carried out.

8. If any planter desiring to import rice will telegraph the price which he will pay for rice or dhan per maund to Cooch Behar to my address, I will communicate to him early full information of cost of carriage, &c.

Enclosure 3.

LETTER from R. F. GRAHAM, Esq., to C. BERNARD, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, dated Calcutta, the 19th January 1874.

With reference to a letter from the Officiating Commissioner of Cooch Behar Division to the Chairman of the Central Committee, Darjeeling Planters' Association, of date 11th December 1873, I have the honour to ask you to grant a loan to the Mim Estate, who are carrying on tea operations at Mim, near Darjeeling, for a loan of Rs. 4,000 for rice and Indian corn and potatoe supplies for the coolies working on the estate. In asking you this favour, I need scarcely add that the loan is asked for *bonâ fide* for rice, &c. supplies in consequence of the impending scarcity. A lot of the rice, &c., has been already bargained for, and a considerable part is already stored.

Mr. R. F. Graham of Darjeeling, the writer of this, and who is connected with this estate, is in Calcutta, and would give any additional information required.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have heard that the letter herein referred to alludes more to the supply of rice and not to loans of money; but inasmuch as the rice, &c. for this estate has already been bargained for and in part stored, I ask the Government for a money loan.

Enclosure 4.

LETTER from C. T. METCALFE, Esq., Officiating Commissioner, Cooch Behar Division, to the CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, DARJEELING PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION, No. 421 T., dated Camp Doobree, 11th December 1873.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 2nd of December 1873, bearing Mr. Gouldsbury, Assistant Commissioner's endorsement of the 8th December 1873.

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3. The suggestion in your paragraph 5, whether it will not be advisable to stop the export of rice, seems to me open to the objection that a very large portion of the local rice would go into the hands of the goladars, who, in the case of the Darjeeling Terai, are also jotedars and cultivators.

4. It would be quite impossible to stop local traffic. Indeed, it would be very unadvisable to do so; and where districts are adjoined to each other, and where there is no organized custom agency, it is almost impossible successfully to prevent export of grain.

5. My instructions to the district officers some weeks ago were to explain to the holders of large stocks that prices would rise excessively, and that it was to their benefit and profit to withhold stock for the market for the present. This advice was, I believe, acted upon in many instances.

6. With reference to future supplies for the Darjeeling district, a few days ago I demi-officially communicated to the Assistant Commissioner in charge of Darjeeling that I was quite prepared to assist in the import, where grain is required *bonâ fide* for factory purposes, to the extent of 1,000 maunds per factory.

7. The suggestion contained in your last paragraph, to issue weekly price current, has my entire approval, and will be carried out.

8. If any planter desiring to import rice will telegraph the price which he will pay for rice or dhan per maund to Cooch Behar to my address, I will communicate to him early full information of cost of carriage, &c.

Letter from A. P. HOWELL, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, No. 213, dated 23rd January 1874.

In reply to your letter, No. 165 S.-R., dated the 16th, and received on the 21st instant, forwarding an application from the Managing Directors of the Indian Terai Tea Company at Darjeeling for a loan of Rs. 6,000 to enable them to lay in stores of rice for coolies working on their gardens, I am directed to state that the application is analogous to those contemplated in paragraph 26 of the general resolution of the 17th November last.

2. So long as the local Government is satisfied that the conditions prescribed in that paragraph are strictly fulfilled, that the security for the repayment of the loan, with the interest stated, is adequate, that the money will be devoted solely to the object in view, and that there is no private trade with which this measure could interfere, the Governor General in Council is willing to sanction it. Where there is little or no trade, such loans, so employed, operate beneficially by reducing the number of consumers at the local markets; but inasmuch as they transfer to the State a portion of the burden, which in a season of scarcity properly falls on the private shareholders, they should be resorted to with caution, and each case tested by its merits.

ENDORSEMENT, No. 214, dated 28th January 1874.

Copy of correspondence to Financial Department for information.

No. 3,319, dated 24th December 1873.

From L. C. ABBOTT, Esq., Additional Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

In forwarding the accompanying memorial, purporting to be signed by zemindars and ryots of Hooghly, I am directed to observe that the memorialists in the first place appeal against the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor refusing to postpone the immediate levy of the road cess in Hooghly, and in the second, ask, either for the entire remission or at least suspension for two years, of the next two instalments of the land revenue in all estates of landholders in the Hooghly district, on condition that the landholders will, on their part, similarly remit or suspend the collection of the remaining instalments of the current year's rent, and the first quarterly instalments of the ensuing year.

2. With reference to the appeal against the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, I am directed to forward copy of a letter, No. 2,997 of 18th November, to Commissioner of Burdwan, with the extracts therein referred to; and with regard to the request of the petitioners for the remission or suspension of revenue, I am to say that no such measure has as yet been recommended by any of the local officers, and that, as His Excellency the Governor General in Council is doubtless aware, Hooghly is by no means the district to which such a concession should first be made.

No. 2,997, dated 18th November 1873.

From L. C. ABBOTT, Esq., Additional Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the COMMISSIONER of BURDWAN.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to authorize that if in any portion of the road cess districts of your division or in any particular estate you believe that the cess-paying ryots are reduced to present distress, and rents are not realized, the cess may be suspended.

2. Extracts, paragraphs 3, 6, 7, and 9 of a letter addressed to the Board are annexed, as showing the principles by which the Government desires to be guided in this matter. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts to your discretion to act for the best, so as neither to remit the cess unnecessarily nor to press the people too much where they are really reduced to great distress. Wherever the cess is postponed, the fact should be at once made known to the cess-paying ryots.

Extract from a letter from L. C. ABBOTT, Esq., Additional Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the SECRETARY to the BOARD of REVENUE, Lower Provinces, No. 2,996, dated Calcutta, the November 1873.

Para. 3. The Member in charge will remember that although high prices may be expected to prevail everywhere, the agriculturists who may have even a moderate or short crop which has not wholly failed, will have a compensation in these high prices; and till the failure is extreme, they suffer far less than the landless classes. It is therefore very necessary to discriminate between those cases in which an extreme failure has involved all classes in a common distress, and a moderate or partial failure in which the labourers and non-agriculturists chiefly suffer, and in which rents are paid without very heavy remissions.

* * * * * * * *

6. It is believed that these instructions will certainly apply to Monghyr and Bhaugulpore, and probably to Purneah. But the Collector of Purneah now announces that a very unusual breadth of land has been sown with rubbee crops, and if in that especially moist soil the seed germinates and gives promise of a good crop, it is possible that the farmers of Purneah may not be so badly off after all. Moreover, the Collector stated on the occasion of the Lieutenant-Governor's recent visit to the Bhaugulpore Division, that the Purneah road cess income was already coming in freely.

7. As regards Rajshahye, there is a high dry part called the "Barran," where there is certainly great failure, and where the cess must no doubt be remitted to the aboriginal colonists who cultivate that part; but the result of the crops in the rest of Rajshahye is not yet very clearly ascertained, and the last accounts received from the Commissioner direct are somewhat favourable. In Moorshedabad, again, there was a great deficiency of rain in some parts, but most parts seem to be better, some late rain having fallen. Hooghly is in somewhat the same position. The low parts which form the greater part of the Howrah magistracy will produce good crops, and much of Hooghly proper is low and capable of irrigation, or cultivated with vegetables; the final result, however, in this district remains to be seen.

* * * * * * * *

9. On the whole the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it will be enough to tell the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Burdwan what he he has told some petitioners from Hooghly, that in any portions of, or estates in, road cess districts, in which they believe that the cess-paying ryots are reduced to present distress, and rents are not realized, the cess may be suspended and instructions issued accordingly. The Lieutenant-Governor would not go further than this at present. He deems it specially necessary to make this proviso about the non-realization of rents, for he finds from Mr. Cockerell's report that the zemindars of Behar sustained little or no loss in rents during the Behar famine of 1865–66, and that even on the Durbhanga Ward's Estate only 6 per cent. of the rents were remitted. If the zemindars can similarly collect their rents during the present year in the districts where the failure of crops has not been very extreme, there seems no reason why the district road fund should not have the cess income which bears so very small a proportion to the rents, and which is devoted to the employment of the people who most suffer.

To His Excellency the VICEROY and GOVERNOR GENERAL of INDIA.

The humble petition of the undersigned Zemindars, Talookdars, and Ryots of the District of Hooghly in Lower Bengal.

Sheweth,—That with reference to a memorial presented to your Excellency, praying for the suspension of the operation of the Road Cess Act in the Districts of Hooghly and Burdwan, your memorialists were informed by the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, by a letter dated the 8th October 1872, that "should the fever recur or not abate, he (the Lieutenant Governor) would be ready, when the time for collection came round, to take into consideration the question of suspending the realization of the cess in the fever-stricken tracts;" and further, that "the Lieutenant-Governor will not fail in carrying out the local Act to give effect to any exceptional circumstances which may affect the District of Burdwan or Hooghly when the time for putting the assessment into operation arrives."

That as, in pursuance of the policy above indicated, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal was pleased to suspend the operation of the Road Cess Act in the District of Burdwan only, your memorialists and others presented to His Honour a memorial, dated the 2nd of September last, praying for the extension of the indulgence to the people of Hooghly, on the grounds that neither in extent nor in intensity were the sufferings of the people from epidemic fever less in Hooghly than in Burdwan; that, as a matter of fact, the condition of the poorer classes in the former district was worse than in the latter; that it was common to see thousands of beegahs of land lying uncultivated and overgrown with jungle for want of agricultural labour in several villages; that, in addition to the distress to which the people had been reduced by repeated calamaties, they were threatened with the horrors of an impending famine, and that a special difficulty of a serious character presented itself in this district with regard to the valuation of estates and the assessment of the cess, by reason of the material variations in the rent-roll of estates which had occurred by the extinction of numerous holdings by deaths and relinquishments since the submission of the road cess returns by your memorialists.

That on the 6th of November last the prayer of your memorialists was rejected by His Honour, and they were informed that "the ryots of Hooghly pay the cess along with their rents, and in a proportion to the rent almost infinitesimally small. As long, therefore, as rents are collected, the cess, now specially wanted for district works, must be paid by landholders. If it is satisfactorily shown that on any estate the collection of rents has been suspended, the Lieutenant-Governor will direct that harsh measures should not be taken to enforce the early payment of the road cess on that estate."

That your memorialists beg to annex hereto copy of the aforesaid memorial, and of the order passed thereon.

That your memorialists humbly beg leave to submit that the enforcement of the payment of the road cess would be the extreme hardship to a people whose condition has been already rendered very wretched by the annual visitations of epidemic fever, and by the all but total failure of the last ammon paddy crop; that the relief proposed to be given in the shape of remunerative employment to poor men, and of the improvement of the means of communication by the execution of "district works," will little, if at all, counterbalance the misery that will ensue by the realization in this crisis of the money required for such works, and that the collection of the cess, how small it may be, from ryots who are in most cases unable to pay even their current rents, would be a hopeless task.

That your Excellency is well aware that the entire body of the landholders of this district depend solely on the assets of their estates, not only for the payment of the Government revenue, but also for their own means of livelihood; but the difficulty which those of your memorialists, who are landholders and other zemindars and talookdars, feel in collecting the rents on their estates is so great, and the hardship which the collection of rent entails on the poor ryots in their present deplorable condition is so obviously suicidal to their own interests, that they would have temporarily abstained altogether from the collection of rent if they had been freed from the liability of paying the Government revenue on their estates; and your memorialists confidently submit that if Government be pleased to remit for good, or suspend for two years, the payment of the next two instalments of Government revenue on the estates of all landholders of this district, who will similarly remit or suspend the collection of the remaining instalments of the current year's rent, and the first quarterly instalment of the next year's rent, a majority of the landholders of this district would gladly come forward and agree to the arrangement, although it would cost them the loss of half a year's profits on their estates.

Your memorialists therefore humbly pray for themselves and their co-signatories of the original memorial, that your Excellency will be pleased to order that the collection of the road cess be suspended in the District of Hooghly for the period of a year, and that the payment of the next two instalments of the Government revenue be remitted for good or suspended for two years on the estates of all landholders of the district, who would bind themselves to behave similarly towards their ryots.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will every pray.

SREENATH CHUCKERBUTTY AND OTHERS.

No. 265, dated 27th January 1874.

From A. P. HOWELL, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Abbott's letter, No. 3319, dated the 24th ultimo, forwarding a memorial from certain zemindars and ryots of the Hooghly district, who, in the first place, appeal against the orders of the Government of Bengal refusing to postpone the immediate levy of the road cess in that district, and in the second, pray either for the entire remission, or at least suspension for two years of the next two instalments of the land revenue in all estates of landholders in that district, on condition that they will on their part similarly remit or suspend the collection of the remaining instalments of the current year's rent and the first quarterly instalments of the ensuing year.

2. In reply, I am to state that the instructions issued by the Government of Bengal in its letter to the Commissioner of Burdwan, No. 2997, dated 18th November last, are in accordance with the views expressed by the Government of India, in the general resolution (paragraph 18) of the 7th idem, as to the remission, in certain cases, of the road cess; and that the Government of India declines to interfere with the exercise of the discretion of the Government of Bengal in dealing with particular cases as they arise.

3. With regard to the application of the memorialists for the postponement of the collection of the next two instalments of the land revenue upon certain conditions, I am to add that the views of the Government of India upon this subject have been expressed since the memorial was written, in the letter to the Government of Bengal, No. 112 of the 15th instant; and that the measures sanctioned by that letter will meet the cases of such zemindars as may, in the opinion of the local officers, come within the conditions therein explained.

4. I am accordingly to request that, with the permission of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the memorialists may be informed in the sense explained above.

No. 27.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, in the DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, and COMMERCE, dated Calcutta, the 23d January 1874.

[Emigration.]

RESOLUTION.

READ the under-mentioned correspondence relative to emigration of labourers from the distressed districts of Bengal to British Burma.

To the Government of Bengal, No. 334, dated 10th December 1873.
To the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, No. 337, dated 12th idem.
From the Government of Bengal, No. 4107, dated 22nd idem.
From British Burma, No. 1171—284, dated 22nd idem.
To the Government of Bengal, No. 667, dated 23rd idem.
From the Government of Bengal, No. 29 S.-R., dated 5th January 1874.
Telegram to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, dated 5th January 1874.
Telegram from the Chief Commissioner, dated 7th January 1874.

The Governor General in Council has had under consideration the question of assisting emigration from the distressed districts of Bengal to British Burma, partly, as one means of alleviating the apprehended scarcity, and partly, in view to promoting the cultivation of waste land in that province.

2. The present is a peculiarly favourable time, not only on account of the greater willingness on the part of the population to emigrate which may be anticipated on account of the scarcity, but also from the fact that the transport of the emigrants can be readily arranged by the vessels now employed in importing rice from Burma to Bengal.

3. His Excellency in Council has therefore decided to allot 5 lakhs of Rupees for the promotion of emigration to Burma, which sum is to be formed into a separate fund from which the expenses of State emigration to Burma will be defrayed, and to which any recoveries which the Chief Commissioner may find it possible to make from the emigrants will be credited. All sums thus recouped will be available for expenditure in the same manner and under the same conditions as the original grant.

4. His Excellency in Council has decided to appoint a Superintendent of State Emigration to Burma, and that officer will act in direct correspondence with the Government of India in all matters connected with the objects of his appointment.

5. Emigrants for Burma will be collected in two ways—
(1.) By recruiters acting under the Superintendent's orders.
(2.) By district officers in the distressed districts.

6. In the absence of any special law governing emigration from the Continent of India to British Burma, such emigration will require to be regulated by special contract in each case. The form of the contract to be entered into by the emigrant is appended to this Resolution.

7. In the case of emigrants recruited by the staff employed under the orders of the Superintendent, that officer will, for the purposes of executing the contract, be *ex officio* the representative of the Chief Commissioner of British Burma; in the case of emigrants recruited through district or sub-divisional officers, those officers are similarly constituted, for these same purposes, representatives of the Chief Commissioner.

8. The recruiters working under the Superintendent's orders will bring the emigrants recruited by them direct to the depôt at Calcutta.

9. The emigrants recruited by district officers will be forwarded to that depôt from time to time, in batches of convenient numbers, under the charge of selected persons who will provide for their food and transport on the way.

10. All subsidiary details in regard to the collection of emigrants in, and their transport from, the distressed districts will be arranged between the Superintendent and the district officers, and such further orders as may be necessary on this subject will be issued hereafter in this Department.

11. It is to be borne in mind by the Superintendent and the District officers, who conduct recruiting operations, that the proportion of women and children below the age of 12 to adult males and youths over 14 years of age, should not as a rule exceed 2 of the former to 3 of the latter.

12. It will be the duty of the Superintendent to place himself in direct communication with the Magistrate Collectors of the distressed districts, to arrange with them for the transport to Calcutta of persons willing to emigrate, and who shall have executed the required contract; to provide these officers with the necessary funds, to receive and check their accounts of the expenditure of the same, and to incorporate these accounts in his own; to organise and maintain a staff of respectable recruiters, and to execute contracts, as representative of the Chief Commissioner of British Burma, with such emigrants as they may recruit; to erect and constitute a suitable depôt for the reception of all emigrants, whether recruited by his own staff or sent down from the distressed districts; to provide proper food and medicine for them while in depôt, and to see that all sanitary precautions for their comfort and the preservation of their health are duly taken; to arrange for their passages to British Burma by the vessels of the British India Steam Navigation Company, in accordance with the terms separately agreed upon with that Company; to provide them with such extra clothing as may be necessary for the voyage, to arrange for their subsistence during the voyage, and to send with them such native doctors, sirdars, cooks, and topasses as may be necessary; to maintain and render regularly, monthly accounts of all expenditure incurred on State emigration by or through him, and to carry out such further orders as the Government of India and the Chief Commissioner of British Burma may from time to time issue for his guidance in regard to these matters.

13. Necessary advances will be made to the Superintendent out of the emigration fund, on applications countersigned by the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

14. In Burma the entire control of the arrangements will rest with the Chief Commissioner, who will assume all responsibility for the emigrants from the moment of their landing.

15. Expenses incurred on account of State emigration in Burma will be debited to the emigration fund, in such manner as may be arranged in the Financial Department.

(True Extract.)

A. O. Hume,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 28.

From A. O. Hume, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma.

Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.
Emigration.

Sir, Dated Calcutta, the 23rd January 1874.

To you, No. 337, dated 12th December last.
From you, No. 1171—284 of 22nd idem.
Telegram to you, dated 5th January 1874.

With reference to the correspondence marginally noted, on the subject of emigration to British Burma, I am desired to call your attention to the resolution (No. 27 of this day's date), recorded by his Excellency the Governor General, authorising the initiation of a system of State emigration to that province.

2. I am to take this opportunity of explaining that his Excellency attaches great importance to the condition that this emigration should entail no ultimate real charge to the State, and that as far as possible all expenses incurred in connexion with the removal of emigrants from Bengal to Burma should in the first instance be recouped directly by deductions from their earnings to be credited to the Emigration Fund; or if this be undesirable or impossible, then indirectly from the additional revenue which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the increased area of land brought under cultivation by their means.

3. While, therefore, the Governor General in Council would not insist that every person whose transport to Burma is effected under this resolution should repay in cash the total amount expended on him and his family, his Excellency yet relies upon you to make every endeavour to recover, by deductions from wages earned or in such other ways as may appear to you equitable and suitable, as large a proportion as possible of the expenditure incurred.

4. As stated in paragraph 3 of the accompanying resolution, a sum of five lakhs has been assigned for the purpose of carrying out the scheme for emigration to Burma. All sums recouped by direct re-payments or deductions from wages will be credited to the Emigration Fund, to be expended in the same manner and under the same conditions as the original grant.

5. I am directed to add that you should keep up separate registers showing the extent of land brought under cultivation by labour imported at the expense of the Fund in order that Government may be in a position to judge from time to time how far the scheme is working beneficially.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. O. Hume,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 29.

From A. O. Hume, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.
Emigration.

Sir,
Calcutta, the 23rd January 1874.

I am directed to forward, for the information of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the accompanying papers* on the subject of the arrangements which the Government of India would be glad to see carried out for promoting emigration from Bengal, and especially the distressed districts, to British Burmah.

2. His Honour will observe that the success of the scheme will depend mainly on the co-operation of the district officers, and I am to express a hope that such orders may be issued to them as will best ensure such co-operation. It is especially desirable that the advantages offered to emigrants by British Burmah, as generally explained in the draft contract† attached to the resolution, should be made known as widely as possible, not only to those who may be willing to emigrate themselves, but also to native gentlemen of influence and position whose assistance will materially further the proposal. District officers will doubtless be warned by his Honour that some discretion will be required in the matter; for, although the object in view is primarily to relieve the distressed districts of Bengal, the interests of the province to which the emigrants will be sent must also be remembered, and aged, sick, or infirm persons unlikely to prove useful colonists, should not be sent down to Calcutta for transport to Burmah. It is not, of course, intended to discourage the emigration to Burmah of persons only temporarily incapacitated from labour through privations consequent on the scarcity, who are capable of performing the journey in safety, and may be fairly expected to recover strength under more favourable conditions.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. O. Hume,
Secretary to the Government of India.

* Resolution, No. 27, dated 23rd January 1874.
Letter to Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, No. 28, dated 23rd idem.

† Page 184.

No. 599, dated Fort William, the 23rd January 1874.

Notification.—By the Government of India, Financial Department.

In exercise of the powers vested in him by the General Stamp Act, the Governor General in Council is pleased to exempt from payment of stamp duty all contracts for service in British Burmah under the Chief Commissioner of that province entered into between natives of India emigrating to British Burmah, in pursuance of the Government resolution of this date, for regulating such emigration, and the Superintendent of State Emigration or other Government officers acting as representatives of the said Chief Commissioner.

No. 30, dated Fort William, the 24th January 1874.

Notification.—By the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

In pursuance of Resolution No. 27, of the 23rd January 1874, his Excellency the Governor General in Council is pleased, with the concurrence of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, to appoint Dr. A. Payne Superintendent of State Emigration to Burma, as a temporary arrangement.

No. 31.

From A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to Dr. A. PAYNE, Superintendent of State Emigration to Burma.

SIR, Calcutta, dated 24th January 1874.

I AM desired to forward for your information copies of the papers marginally noted, and to inform you that under the understanding that your new duties as Superintendent of State Emigration are in no way to interfere with the due discharge of the duties already devolving on you in connection with the Lock Hospital and Lunatic Asylums, and also that you will hold yourself responsible for the medical charge of, as well as for all other arrangements connected with, the new depôt to be established for emigrants to Burma, his Excellency has been pleased to assign to you a salary of Rs. 800 per mensem, in your capacity of Superintendent of State Emigration.

Resolution, No. 27, of 23rd January 1874.
Letter to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, No. 28, dated 23rd January 1874.
Letter to Government of Bengal, No. 29, of the same date.
Notification of 24th January 1874, appointing Dr. Payne Superintendent of State Emigration to Burmah.
Notification exempting contracts from stamp duty, Financial Department, No. 599, dated 23rd January 1874.
Extract of correspondence with B. I. S. N. Co., about carriage of emigrants to Burmah.

2. Para. 12 of the enclosed Resolution sufficiently indicates the nature of the duties which this appointment will entail upon you, and I am to request that you will, with the least possible delay, take in hand all preliminary arrangements, and submit an approximate estimate of the establishments and funds which you will require.

3. You should also report such subsidiary matters as may seem to you to require further specific orders, but generally, while holding you entirely responsible for results, and for duly reporting your proceedings, his Excellency is desirous of leaving you a wide discretion in the arrangement of details.

4. It is intended in the first instance that all emigrants shall be sent by the vessels of the British India Steam Navigation Company employed in bringing up rice from Burma, and the annexed extract of correspondence with that Company will show the terms on which they are prepared to carry these emigrants. You should at once place yourself in personal communication with Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie, and arrange with them all necessary details.

5. In conclusion I am to add that his Excellency the Governor General in Council will look to you to carry out this proposed measure in all its details, as efficiently, rapidly, and economically as possible.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. O. HUME,
Secy. to the Government of India.

No. 32.

From A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL.

Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.
Emigration.

SIR, Calcutta, the 24th January 1874.

IN continuation of my letter No. 29, of yesterday's date, I am directed to forward, for the information of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of a Notification,* appointing Dr. Payne Superintendent of State Emigration to British Burma, together with a letter † of instructions addressed to that officer. I am also to append the form of contract referred to in para. 6 of Resolution, No. 27, dated 23rd January 1874, and copy of a Notification ‡ issued in the Financial Department, exempting these contracts from stamp duty. A further supply of the form of contract for use by District Officers will follow hereafter, but the form now sent is intended to be used by officers executing the contract on behalf of the Chief Commissioner of British Burma, as a guide towards filling up the actual contract executed, which will be without the marginal explanations appended to the form herewith sent.

* No. 30, dated 24th instant.
† No. 31, dated 24th instant.
‡ No. 599, dated 23rd January.

2. I am to suggest that Sir Richard Temple should be requested, on his visit to the distressed districts, to lose no opportunity of satisfying himself that District Officers in those districts thoroughly understand the action to be taken by them under the Resolution No. 27, dated 23rd instant, and realize fully the great importance of co-operating cordially with the Superintendent.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. O. HUME,
Secretary to the Government of India.

* Interest, name, and style of the official who represents the Chief Commissioner.

† Artificer, workman, or labourer, as the case may be.

‡ Wife or daughter, as the case may be.

●

CONTRACT of service between the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, and represented by (A.B.) * , and (X.Y.) †, son ‡ of caste ● resident of zillah ●

§ Fill in full name and title.

‖ And his family, as the case may be.

1. The above (X.Y.) who is hereinafter called the emigant, being desirous of contracting for service in British Burmah, under the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, for a term of three years, commencing on the day of of the Christian year 18 , corresponding with the day of 1 . I § on behalf of the said Chief Commissioner, engage to provide the emigrant ‖ at the expense of such Chief Commissioner, with means of transport from in to British Burmah, and that the emigrant ¶ shall be supported and fed during the journey, and afterwards until employment is provided under this engagement in British Burmah, and be provided with any extra clothing that may be absolutely necessary for the journey.

¶ And his family.

** Fill in as may be requisite for male or female. Male, 10 rs. Female, 6 rs.

2. On behalf of the said Chief Commissioner I also guarantee the emigrant's wages at the rate of not less than rupees ** per month, and not less than rupees 3 to each of the emigrant's children above 10 years and under 16 years of age, who may go to British Burmah with the emigrant under this contract on condition that the emigrant and each such child shall severally work with due diligence eight hours a day, and that the said wages shall be paid in British Burmah, through the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, or such other person as he may for that purpose depute.

3. I the emigrant engage forthwith or whenever ordered by the above-named representative of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, to proceed to British Burmah in pursuance of this contract, and there in any part of the province where I may be directed to labour, will diligently perform such reasonable and proper service as may be required of me by the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, or any person authorized by or through such Chief Commissioner, to give orders for service under this contract.

†† And my said family.

4. I, the emigrant agree that out of whatever wages may be earned by service under this contract, the said Chief Commissioner shall be entitled to deduct and retain one-fifth towards repayment of the expenditure incurred in the transport food and clothing of myself †† and also, that if the wages earned by the service shall be in excess of the amount guaranteed, then it shall be open to the Chief Commissioner further to deduct for the purpose aforesaid, the whole or such part of the said excess as he may deem fitting until such time as the whole expenditure so incurred shall have been repaid.

‡‡ And my said family.

5. I, the emigrant further engage, that until such expenditure shall have been fully repaid, I ‡‡ , will not enter into any engagement for service with or serve any other person or persons, except with his express and written sanction.

6. I, the emigrant, agree that the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, shall adjudge and determine the amount of expenditure which has been incurred, and is to be repaid, and that his decision shall be absolutely final and conclusive.

§§ Here fill in rs. 50 for a single man; rs. 100 for a man with a family.

7. In the event of my not observing the terms of this contract, or not proceeding on the journey and performing my work and duties to the satisfaction of the Chief Commissioner, or of the Government officer under whose superintendence I may be, I, the emigrant, will pay the sum of Rs. §§ by way of liquidated and ascertained damages hereby agreed upon, and such sum or any portion of it may be retained out of the wages or money earned under this contract, and I will forthwith pay to Government any balance or the whole amount of such damages, as the case may be.

6. It is expressly agreed that none of the terms of this contract shall affect the rights and powers of the Chief Commissioner, or of Government, to take proceedings under Section 492 of the Indian Penal Code, Act XLV. of 1860, or any other law for the time being in force.

Lastly, I (A.B.) , on behalf of the Chief Commissioner engage, that after the said expenditure has been repaid, or sooner, should he deem expedient, the said Chief Commissioner will, in case the emigrant desire it, allot land for cultivation rent-free for five years, and thereafter subject to a moderate land assessment under the revenue law or rules of British Burmah for the time being in force.

Dated of the Christian year 187 , corresponding with the year

Witness to the signature of (A.B.) } Signature of (A.B.)

Witness to the signature of the emigrant (X.Y.) } Signature or mark of (X.Y.)

Carefully translated to the above-named (X.Y.)
in the
language by me. } (C.D.)

Carefully explained to the above-named (X.Y.)
in the
language by me. } (E.F.)

Extract of Correspondence with the British India Steam Navigation Company in regard to the carriage of Emigrants to Burma.

Extract of a demi-official from A. O. HUME, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to T. M. RUSSELL, Esq., dated 2nd January 1874.

DEAR RUSSELL,

THESE are the terms that I propose for famine emigrants to Burma, if sent on mail vessels or vessels going down to bring up our rice.

Rupees 6 per head for all above 7 years of age, no charge for children below 7. We to feed and send one man to every 50 emigrants (who with any cooks, &c., we may have to send, are to go backwards and forwards free) to keep them in order.

* * * * * *

Demi-official from T. M. RUSSELL, Esq., to A. O. HUME, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, dated 2nd January 1874.

MY DEAR MR. HUME,

THE rate of Rs. 6 for passage to Rangoon is certainly low, but anxious as we are to assist you and Government, we agree to it in same way as with the rice, and hope Government will send as many of the emigrants by the Company's steamers as they can conveniently carry.

No. 33.

From A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER of BRITISH BURMA.

Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.
Emigration.

SIR, Dated Calcutta, 24th January 1874.

IN continuation of my letter, No. 28, of yesterday's date, I am directed to forward the enclosed papers relative to State emigration to British Burma.

* See pages 182, 183, and 184.

1. Notification, No. 30, dated 24th January 1874, appointing Dr. Payne Superintendent of State Emigration to British Burma.
2. Lettter to Dr. Payne, No. 31, dated 24th January 1874.
3. Form of Contract.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. O. HUME,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 8 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To His Grace the Right Honourable the DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD DUKE, Calcutta, 30th January 1874.

WE have not before replied to your Grace's Despatch, Revenue, No. 20, of the 1st December last,* because we desired, in doing so, to place before Her Majesty's Government, in a concise form, the measures that we have taken for the supply of grain to meet the anticipated scarcity in Behar and parts of Bengal.

* See page 51 of Abstract. [C. 933, 1874.]

2. We have to express our acknowledgments for the unreserved sanction, by anticipation, of any measures which we may consider necessary for the saving of

life. We have derived much encouragement, under circumstances of some difficulty, from this mark of the confidence of Her Majesty's Government, as well as from the approval, which your Grace's Despatch conveyed, of our decision not to prohibit the export of rice from Indian ports. Upon this subject we enclose a
* See page 54 of Abstract. [C. 938, 1874.] Minute* written by the Viceroy, with which we entirely concur.

3. Your Grace will have observed that, although some information has been given in our weekly Despatches and in our correspondence with the Government of Bengal as to the measures we have taken for the provision of supplies of grain to the distressed districts, we have not yet reported the whole of those measures.

4. Obvious reasons affecting the success of large transactions for the purchase of grain induced us to adopt a prudent reserve upon the subject, and our desire to maintain that reserve was rendered stronger, because we received information that a general impression had begun to prevail that the Government proposed to take upon itself the duty of regulating the food supply of the people, and that there was much danger that such an impression would interfere with the activity of private trade in grain, to which alone we could look for supplies to meet any general deficiency in the markets situated upon the main lines of communication throughout the country.

5. The efforts of the Government of Bengal and of the Local Officers have, we are glad to say, succeeded in re-assuring the trade that their operations will not be interfered with by the Government, and the latest reports lead us to believe that the measures we have taken have not had an injurious effect upon private trade.

6. This being the case, and as our arrangements for the next three months are completed, there is no longer the same reason for silence, and we shall, therefore, proceed to inform your Grace of the general arrangements which we have made.

7. In the Despatch addressed by the Viceroy to your Grace on the 7th November
Para. 21, see page 7. last, it was observed that,—"Her Majesty's Government may rely upon the "Government of India not shrinking from using every available means, at what-"ever cost, to prevent, so far as they can, any loss of the lives of Her Majesty's "subjects in consequence of the calamity which now threatens Bengal." In the remarks which the Viceroy made in replying to an address from the Municipality of Agra, on the 24th of November, His Excellency, speaking on behalf of the Government of India, observed that,—"the Government is fully impressed with "the grave responsibility which rests upon them, and we have taken, without
Page 81. "delay or hesitation, measures in order to anticipate distress. Our aim and "object is to prevent, so far as is possible, the loss of the lives of any of Her "Majesty's subjects."

8. Your Grace is aware of the measures which were taken to enable the Government of Bengal and the Local Officers to commence at once public works of various kinds wherever there were people in want of employment; this course of action was indicated by former experience as well suited to preserve the general labouring population from arriving at a stage of distress at which any further relief might prove ineffectual.

9. In addition, however, to this provision we contemplated from the first that, judging from the experience of the famine in Orissa and in Behar in the years 1865 and 1866, it would be necessary to store grain in the distressed districts for the payment in food of the labourers engaged upon Government works, should any scarcity of supplies exist at the places at which they might be employed.
Page 10. The principles which we laid down for our guidance were expressed in the Resolution of Government of the 7th November. It was stated in that Resolution that, while the Government had confidence that the internal trade of British India would generally meet any deficiencies of grain in different parts of the country, exceptional circumstances might arise in which it would be necessary for Government to supplement private trade; that it was, therefore, proposed to lay in sufficient supplies of food for the sustenance of the labourers who would be employed upon the Government public works; that those supplies would be obtained in such a manner as to interfere as little as possible with the trade in grain; that the Government of India had arranged to obtain supplies from beyond the limits of the territories affected by the failure of the crops; and that purchases had consequently been ordered through the Government of Madras and the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

10. When that Resolution was issued, it was supposed that the condition of the country would have been such as to require the early assembly of Central Relief Committee at Calcutta, and our intention was to request the Committee, when constituted, to undertake the purchase of such grain as might be required for gratuitous distribution. As, however, it was not considered desirable to constitute the Central Relief Committee so soon, we took steps to provide supplies of food not only for the labourers employed upon public works but also for such other relief operations as may be found necessary.

11. In order that no time might be lost in laying down supplies in those districts which are situated furthest from the railroads and rivers, we authorised the Government of Bengal to purchase supplies in the first instance, but subsequently we have considered it desirable to take upon ourselves the main provision of supplies.

12. We will now state shortly the extent of the operations of Government.

The Government of Bengal have purchased 50,341 tons of food grains.

The purchases and arrangements of the Government of India have been as follows:—

	Tons.
Received into Calcutta up to present date - - - -	47,000
Arranged for and expected to be received in the next three months, say to the middle of May - - - -	244,500
Total - - - - -	291,500

The total provision of food grains, for which arrangements have been made up to the middle of May, amounts, therefore, to about 342,000 tons. This is exclusive of considerable quantities bought by the Court of Wards, and by planters, zemindars, and others with funds advanced by Government.

13. Having thus informed your Grace of our arrangements up to the present time, we will add a few remarks to show by what calculations we have been guided. We have not looked upon the prospects of the food supplies as indicating a probability that there will be a deficiency in the general food supply of Bengal which cannot be met from the resources which are obtainable by the trade from other parts of India, and nothing has occurred since the first intimation of the failure of the rice crop to lead us to entertain a different opinion.

14. Prices, no doubt, may be expected to rise to a high rate, and the rice must bring with it severe distress to a great number of people. The measures contemplated by Government are, that the distress, wherever it may arise, should be dealt with by relief works for the able-bodied, and by gratuitous relief for those who are unable to work, as well as for certain exceptional classes; but we have always endeavoured to avoid giving any impression that we could undertake the general supply and distribution of food. Such an undertaking on the part of Government is, in our opinion, an impossible task when the food supply of so vast a population is involved; while to have made the attempt would have paralyzed the exertions of the private traders, who in India, so far as inland trade is concerned, are numerous, and for the most part active and enterprising, and upon whom the main dependence of the country must always be placed.

15. We had therefore to calculate, from the best materials at our command, the probable number of persons who might require assistance from the State. The total population of the districts threatened by the drought was estimated at 25 millions. The largest number of people who, upon former occasions, have been found to come upon relief works, or upon the charitable relief dispensed by Relief Committees and others, is 10 per cent. of the population of the most distressed tracts of country. We applied that proportion to the whole population of the districts threatened by the drought, and estimated that it would be possible that we should have to provide for the subsistence of 2½ millions of persons for a period of seven months. The food for that number, at the rate of one pound of rice per head a day, gave a requirement of about 240,000 tons of grain.

16. We thought, moreover, that it would be desirable to have in reserve a further quantity of grain, and we have, therefore, secured a supply of 100,000 tons in addition to the above estimate.

17. Such was the foundation upon which the measures of the Government were based; and the demands and estimates sent to us by the Government of Bengal, which were made independently, have strengthened our belief that the provision

we have made will, so far as the supplies of food at the command of Government are concerned, be sufficient.

18. The first estimate forwarded to us by the Bengal Governor was dated the 2nd of December. The Lieutenant Governor wished, as a preliminary measure, to have in the distressed districts, or ready in depôts before the end of January 1874, a sufficient quantity of grain to supply five per cent. of the inhabitants of those districts for three months, and His Honour thought that we should probably then be in a position to prevent starvation and to alleviate keen distress wherever it might occur to the end of April 1874; before that quantity was consumed, we should know how far the scarcity was likely to deepen into a severe famine, and the Government of India would be able to order as much more rice as might be considered necessary. The Lieutenant Governor added that his preliminary estimate included all requirements for Imperial and Local relief works, as well as for relief houses. In a further letter upon the subject, dated the 11th December, the Lieutenant Governor remarked that if the quantity which he had demanded were in hand by the end of January, we might be able to bring in much more food during the remaining months, and to distribute it before the rains set in; but that we could hardly hope to distribute supplies beyond a total of 200,000 tons in the then distressed area by Government agency before the rainy season began. It was added that, if distress should extend to, and Government grain be required in, Central and Western Bengal, a very much heavier amount might be distributed.

19. This first demand, which, in order to provide for a reserve, was put at 70,000 tons, was sanctioned, and has been obtained by the Government of Bengal and the Government of India well within the time mentioned.

20. On the 5th of January the Government of Bengal submitted a further estimate. The Lieutenant Governor considered that provision ought to be made, *first*, for the continual flow of food towards distant and inaccessible distressed tracts, and, *secondly*, for a reserve of food for the districts nearer the seaboard, the railway, and the navigable rivers, in case the supply should fail there. His Honour said that supplies received in Calcutta, and despatched in February, March, and April would reach the interior before the beginning of the rainy season, and that supplies despatched in May, June, and July, might reach many districts before the new crop came in; and he expressed a wish that 75,000 tons more of food grains might be placed at his disposal, to be forwarded into the less accessible parts of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye Divisions during the three months following the 1st of February. His Honour also considered that a reserve of 150,000 tons should be in possession of Government, and that it might be desirable to secure a further reserve of 75,000 tons in the Months of May, June, and July.

21. We informed the Government of Bengal at once that a further quantity of 75,000 tons would be placed at their disposal; and your Grace will observe that the additional provision we have made amounts to nearly 200,000 tons up to the middle of May. We anticipate no difficulty in increasing our supplies still further if, in the course of the next three months, additional necessities should appear to us to require it.

22. We are satisfied that the East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways can carry ample supplies of grain to their principal stations. Every exertion is being made by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Local Officers to organise sufficient transport arrangements to carry the grain up the country, but the local difficulties which have to be encountered are very great.

23. From the best calculations that we can make, the first cost of these supplies will amount to about three millions sterling, an expenditure which we have not hesitated to incur for the purpose of alleviating the effects of the calamity with which a large tract of country is threatened.

We have the honour to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
ARTHUR HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

No. 9 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To His Grace the Right Honorable the Duke of Argyll, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD DUKE, Calcutta, the 6th February 1874.

IN continuation of our previous despatches, we have the honor to forward the tenth special narrative of the drought in Bengal for the fortnight ending the 6th instant.

2. We have again to report that since our last despatch a copious rain has fallen over the whole of Bengal and Behar. The beneficial effect of this rain will be great. The result to the spring crops is described in detail in the Bengal narrative. The rain-fall has not been confined to Bengal; good rain has been reported from Mirzapore, Goruckpore, Ghazeepore, and Benares. Rain has also fallen generally throughout Oudh. Further north, in Rohilkund and some of the upper districts of the North-western Provinces, there has been a plenteous supply. On the whole, we trust that we may now assume that the prospects of the rubbee crops in Oudh and the north-west are favorable.

3. The rain that has fallen will enable us before long to foresee with some degree of accuracy the real area of distress. The latest information which has been received from the Patna division is contained in Sir Richard Temple's telegram of the 4th instant, which is quoted at page 4 of the special narrative.

4. Your Grace will observe that, unfortunately, the tracts most seriously affected are the least accessible to carriage. This is the gravest feature in the calamity, and the difficulty will be aggravated if ample supplies have not been conveyed to the distressed districts before the rains. Sir R. Temple has taken the most energetic measures to provide the amount of transport required. As we have only this day received the special narrative, we are unable to say more than that the Lieutenant-Governor appears to have given a very complete and accurate account of the general condition of affairs, and that the district narratives and the orders given upon them by His Honor show that the local officers generally are wisely and energetically carrying out the relief measures.

5. A public meeting was held at Calcutta on the 4th instant for the purpose of forming a central relief committee to supervise and direct the charitable operations which the calamity will demand throughout the country. The committee was formed and has already appointed an executive committee, to which the actual work of relief will be entrusted. The meeting was largely attended, especially by the native community. A copy of the proceedings is enclosed, and a corrected copy will be submitted to Your Grace by next mail.

6. Our supplies are coming in rapidly and regularly from beyond sea, and we are making arrangements for storing them temporarily prior to despatch up-country. The inland trade still shows considerable activity in most parts of the country.

7. Partly in consequence of the rain, and partly, we believe, owing to the public being now fully informed as to the operations and policy of Government, the price of rice has fallen at Calcutta, but throughout the country generally the tendency is still upward, and common rice is now selling in many parts at a rate nearly double that of an ordinary year.

8. We have been informed by the Resident in Nepal that famine is apprehended in some parts of that country which border upon Behar; and he has been requested by the Nepalese Government to ascertain if supplies of rice can be procured in Calcutta. We have instructed him to say that the Government of India will be happy to place at the disposal of the Nepalese Government 1,000 tons of rice at cost price.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

TENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF THE DROUGHT IN BENGAL FROM THE 23RD JANUARY TO THE 4TH FEBRUARY 1874.

Weather and rainfall.

The weather of the fortnight under report has been very variable, but has happily ended with a general fall of rain which will do very great good. Some rain often falls in Bengal and Behar during the month of January. So far as our records go back, the average rainfall of January is—

About 0·40 of an inch for Bengal,
„ 0·70 „ „ Behar,

but this average is made up of a much larger fall in some years and none or next to none in others. Some rain was therefore hoped for during the month of January. Last narrative recorded a fall of from one-tenth to fourteenths of an inch over most of Behar and the greater part of Bengal on the 12th and 13th of January. During the fortnight under report there have been two distinct falls of rain, one on the 24th and 25th January, general over Bengal but which unfortunately scarcely reached the borders of Behar, and a more general fall on the last day of January and the 1st of February, of which we have not details; but we know it to have extended in a beneficial form over Behar as well as Bengal. The amount of rain registered at each of these two falls is given in the margin, so far as it is known up to the time of writing this Narrative. At one place in the Monghyr district, Jamooee, just where the railway issues from the Sonthal hills, 3¼ inches of rain fell in 20 hours, the rivers were flooded, and some damage was done.

	Amount of rain in inches registered at the rainfall of	
	24th and 25th January.	30th January to 1st February.
Burdwan -	1·16	1·90
Bancoorah - -	1·25	1·45
Beerbhoom - -	0·47	0·51
Midnapore - -	0·44	1·05
Hooghly - -	0·84	not yet reported.
Howrah - -	0·64	ditto.
Calcutta - - -	0·58	2·06
Nuddea - -	1·27	1·58
Jessore - - -	from 0·33 to 0·90 over district.	2·11
Moorshedabad - -	0·40	1·0
Maldah - - -	1·32	heavy rain on 1st.
Rajshahye - -	0·80	heavy rain.
Rungpore - -	3·80	ditto.
Bograh - - -	2·49	ditto.
Pubna - - -	0·55	ditto.
Julpigoree - -	1·08	0·20
Cooch Behar - -	1·40	—
Dacca - - -	nil.	1·35
Furreedpore - -	0·70	—
Goalundo - -	not given.	2·69
Mymensing - -	0·81	—
Tipperah - -	nil.	1·64
Patna - - -	0·01	0·51
Gya - - -	0·16	1·75
Shahabad - -	0	1·0
Tirhoot - - -	0	moderate rain.
Sarun - - -	0	0·67
Chumparun - -	0	general and very beneficial rain.
Monghyr - -	0	—
Bhaugulpore - -	slight rain in interior.	1·23
Purneah - - -	0·40, and more in north of district.	—
Sonthal Pergunnahs -	0·11	0·60
Cuttack - - -	nil.	0·77
Balasore - -	nil.	1·30
Singbhoom - -	0·75	not reported.
Maunbhoom - -	2·03	1·77
Goalparah - -	nil.	0·50 and 0·63 at Dhoobree.

After this sheet had been printed, intelligence was received that the Tirhoot rainfall of the 1st February was 0·58 inches, and that the Chumparun fall was 1·05.

N.B.—Particulars of the rainfall of the 1st February have not yet been received from Tirhoot and Chumparun; but a telegram from Patna states that half an inch fell at Durbhangah, that from half an inch to one inch fell all over the division, and that the average was nearer one inch.

The Meteorological Reporter writes of the weather of the last fortnight thus:—

"After the unusual cold of the first half of January, the weather changed suddenly.

"The wind went round to the south, and during the last fortnight has blown unsteadily from that direction, becoming westerly in the daytime, and occasionally changing to east, or blowing all round the compass. As a consequence, the temperature has been high for the month of January, the air moist and oppressive, and the sky frequently clouded. On the 28th, half an inch of rain fell at Calcutta, and on the 31st January and the 1st February 1¼ inches. The rain of the latter date has extended over the whole of the country; that of the 25th was general, except in Behar and the southern part of Bhaugulpore division."

State of the crops.

2. The following extract from the Lieutenant-Governor's review of the last Patna division narrative (see enclosure No. 3), shows what was said of the condition of the crops in that division up to the last regular reports. The Lieutenant-Governor wrote thus:—

"The report of the crops in Patna and Gya is very favorable. The Shahabad account is also not unfavorable on the whole, and we may hope that the rains we are now having will not be too late to benefit the rubbee crops in these districts. The accounts of the rubbee crops of the districts north of the Ganges are very unfavorable, frost having done much damage, and no sufficient rain to do much good having fallen up to the date of the reports. It is not yet known how far the present rain has extended into these northern districts. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the estimates of the Collector of Sarun, and Relief Manager of Tirhoot, of a four-anna rubbee crop on the whole for each district is unduly gloomy. The reports of the sub-divisional and other officers quoted, do not seem to predicate so bad a result. The Chumparun report is not explicit about the rubbee, but the previous view had been unfavorable, and this report indicates that owing to frost things looked worse. It is the Lieutenant-Governor's belief that the result in our principal rubbee districts, viz. Sarun and Chumparun, is not yet clear; and that we shall know more what to expect when we hear what has occurred as regards rainfall and its effects in the last days of January and first days of February. In all Sarun and most of Chumparun, the rubbee crop is so important, that the state of these districts will much depend on it. The same may be said of parts of the south of Tirhoot, but in the north and north-east of Tirhoot the rubbee seems to be so small, that we cannot look to it for much improvement."

There seems now every reason to hope that the Lieutenant-Governor's favorable anticipations may be realised.

The account of the spring crops in Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, and the south of Purneah, was also satisfactory up to the 24th January. In those districts the frost had done comparatively little harm. The Collector of Monghyr spoke of the spring crops along the Ganges being as good as any he had ever seen. To the south of Monghyr, and in the part of Purneah near Dinagepore, the spring crops were in bad case. In the Rajshahye division, where the spring crops are less important than in Behar, the condition of the food-crops on the ground up to the 24th January, was either good, or moderately good.

Results of the rainfall.

3. The rain of the 24th—25th wherever it fell did unmixed good; in Rungpore and Bograh only was it very heavy, and there it clearly did much good. The rainfall of the 31st January and 1st February may have done some harm to the peas and the linseed which were in flower, and perhaps also to some other crops that had come into ear unusually soon; but on the whole it must have done very much good. It greatly benefited the young wheat, and barley and root crops, as well as the cheena (small millet); it moistened the soil and enabled the people to plough their lands, to transplant their *boro* rice which ripens in April, and to sow cheena, pumpkins, and vegetables. The rain, moreover, will promote the growth of fodder for the cattle; it will have to some extent filled the tanks and wells, and secured a fuller water-supply. The Magistrate of Bhaugulpore, who seems to understand the state of the crops at least as well as any of our officers, wrote on the 1st February: "The rain must have been very general, the wheat, barley, oats and cheena, of which last a large quantity has been sown), will, I believe, be entirely saved. It is said that peas in blossom, linseed, gram and urhur (pulse) will suffer a little, but the wheat is the great thing. Anyhow, the benefit is immense, and the injury to some crops (if any really) will be comparatively nothing. I should like to see the sun again now." From other quarters, also, have come the remark that the cloudy weather produces blight, and sunshine is wanted. On the 4th February the sky was clear and bright at Calcutta; but as this passes through the press on the morning of the 5th, there has been heavy rain—1·70 inches—with every appearance of more. The weekly rainfall and crop returns will be found at enclosures Nos. 1 and 2.

Prices.

4. There has been no very sudden alteration in prices. In the Burdwan Presidency and Rajshahye divisions there has been a small rise. In Eastern Bengal the tendency has been for prices to fall during the fortnight. In Behar there has been a rise of prices on the whole, though there has been a slight fall in the price of common rice in Sarun and Chumparun. The subjoined figures show for some of the principal districts the prices as reported on Saturday last, as compared with those ruling at the time of the submission of last narrative (10th January), and as compared with the 24th January 1873:—

Number of seers of common rice sold for a rupee on the

	10th January 1874.	24th January 1874.	24th January 1873.
Burdwan	14½	14	22½
Calcutta	12½	12½	17¼
Backergunge	17½	16½	29
Dacca	17	16	32
Dinagepore	13¼	13¼	28
Pubna	15	14	28
Patna	13	12	21
Gya	10	9½	18½
Tirhoot	10½	10	22
Bhaugulpore	12½	12½	22¼
Purneah	11	9	28
Hazareebagh	13	13½	17

Thus prices now are, on the average, nearly double what they are in an ordinary year. The only districts in which famine prices can be said to be reached are Gya and Purneah, where rice is selling at 9 and 9½ seers per rupee at the head-quarters. The result of the recent rainfall on prices has not yet been seen; but an engineer who arrived from the Northern Bengal Railway works this morning (4th February), reports that prices went down in the local marts near his work 12 per cent., after the rainfall of the 1st February.

The reports of the Chamber of Commerce during the fortnight showed that the demand in Calcutta for rice for exportation was at one time exceedingly brisk, and that a great deal of rice was coming in from the eastern districts. Towards the end of the fortnight the demand for exportation was said to have lulled. The total exportation of food grain from Calcutta during the month of January was 42,346 tons; and the total exports for January from Bengal ports, so far as returns have been received, were 59,222 tons. For some of the minor ports telegraphic summaries of the returns only have been received, so the figures may be liable to some slight modification hereafter. The total exports of food grains from Bengal ports to places outside Bengal amount to over 143,000 tons for the four months ending on the 31st January 1874, and 124,793 tons in the three months from the 1st November 1873; against this the Government imports of grain have been 47,000 tons, and there have been almost no private importations.

Sir R. Temple's tour in Behar.

5. It was stated in last narrative that Sir Richard Temple had been deputed to visit Behar. He left Calcutta on Saturday, the 24th January, stayed some hours at Patna, visited Mozufferpore, the head-quarters of Tirhoot, and met the Commissioner at Durbhanga by the end of the month. Copy of the orders issued by the Lieutenant-Governor delegating to Sir Richard Temple the necessary powers, and instructing the local officers, will be found at Appendix C. At Patna Sir Richard Temple issued orders for providing shelter for the private grain temporarily, and the Government grain, on and about the Patna railway stations. He inspected some of the chief stations for the receipt of grain, and went over their arrangements with the local officers. He sent down a requisition for a short length of tramway over the sands of the Ganges bed opposite Patna. A proposal for a similar short length of tramway at Champta Ghat, opposite Barrh, was afterwards merged in a larger proposition. Sir Richard Temple appears to consider the arrangements at railway stations, and generally on the south of the Ganges, to be efficient, and he has expressed his general approval of the conduct of the local officers, and of the arrangements which they have made. He telegraphed on the 26th that there was an abundance of boats on the Ganges, and that the carriage resources of Tirhoot and Chumparun were evidently large; but he could not undertake to give a final opinion as to their sufficiency until he visited Mozufferpore and Durbhangah. On the 1st February Sir Richard telegraphed a proposal for laying a tramway from the Ganges opposite Barrh, towards and beyond Durbhangah. On this proposition it may be well to extract here the Lieutenant-Governor's observations, as contained in the resolution on the Patna district narrative for the last fortnight, as follows:—

"Sir Richard Temple has recommended a plan suggested by Mr. Stevens, the Durbhangah engineer, and passed by the local officers, for laying down a tramway from opposite Barrh to Durbhangah and beyond, a total length of 87 miles. The

Lieutenant-Governor fears that the plan estimates a rate of speed in works of this kind which cannot be realised; but he has at once laid the plan before His Excellency the Viceroy, and it has been arranged that whatever is possible shall be done. After conferring with the best authorities His Excellency has sent Mr. Molesworth to examine the line, and ascertain if the whole or any part of the scheme is practicable. There cannot possibly be a better authority. If it is practicable, no time will be lost in laying a line; if it is not, we cannot conquer nature, and must do the best we can by other means. Most competent officers are employed and will be employed to ascertain the best routes, and to devise and superintend the best means of transport. His Excellency the Viceroy has been good enough to place at the disposal of this Government several officers of the Quartermaster-General's department for this special purpose."

Sir Richard Temple's latest account of the state of the country which he has visited is expressed in the following telegram :—" Camp Seetamarhee, 3rd February 1874. In Tirhoot alone civil officers expect to have 800,000 to a million on their hands for several months. Of a population of more than four millions in Tirhoot, one third have lost their harvest almost entirely, one third have lost the greater part. In Chumparun three to four hundred thousand persons, and perhaps 100,000 in Sarun, expected to be on our hands, besides some considerable numbers in Gya and Shahabad, altogether about one million and a half in the whole Patna division. No marked distress anywhere except towards eastern frontier of Tirhoot. In every direction daily, hundreds of persons of classes which would not ordinarily labour are coming to relief works. In some places I have seen from two to three thousand persons working. Certainly, without help from Government and public, great mortality north of the Ganges would occur, and many tracts throughout northern border of Patna division would be almost depopulated. Many experienced persons believe that already a large proportion of the population are limiting themselves to one meal a day. People appear gravely anxious but wonderfully patient. The worst feature is, that the most affected tracts are the least accessible to carriage. Aspect of fields in two thirds of Tirhoot district quite wretched."

Telegraph lines in North Behar.

6. At the end of December last, the Government of India sanctioned the construction of a telegraph line from Patna viâ Mozufferpore to Moteeharee in Chumparun. By the last accounts the material was all on the line, and it was expected that communication from Mozufferpore to the Ganges would be opened before the middle of February. Some delay will occur in laying a telegraph cable across the Ganges, so a temporary office will be opened at Hajeepore, and messages will pass between Patna and Hajeepore by ferry-boat. Sir Richard Temple suggested that flying telegraph lines should be constructed to connect Durbhangah, Seetamarhee, and Madhobanee with Mozufferpore, and to connect Bettiah and Ramnugger with Moteeharee. An officer of the telegraph department, with a supply of material, has been despatched to Behar to carry out this proposal. The local officers have been directed to expedite the transport of this telegraph material as far as possible.

Private trade in grain.

7. The private import of grain into the Patna division continues to be very considerable. The district narratives show that private grain came during the fortnight to the amount of—

	Mds.
In the Patna district	3,82,000
Shahabad ,,	1,20,000
Sarun ,,	80,000

The grain stores in Patna are overflowing, but the dealers seem very unready to carry their grain over into Tirhoot. The subject of promoting the carriage of this grain into the very distressed tracts has been specially commended to Sir Richard Temple's consideration (see enclosure No. 6). Meanwhile, the Lieutenant-Governor has relaxed the rules under which advances for the purchase of grain may be given to local dealers for the importation of grain from a distance, in order that the traders and shopkeepers of the distressed tracts may go over to Patna and bring back grain for sale in their neighbourhood.

In the other districts of Behar, especially in Monghyr and Purneah, grain seems to move much from place to place within the districts; but exportation from outside is small compared to the wants of the people. The latest figures regarding the movement of food grains will be found at Appendix A. It will be seen that by the East Indian Railway there went into the distressed districts of Behar—

From Bengal	- - -	3,05,700 mds of grain per week.
„ North-Western Provinces	-	1,67,000 „ „

The figures for the second week of the fortnight are not yet complete, but the total import into Behar from both ends may be taken at about 9,40,000 maunds during the fortnight. Out of this total about 5,00,000 maunds was Government grain.

Provision of Government grain.

8. On Saturday last (31st January) was published in the *Gazette of India* a despatch* to Her Majesty's Secretary of State to the effect that the Government of India had arranged for 340,000 tons of grain, of which nearly 270,000 tons are, it is believed, to come from beyond Bengal. This provision nearly corresponds with the quantity for which the Government of Bengal asked (see paragraph 4 of the 8th Narrative). It includes the 74,000 tons which have already been sent into the distressed districts. This Government is about to submit to the Government of India its plans for the storage and distribution of the expected supplies.

* Page 185.

Despatches of Government grain from Calcutta.

9. The usual statement will be found at Appendix B, showing the despatches of Government grain from Calcutta during the fortnight. 4,81,478 maunds have been sent off, of which 4,00,000 maunds have been sent by the East Indian Railway. The East Indian Railway have been able to give a daily supply of waggons at Howrah sufficient for from 1,000 to 1,500 tons. When the new river-side sidings at Patna and Barrh are open, the Government officers in Behar will be able to dispose of more grain than they are now taking; and our despatches from Calcutta may considerably increase. Owing to a block at Monghyr, caused by private grain on account of the Durbhanga estate, and to a temporary reduction* of the despatches to Patna Ghât, the despatches for four or five days out of the fortnight were short. But when the new sidings are open, there should be no reason why 1,500 tons of Government grain should not be sent away per diem from Howrah, and disposed of at the stations in Behar. A memorandum of proposed despatches for the ensuing week is sent to the traffic manager every Thursday, showing the quantities to be consigned to each station; and the Calcutta despatching officer does not depart from this programme without first ascertaining from the traffic managers by telegraph, that such departure will not cause inconvenience to the traffic.

* Made on the Commissioner's request.

Transport of Government grain.

In Appendix D* will be found two letters which state the progress made in despatching Government grain into the distressed districts up to the end of January. The subjoined passages from that correspondence state generally how matters stand, namely, that "the total quantity of grain despatched to the distressed divisions up to the 31st January stands thus:—

* Pages 204 to 207.

	Mds.
Despatched by Mr. Toynbee from Calcutta up to evening of Saturday, 31st January - - - -	13,90,000
Received from the North-Western Provinces and the Central Provinces, and from local Patna division dealers, as nearly as can be ascertained - -	4,30,000
Despatched or received from Eastern Bengal - -	1,11,000
Total - - -	19,31,000

It will thus be seen, that something more than the whole amount which this Government had proposed for the supply up to the end of January, had actually been despatched to the distressed districts by the 31st of that month. Out of the total despatches, the amount sent to the several divisions stand thus—

	Mds.
Patna division	10,10,000
Bhaugulpore	5,29,000
Rajshahye	3,92,000
Total	19,31,000

Of this total, nearly two-fifths had reached its final destination up to the despatch of the district reports of the 24th January, and the rest was mostly in transit of boats or carts, and partly on steamers and railway waggons at the earlier stages of its journey. The greatest difficulties were in the first instance experienced in the Rajshahye division, where the usual water routes have sadly failed.

The Rajshahye division is not, however, dependent on water carriage only. Into the north and centre of Dinagepore, grain is now being carried by six routes, namely—

(*a*) by the East Indian Railway to Caragola, thence by the Darjeeling road to Dengraghât, and by cart across into Dinagepore.
(*b*) by the East Indian Railway to Rajmehal, and thence by cart from the right bank of the Ganges to Maldah and Dinagepore.
(*c*) by steamer from Kooshtea to Godagaree, and thence by boat up the Mahanuddee to Raigunge.
(*d*) to Godagaree as before, and thence by cart up the old Darjeeling road to Dinagepore.
(*e*) from Kooshtea by steamer to Rampore Bcauleah, thence by cart to the upper Attrai, and by small boats up the river.
(*f*) from Kooshtea to Dhaparee, and thence by cart to the Attrai above Nattore and onward, both by cart and by boat.
(*g*) by the Oorasagur, Burrul, and Attrai rivers to Nowgong, and thence by cart, or by very small boats to the north of the district.

The relief officer of Tirhoot says he will be able to carry 3,50,000 maunds a month from the Ganges into the three distressed sub-divisions of Tirhoot; and the Commissioner of Patna is confident of being able to carry 45,000 or 50,000 maunds a week into Chumparun. The Sarun district, being nearer to the Ganges and Gogra, will be more easily supplied. Questions of improving and increasing the transport power of North Behar are being carefully considered by Sir Richard Temple on the spot.

The Coosee river route, which was tried by the Magistrate of Bhaugulpore (see paragraph 8 of last Narrative), proved very tedious and unsuccessful. The boats made only 22 miles in 17 days among the shoals at the mouth of the river, and the grain had to be disembarked and put on carts. The grain for North Bhaugulpore now goes wholly by cart from the bank of the Ganges up to Mudheypoorah and Soopole. On the Purneah road from Caragola there was some want of organization; Mr. Hankey, who is employed as inspector of transport arrangements, stayed some time in that district, and with the help of the Magistrate-collector, has brought matters into steady working order.

Loan of a steamer by Khwajeh Ahsanoollah.

10. Khwajeh Ahsanoollah, son of Syed Abdool Ghunny, C.S.I., of Dacca, has most liberally placed his steamer, the Star of Dacca, at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of towing grain boats into the distressed districts; she has been ordered to the Mahanuddy where she will work from Godagaree upwards as far as the water will permit. Meanwhile, Mr. Prestage, the agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway, has agreed to send one of the captains of his river steamers up the Mahanuddy to see how far the powerful steamers and flats belonging to his railway can go now and during the rains. He proposes to have ready for Government use, if required, a steamer and two flats which can carry between 1,000 tons at each trip. These Eastern Bengal Railway steamers are the most powerful on the Bengal rivers, and will, Mr. Prestage believes, be able, when the rivers rise, to make five trips a month from Godagaree to Raigunge, in the Dinagepore district, or to the Teesta. At present, however, steamers cannot go up the secondary rivers.

Government grain from Orissa.

11. The Government grain and also private grain from Orissa will now come forward quickly enough. The Government ship Cæsarowitch is plying between False Point and Calcutta; the brig Guide runs from Chandballee to Calcutta. The Government of India have permitted the British India Steam Navigation Company to take away a steamer temporarily from the Kurrachee service and put it on the Orissa berth. Meanwhile, occasional steamers belonging to that company are calling at "False Point" and at "Pooree," and are bringing Government and private grain up to Calcutta. Some of the Behar zemindars, who are laying in stores of grain for their ryots, find Orissa their best source of supply.

New railway stations on the Ganges bank.

12. At paragraph 3 of the last narrative it was mentioned that the Government of India had sent the railway consulting engineer with full power to construct, as proposed by the Lieutenant-Governor, two new river side stations for the reception of Government grain intended for the northern districts of the Patna division. The consulting engineer reported (see papers at enclosure No. 7) on the 26th January that two sites had been chosen, one near to the Barrh station and another near the Patna station, at which new river side stations were to be made for the reception of all Government grain. Colonel Taylor expected that both the new stations and the necessary sidings would be ready during the first week of the present month (February); that all the Government grain could then be received at these stations, and that the ordinary goods stations could be left for the private traders. Shelter for 2,000 tons of Government grain is also being put up at each of these new stations. Intimation has not yet been received that the new sidings are ready; but the Commissioner of Patna has telegraphed, that he can take 45,000 bags (90,000 maunds) of Government grain per week at the Patna Ghât station alone, so that the siding arrangements must be well forward. Opposite the Barrh siding, there is a fine straight reach of the Ganges with deep water up to the banks on both sides; in this reach river steamers and flats can work at ferrying grain across the river. But between Hajeepore and Patna Ghât, there is more difficulty; there are several sandbanks, the channel is shallow, and there is doubt whether steamers and flats can come near enough to the bank. By throwing out a mole, however, this difficulty may for a time be overcome; meanwhile, there is a very large fleet of native boats at Patna, ready to work the ferry between Patna and Hajeepore.

Other crossings over the Ganges.

13. At the other crossings over the Ganges, where the transport arrangements had previously halted, much progress is now reported. The two steamers and flats working from the Kooshtea are landing at Godagaree, Rampore Beauleah, and Dhaparee from thirty to fifty thousand maunds a week. At Rajmehal, a steamer and flat are employed to carry the grain over to Manick Chur, whence it starts by road to Maldah, and to the west and north of the Dinagepore district. The crossings from Colgong and Sahebgunge to Caragola in the Purneah district are now in capital working order: the railway officials, with their steamer, and with the help of country boats, can cross over 4,000 maunds a day; and Major Gordon of Bhagulpore has organised a service of native boats which are now carrying across 4,000 maunds a day from Colgong to Caragola. Opposite the Bhaugulpore station a sandbank has recently been thrown up, which compelled the Magistrate to make Sultangunge his receiving station; this change caused some days' delay, but the ferry is now working smoothly and rapidly.

Condition of the people.

In South Behar.

14. The district narratives, which will be found in enclosures Nos. 3 to 5, give an account of the state of the people. It may be stated generally, that with the exception of certain limited tracts to be described more fully below, the supply of grain in the local marts is sufficient, and there is, as yet, no actual distress of a severe kind. High prices there are, and must be until a new crop shall have been reaped next Autumn. Some of the district officers of South Behar go so far as to say on 24th January, that if the crops then on the ground continued to do well, there would be no fear of famine in Patna, or in Gya, or in South Bhaugulpore, or in any part of Monghyr except a corner of Jamooee. The Magistrate-collector of Shahabad expects, also, that if things continue to do as well as they are now doing, there will be no severe famine in his district, though there will be need for ample relief works, and perhaps for charitable relief in parts of the high lands of the district.

In North Behar.

But in North Behar matters are unhappily much worse. In three sub-divisions of Tirhoot, in the north of Chumparun and north of Bhaugulpore, in a part of Sarun, in certain tracts of Purneah and Monghyr, more keen distress is now beginning, and famine would certainly appear within a very few weeks unless we can stave it off. In Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, Bhaugulpore, and Monghyr, people are coming to the relief works in large numbers; in three districts Government grain is beginning to be sold on the works, at one or two places the people are reported to be alarmed and to be much pinched; and a beginning has to be made of distributing charitable relief. The reports received make it clear that the condition of these tracts is extremely critical, and that relief works must be provided, and Government grain must be pushed into these parts as fast and as largely as means permit.

The condition of a part of Jamooee in Monghyr, and of parts of Purneah, is hardly any better. Severe distress in these tracts, if not famine, is very near at hand. In the Dinagepore, Maldah, Rajshahye, Rungpore, and Bograh districts, despite excessive failure of the rice crop, supplies are for the present sufficient, and actual keen distress has not yet appeared. The condition of all these districts, except perhaps Dinagepore, has become, since the rains, better than had been feared. The Rungpore district has much benefited by the rain; early crops are being sown, and it is hoped that it may fare tolerably. Regarding parts of Dinagepore, however, the Lieutenant-governor is still very anxious.

On the whole, there seems now good hope that many districts where the crops greatly failed, and regarding which much apprehension has been entertained, may escape actual famine. There will, however, be high prices everywhere; and the Lieutenant-Governor is much afraid lest high prices and scarcity might produce very bad effects in parts of the country where there is a large population of landless labourers, barely removed from actual penury at the best of times.

Relief works.

15. The district narratives (enclosures Nos. 3 to 5) give some account of the works that are going on, and at enclosure No. 8 will be found the latest returns of labourers employed on the relief works. The number of labourers employed per diem is about 33,000 in Sarun, where very full and timely arrangements for relief works have been made; in Dinagepore, a district ordinarily very destitute of labourers, 14,000 people are employed, besides the labourers on the Northern Bengal Railway; in Chumparun 12,700 labourers are at work, besides those on the Gunduck embankment; in Tirhoot there has been some deficiency of works, but 17,200 people are employed on Government and private relief works; there are 4,000 labourers employed in Monghyr, and the same number in Bhagulpore. In Purneah, though there are plenty of works ready, labourers do not seek employment, and as yet there are only 800 people on the relief works. In Chumparun and Purneah only does any large proportion of the workpeople belong to the cultivating classes who do not usually work upon the roads. In Purneah, though very high prices prevail and keen distress is believed to be felt in parts of the district, few people come to the relief works. In Tirhoot there was at first some failure to provide sufficient works and some want of sufficient system on the works; but this, it is hoped, has now been remedied, the Commissioner having taken up the subject as soon as it came to his notice. In Sarun, Chumparun, and Dinagepore, on the other hand, very ample work has been found for the people who want it.

Tank digging as relief work.

16. In the part of the Monghyr district where distress prevails and is expected, the difficulty has already been felt that great embanked roads carried athwart the drainage may do harm, if (as is too probable) funds cannot be found to bridge them. In default of such roads it is not possible to find sufficient other road work to employ the population which we expect to have on our relief works. The Commissioner and the local officers represent that there are in almost every village old tanks which have not been cleaned out for a generation, and the excavation of which would be the very best relief work, and would also confer a great and lasting benefit on the villagers. The difficulty, however, arises that the relief funds as yet given are in aid of the district road fund which is intended exclusively for the improvement of roads and waterways; and it seems doubtful whether public money of this kind ought to be spent on improving private properties and lands. The question of the best way of providing funds for works of this class was submitted to the Government of India, and it was suggested that at the present emergency the local officers should be permitted to undertake tank works when none else were available, and to settle in each case with the zemindars and the people what share they should contribute to the work. Meanwhile the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore was instructed to go to the spot to find out what other works he could; and he was told that no workmen must be sent away, and that if no other works could be found, village tanks might be undertaken.

The Commissioner of Patna made a similar reference on the same point, and he meanwhile had authorised the magistrate collectors of very distressed districts to begin tank works if they found it necessary so to do. The list of works appended to the Sarun narrative (see enclosure No. 3), contains many tank works. The Lieutenant Governor has much considered the question of spending public money on improving tanks on private property, and he believes that such works will have to be undertaken. Copies of a letter from the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, with a letter to the Government of India, and a reference to Sir R. Temple, will be found in Appendix E.*

* Page 207.

17. It appeared to the Lieutenant-Governor that the funds at the disposal of the district committees for relief works were becoming insufficient; applications for further grants were received from some districts; and there was the additional consideration that by striking off ferry and road tolls, and by partially suspending the road cess, the means of district committees had been much reduced, just as there was very special need for them to spend largely on relief works. Even in districts where there had been no very grave failure of crops, prices would be very high, the labouring classes might have a hard time, and it would be very inadvisable that committees should, from want of funds, be obliged to stint local works. Accordingly the Lieutenant-Governor reviewed the position of all districts, and gave large special grants to the distressed and partially distressed districts. The text of the orders issued upon this matter will be found at enclosure No. 9. When making these special grants the Lieutenant-Governor said:—"It "will be understood that these grants are for the road cess year 1873-74; that, if "further grants are required for real relief work, they will be given on timely "application being made.

Funds for relief works.

"The total grants made from the provincial funds for the current year will thus be,—

	Rs.
Ordinary grants made on the 1st October, as per column 3 of the annexed statement - - - -	9,90,000
Amount of debit balances written off as grants, as per paragraph 2 of the present orders - - - -	1,83,127
Amount of special grants in aid of relief works, as per column 4 of the annexed statement - - -	14,45,000
	26,18,127

"Out of this total of 26,18,000, about 16½ lakhs will be expenditure consequent upon the unhappy failure of the crops in Behar and Bengal."

At enclosure No. 10 will be found a note drawn up by Colonel Nicolls, chief engineer, upon the labour returns, up to the 10th January, and the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor upon that note. The practical result of the comparisons instituted by Colonel Nicolls is, that in North Behar wages are low and labourers bring their women and children to the roads; while in the Rajshahye division wages are high, and it is quite contrary to usage for labourers to bring their women and children to work. From a relief point of view, this result is satisfactory in that a family in Behar, even with the low rate of wages there obtaining, earns more than a family in Rungpore, but then the number of bread winners in a family is much larger in the one case than in the other.

Wages on relief works.

18. Planters and zemindars on the Patna division are continuing to take advances for the purchase of grain for distribution to their ryots. But there is, in many districts, much unreadiness to take advances for landed improvements. In the Burdwan and Chota Nagpore divisions, and in the districts of Sarun, Chumparun, and Monghyr people are coming forward for land improvement advances very freely; but in the rest of Behar, and in the Rajshahye division they are backward. The Commissioner of Rajshahye has reported that in Moorshedabad many people would undertake tank works from their own funds, if Government would bear one-third of the cost just as it does at the present season, in the case of works executed from advances. The Lieutenant-Governor has gladly agreed to this concession, subject to the proviso that the works to be executed are to be really works of public utility to the whole village.

Advances to private parties.

19. In previous narratives, reference was made to a despatch in which His Excellency the Viceroy, after his tour in Behar, drew attention to the desirability of advancing funds to zemindars who would undertake to give advances of money or grain to their ryots. It was at the time suggested that, if need be, the legislature should be asked to compel landlords to recover such advances from their ryots. The Commissioners were invited to suggest the best

Advances to ryots.

means of meeting the difficulty. Mr. Barlow, of Bhaugulpore, alone recommended special legislation. Meanwhile the question pressed for solution, and the Magistrate of Rungpore specially urged that such advances to ryots should be allowed, and that for the purposes of such advances, jotedars (many of whom are holders of sub-tenures with ryots under them), should be treated as zemindars. The Lieutenant-Governor, after reviewing what had passed, held (Appendix F), that under His Excellency the Viceroy's orders, all putneedars, jotedars, and others holding a permanent interest in the land, might be reckoned as zemindars for the purpose of these advances; and he decided that the direct advance of money or grain to ryots in specially distressed tracts, should be treated as a question of relief under clause (*f*) of the instructions defining the duties of sub-divisional relief committees.

Instructions to relief committees.

20. At a conference at Government House on the 24th January, general instructions for the guidance of relief committees were settled. Those instructions, with the orders of the Government circulating them, will be found at Appendix G. They give much latitude and leave much discretion to the committees. The sub-divisional committee is made the working unit, and on each sub-divisional committee is thrown the very grave responsibility of seeing that every village within its jurisdiction receives such relief as it requires. Discretion is given to sub-divisional committees to advance money or grain to persons whose caste or usages prevent them going to public relief works; permission is given to institute minor village relief works, or to provide, through village headmen, in-door work, such as spinning or weaving; and authority is given to relief committees to sell Government grain to the people if the Collector approves. This last provision is so fenced that the committee's action cannot, if the instructions are observed, act in restraint of trade, for the committees are not to begin selling until there is an absolute deficiency of grain in the neighbourhood; they are to effect their sales through the local traders, and they are to cease selling as soon as the local trade receives supplies. The general rules are to be supplemented by more detailed rules, settled by the central relief committee in communication with the Government of Bengal.

Central Relief Committee at Calcutta.

21. On Wednesday, the 4th February, a public meeting was held in Calcutta, at which His Excellency the Viceroy presided, and it was decided that a central relief committee, consisting of some 150 native and European members, should be appointed to direct operations of charitable relief, and to collect subscriptions; with that object the committee were directed at once to commence operations in communication with the Government of Bengal. The central committee appointed an executive committee, consisting of the gentlemen marginally noted, under the chairmanship of the Hon. V. H. Schalch. Subscriptions towards the relief fund, to the amount of Rs. 65,000, were announced by His Excellency the Viceroy and by the Lieutenant-Governor at the meeting; and before the meeting separated a total sum of Rs. 123,000 had been promised. A copy of the report of the proceedings of the meeting will be submitted with next narrative.

Chairman.

Hon. V. H. Schalch.

Members.

Hon. J. Inglis, C.S.I.
„ R. H. Dalyell.
„ H. H. Sutherland.
„ Digamber Mitter.
„ T. M. Robinson.
„ C. Bernard.
J. R. Bullen-Smith, Esq.
Moonshee Ameer Ali, Khan Bahadoor.
Baboo Doorga Churn Law.

Relief committees in the interior.

22. In the distressed sub-divisions of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Purneah, relief committees have already begun to act, and committees have been nominated for all the districts of the Patna and Bhaugulpore divisions. Charitable relief on a large scale will not, it is hoped, be required for some time to come south of the Ganges, except in the afflicted corner of South Monghyr. In Mozufferpore, a meeting was held, and Rs. 35,000 were subscribed for relief purposes; in Durbhangah Rs. 15,000 were subscribed. In Chumparun, relief is to be given through the agency of planters, who will give to indigent people unable to work, tickets entitling them to fifteen days' food from the Government store. In Tirhoot, considerable sums have already been placed at the disposal of the sub-divisional committees for expenditure on gunny-weaving, spinning, and other in-door work for women and non-labouring people through the agency of village headmen.

Burdwan Division.

23. As regards the Burdwan division, the further reports received show that, while there is no immediate excessive deficiency of grain, and in case

such should occur, the railways and waterways give great facilities; the really pressing need is to provide a sufficiency of relief works to employ the people till the agricultural operations of another season commence. It is a good feature of the case that in this division many applications for advances for private works have been made, and the Commissioner has been strongly urged to see that, as regards public relief works, the provision made is complete. No doubt a good deal of charitable relief will be eventually necessary, more especially in the fever tracts, and in connection with the classes of people who have been reduced in their bodies and their means by inability to work through sickness. A special inquiry was ordered into the general condition of the people of these tracts some months ago, and the Commissioner has been again directed to give immediate personal attention to its early completion, and to visit and report exactly the state of things as they now exist.

In some parts of Beerbhoom a commencement has already been made of charitable relief. From Burdwan the local reports are as yet not very gloomy, and the Maharaja of Burdwan may be relied upon to help effectively should charitable relief be called for. Meantime, the organisation of committees is being prepared, and works are provided. The Hooghly reports are somewhat alarming, but there is reason to believe that the Collector has not sufficiently discriminated between those parts of his district where things are bad and other parts where the crops were fair, and the people are tolerably well off. The Howrah portion of this district especially is reported by the magistrate in charge to be in very good case with certain partial exceptions. The Hooghly collector has been told to provide work wherever required, and for food supply the situation of a district lying, as this does, on the highways of river and rail traffic, ought not to be at all critical. In fact, exportation is still going on from all the districts of the Burdwan division. The jungle tracts of Midnapore, which were at one time deemed very badly off, are now more favourably reported on by the Commissioner. The court of Wards and the Messrs. Watson are doing much here to provide work for the indigent. On the whole, the division of Burdwan lies so open to the operations of private trade, and contains so many intelligent native residents, that there is no great danger at present in leaving it to be supplied in that way, and in confining Government operations to relief works and aiding the establishment of relief committees.

Palamow sub-division.

24. In previous narratives it had been stated that the Palamow sub-division of Lohardugga had suffered grievously in recent famines, and that the crops of 1873 had failed. Colonel Dalton, the Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, has now marched through Palamow; he reports that there is cause for anxiety, that relief works must be freely undertaken, that the landholders and village chiefs are doing a great deal themselves, both to undertake works, and to import grain for the consumption of their people. Colonel Dalton considers that some small quantity of grain should be imported and stored on the works to supplement the local supply; he has also stored fodder along the supply routes. A special grant of funds has been made (see enclosure No. 9) for Palamow relief works, and the Government of India has agreed to a small quantity of grain being procured from Lohardugga, and stored on the relief works. Since Colonel Dalton's letter was written, rain has fallen in Palamow, and matters may improve. The deputy commissioner of Maunbhoom also proposed that a large quantity of Government grain should be stored at the Barakur for his district; as the distressed tract is close to the railway and the need is not emergent, Colonel Dalton's views upon the matter are awaited. No other part of the Chota Nagpore division gives present cause for anxiety.

Irrigation and embankment works.

25. The number of workmen on the Gunduk embankments is said to be daily increasing. By the last reports there were 680 laborers on the upper embankment in Chumparun, and 1,438 on the lower. On the Chumparun works, rice was selling at from nine to ten seers per rupee. On a part of the lower embankment men are now being employed on daily wages at the magistrate's request. It is found that petty contractors cannot afford to and will not employ weekly laborers. As distress becomes more general, it will be necessary to set apart one or more lengths of each work for workpeople who cannot do a full day's work. The obligation to do this is fully recognised by all Public Works officers, but there is difficulty in getting subordinates to act promptly in accordance therewith.

Soane Canal.

26. The area watered by the Soane canal has risen to 157,548 acres, besides the land which the people were able to irrigate with water let into the Poonpoon river from the Soane canal. In consequence of the heavy rain on the 1st and 2nd February, the sluice gates at the head of the canal had to be shut, in case freshes might come down the Soane and flood the country. There had been some discussion whether the water could now be shut off for the rest of the season without injury to the food crops; if it could be shut off, then the canal works could go on, and regular methodical irrigation could be possible next June; if it could not be shut off, then the masonry work could not go on, and irrigation might be postponed for another season. The local officer's view seemed to be, that if village channels (pynes, as they are called), and reservoirs had been filled, the water might now be shut off. The Irrigation Department reports that the village tanks and channels have been filled, the timely rain of the last ten days has secured the spring crops in Shahabad, and so the canal head can be safely closed, and the masonry works allowed to proceed.

Kana Nuddee work.

27. At enclosure No. 11 will be found a report by the Commissioner of the great benefit which has been done to a part of the Hooghly district, by letting the Damooda water into the Kana Nuddee. The extracts quoted in Mr. Buckland's report show that for drinking-water, for watering cattle, and for irrigating root crops and pumpkins, the new water-supply will be of the greatest value to the villagers, along fifty miles of what used to be a dry river bed with occasional stagnant pools of very dirty water. The cost of the Kana Nuddee works, as hitherto executed, has been very little over Rs. 12,000. Projects for opening out other channels, and leading Damooda water into them on a much larger scale, and at a cost of some lakhs of rupees, have been laid before the Government of India. One difficulty is that these works, which will very greatly improve the value of large permanently-settled estates, cannot be expected to be directly remunerative to Government.

Northern Bengal Railway.

28. The progress on the Northern Bengal Railway works, up to the 24th January, was as follows. Fifty miles of side widths were set out, the land for the railway is being made over as fast as it is required, and the procedure required by the Land Acquisition Act for settling the compensation is being complied with as rapidly and completely as possible. 150,000 cubic feet of earthwork has been completed, 1,300 labourers were on the work up to the 17th January, and many more had come since that date. Wages are paid in money every three days, and the work-people supply their own food from the local bazars. Arrangements for brick-making are being pushed on, and coal for burning bricks on the ten miles nearest the Ganges has been contracted for. Ninety-four miles of the telegraph line from Julpigoree southwards had been set up, and will be at work in a few days. The demand for labour on the central length is active; elsewhere there is no influx of local work-people. Rice has been stored in considerable quantity on the central section of the line; Major Lindsay reports that the river Atrai will be navigable during February and March for 50-maund boats up to Debeedoba (about the 140th mile on the line from the Ganges), and he is sending rice by that route. The Commissioner (Mr. Molony) reports this river route to be extremely tedious and uncertain, and he fears that a boat can only make one trip into the Upper Atrai in the season. The issue of Major Lindsay's experimental despatch up the river is awaited.

Emigration to Burmah.

29. The Government of India has set aside the sum of five lakhs of rupees (50,000*l.*) to promote a system of State emigration from the distressed districts to British Burmah. The terms offered are a three years' engagement on wages, of which the minimum is guaranteed to be, for men, Rs. 10 each, per mensem; for women, Rs. 6; and for children of between 10 and 16 years of age, Rs. 3. A deduction of one-fifth may be made from the above wage, and anything earned over and above it may also be deducted and credited to Government until the cost of the emigrant's passage has been recouped to the State. It is intended, however, that any sums thus recovered shall be expended in the same manner as the original State grant. A Superintendent of State Emigration has been appointed, and instructions have been given to the district officers to make

the terms widely known not only to laborers but to influential local men, who are invited to assist in inducing emigrants to come forward. District officers will, at the same time, exercise a discretion in selecting persons likely to prove useful colonists. Aged, sick, and infirm people will not be sent unless their infirmity is one temporarily caused by privation, and likely to pass away with proper care. The experiment will, it is hoped, prove advantageous to British Burmah, where the demand for laborers and colonists is yearly increasing. Copy of the orders of the Government of India and of the circular issued by the Lieutenant-Governor on the matter will be found at enclosure No. 12.

Military officers for relief works.

30. In previous narratives, it has been stated that His Excellency the Viceroy in Council had lent the services of Commissariat and of Staff Corps officers to help in grain transport and in relief work. Colonel Mackenzie, of the Commissariat, has organised a corps of railway coolies (station porters), to work the Patna stations; and he has, under the Commissioner, taken executive command of the transport service across the river Ganges, and at the points of departure on the Ganges for North Behar. Lieutenant Eliot, also of the Commissariat, is at Rajmehal and will take complete charge of the ferry and despatching of grain from the river *viâ* Maldah to Dinagepore, as soon as the train of carts is in regular working order. The Staff Corps officers are being employed in the districts of North Behar. And the Government of India has further been good enough to send Major Ker, of the Quarter-Master General's Department, to the Rajshahye division, and Captain Grant to Rajshahye, also to order Colonel Macgregor and Captain Trotter of the same Department to Patna. At Appendix H will be found a copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's orders explaining how these officers are to be employed in discovering and prospecting routes, and in devising means of transport.

Additional officers for sub-divisions.

31. Now that so heavy a duty and responsibility will devolve upon sub-divisional officers in connection with charitable relief and the prosecution of relief works, the Lieutenant-Governor has thought it necessary to send a second officer to each really distressed sub-division, who should take the magisterial and ordinary work off the shoulders of the sub-divisional officer, besides giving such special assistance as may be required in the circumstances of each case. This has now been done for all the very distressed sub-divisions of the Patna division, and it is being done for the sub-divisions of Bhaugulpore. The staff of officers in the Dinagepore district has also been largely increased, as in that large district there are as yet no sub-divisions.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta,
The 5th February 1874.

APPENDIX D. to foregoing Narrative.

No. 334 S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, in the Statistical Department, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, in the Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce Department.

Calcutta, dated 31st January 1874.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit the first set of weekly transport returns of grain transport in the form directed by your letter No. 82, dated 12th January last.

2. I am to observe that these first returns, having been somewhat hurriedly sent out and made to meet the requirement of the Government of India, are not so complete or satisfactory as the Lieutenant-Governor could have wished, and that in some districts (especially in the Dinagepore District) the amount of Government grain which is returned as arrived at its final destination is still small. Grain does, in fact, take a long time to get through the various stages of transport and location till it is finally stored in the local depôts, and the returns of grain stored take a considerable time passing through the various grades of employés and officers up to Government, so that the statements of actual stores are somewhat behind date. But the streams of which the heads have reached their final destination will now flow continuously, and Sir George Campbell hopes that subsequent returns may be more complete. Meanwhile he directs me to submit an approximate account of how the despatch and delivery of grain stands on the last day of January.

3. In the first place, the total quantity of grain despatched to the distressed divisions up to the 31st January stand thus:—

	Mds.
Despatched by Mr. Toynbee from Calcutta up to evening of Saturday, 31st January - - - - - -	1,390,000
Received from the North-Western Provinces and the Central Provinces, and from local Patna division dealers, as nearly as can be ascertained	430,000[a]
Despatched or received from Eastern Bengal - - -	111,000[a]
Total - -	1,931,000

It will thus be seen that something more than the whole amount which this Government had proposed for the supply up to the end of January had actually been despatched to the distressed districts before the end of January. Out of the total despatches the amount sent to the several divisions stand thus:—

	Mds.
Patna Division - - - - - - - -	1,010,000
Bhaugulpore - - - - - - - - -	529,000
Rajshahye - - - - - - - - -	392,000
Total -	1,931,000

A part of what goes into north Bhaugulpore and east Purneah is intended to supply the requirements of Tirhoot and Dinagepore. Of this amount it may, moreover, be generally said that though many temporary blocks and difficulties have occurred, they have been solved in one way or another. We do not now know of any very serious blocks; the streams of grain are all moving forward.

4. According to the transport statements and the fortnightly narratives of the 24th January the total amount of the receipts and despatches may be distributed thus:

	Arrived at final destination according to return.	In transit as per district transport statements.	Not accounted for, either since arrived or in transit, or on the railway, or in carts, or in boats, or lying on the river side and other depôts.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Patna Division, (including Soane Canal, - -	[b]3,03,582	93,183	6,14,235
Bhaugulpore - - -	[b]2,37,738	95,099	1,96,163
Rajshahye - -	[b]1,30,955	88,398	1,73,491
Total -	6,72,275	2,76,680	9,83,889

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[a] For details of these figures see Appendix A.

[b] For details of the figures here given see Appendix B.

The total shown as "in transit" or "unaccounted for" is very large, and with reference thereto the following remarks are submitted:—

(*a.*) The transport returns, though dated the 23rd and 24th January, cannot in reality give facts for remote parts of districts for any date later than the 16th or 18th. The Commissioner of Rajshahye, indeed, who was on tour in the north of his division, writes on the reverse of his statement, as if the 6th January was the latest date of his news from Kooshtea and other places. The Dinagepore returns show very little received, but the Rajshahye and Maldah returns show 88,398 maunds forwarded into that district. The telegrams from the officer in charge of the Patna Commissioner's office showed some days ago a much larger despatch from the main depôts in that division than the district returns show.

(*b.*) The magistrate collector of Bhaugulpore speaks of his Kosee supply of 24,000 maunds havingal most reached its destination by his last reports, and says that the rest of his stock on the north bank of the Ganges is going off day by day in carts. Evidently a large quantity is in course of slow transit in all the divisions.

(*c.*) The Purneah statement does not reckon grain as received in the district until it reaches Caragola, so that the bags either at Sahebgunge or Colgong or in boats crossing the river do not come into the Purneah statement.

(*d.*) Mr. Toynbee's despatches from Calcutta up to the 31st January would be nearly a fortnight in advance of the receipts in most districts up to the 20th or 21st January; and during the last 12 days of January, the Calcutta despatches were larger than they had been before.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor is not able to say that he is fully satisfied with the results of the Government grain transport up to the end of January as indicated in this letter; but he is satisfied that all the officers engaged in the business are doing their best to push on the Government grain, and he believes that they are doing it in the best way. As has been already represented, the waterways of the country, which it was thought right to test to the utmost, are extremely slow and difficult at this time of the year, and this year have proved unusually disappointing. It is some consolation to the Lieutenant-Governor that in the Rajshahye division, where transport is now most backward, the first heavy rain in June will fill the many channels, and make distribution of the Government grain much more easy than it is now.

On the whole subject, it will be remembered that till very lately this Government had only authority to send forward a limited supply of grain for relief works, and that it was rather desired to do so quietly without disturbing private trade, and to test routes by which that trade was least disturbed, than at once to strain all the resources of the country; very much was in that view left to the discretion of the local officers. Now that larger operations appear necessary, the Lieutenant-Governor is arranging for more systematic returns by which the onward movements of grain from stage to stage can be more promptly and exactly traced.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
C. BERNARD,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

LIST of Grain Transport Returns submitted to the Government of India under cover of Letter No. 334 S.R., dated 31st January.

Name of District or Division.	Week to which the Return refers.
FORM No. I.	
Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahye	Week ending 24th January 1874.
Relief do. do.	Ditto ditto.
Divisional Commissioner, Bhaugulpore.	
FORM No. II.	
Collector, Dinagepore	Ditto ditto.
Do. Maldah	Ditto ditto.
Do. Rajshahye	Ditto ditto.
Do. Rungpore	Ditto ditto.
Do. Bogra	Ditto ditto.
Do. Monghyr	Ditto ditto.
Do. Bhaugulpore	Ditto ditto.
Do. Purneah	Ditto ditto.
Do. Patna	Ditto ditto
Do. Gya	Ditto ditto.
Do. Shahabad	Ditto ditto.
Do. Tirhoot	Ditto ditto.
Do. Sarun	Ditto ditto.
Do. Chumparun	Ditto ditto.

APPENDIX A. to Letter No. 334 S.R., dated 31st January 1874.

The total of despatches or receipts from the North-Western Provinces and Central Provinces is made up thus:—

	Mds.
Commissioner's own purchase, all of which had been received as per Mr. Hewitt's telegram of 30th January 1874 - - - - - -	1,25,000
Purchases through Messrs. Colvin and Buck, most of which had been certainly received.—See Mr. Hewitt's telegram of same date - - - -	1,50,000
Purchases through local dealers in Patna, Gya, and Sarun; 75,000 maunds were purchased, but it is not certain that all has arrived. Some of the grain from these dealers was the first to arrive in North Tirhoot; but for the present the arrivals out of these purchases may be put down at - -	40,000
Purchases by Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, all of which have arrived - -	60,000
Purchases from Bunsee Lall of Nerbudda Valley wheat, all of which has been despatched (see telegram), and most of which has been received - -	40,000
Purchasers from Manik Chand of Nerbudda Valley wheat; out of 25,000 maunds 15,000 have been despatched - - - - -	15,000
Total - -	4,30,000

The total of receipts or despatches from Eastern Bengal is made up thus—

Commissioner of Patna's order from Chittagong, all of which has arrived, as per Mr Hewitt's telegram - - - - - - -	31,000
Commissioner of Rajshahye's purchases, all of which have been despatched and most of which has arrived at final destination - - - -	80,000
Total - -	1,11,000

APPENDIX B. to letter No. 334 S.R., dated 31st January 1874.

Showing details of the arrivals of grain at final destination in the several districts.

Patna Division.

Patna (as per transport statement of 24th January 1874) - -	33,517
Gya (as per paragraph 40 of fortnightly narrative) - - -	68,127
Shahabad (as per transport statement) - - - -	19,167
Tirhoot (as per fortnightly narrative) - - - -	1,03,926
Sarun (as per transport statement) - - - - - -	60,086
Chumparun (ditto) - - - - - - - -	55,759
Gunduck embankment (as per transport return of 15th January 1874) -	8,000
Soane Canal Work (up to 20th January 1874) - - -	35,000
Total - -	3,03,582

Bhaugulpore Division,

Monghyr (as per transport statement) - - - -	1,06,934
Bhaugulpore (ditto) - - - - - - - -	45,523
Purneah (ditto) - - - - - - - -	85,281
Total - -	2,37,738

Rajshahye Division.

Arrived on and for the Northern Bengal Railway Works	- -	23,510
Arrived in and for Bogra	- - - - - -	16,409
Ditto	for Rajshahye - - - - - -	20,570
Ditto	for Maldah - - - - -	17,466
Ditto	for Rungpore - - - - -	23,510
	Total - -	1,30,955

Forwarded by Maldah and Rajshahye to Dinagepore - - - -	88,398

No. 166 P.S., dated Calcutta, the 3rd February 1874.

From—The Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal, Statistical Department,
To—The Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India, Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce Dept.

In my letter,* despatched last night, was submitted a statement of the grain which had been despatched to or received in the distressed districts up to the end of January. And a large quantity of the grain despatched (as much as 6,14,435 maunds in the Patna Division) was shown as "not accounted for, &c."

*No. 834 S.R., dated 31st January.

2. To-day's post has, however, brought a letter from Mr. Hewitt, Deputy Commissioner of the Patna Division, showing the actual despatches from the Patna Division railway stations up to the end of January. They are as follow:—

	Mds.
Despatched to Chumparun	2,65,616
" to Sarun	1,23,359
" to Tirhoot	1,99,426
" to Patna	49,000
" to Gya	1,05,000
" to Shahabad	50,000
Besides what was supplied in Tirhoot by local dealers	45,000
Total	8,27,000

If to this total be added 80,000 maunds, despatched to or received at the Soane Canal Works, there is a total of 9,07,000 maunds accounted for, leaving only 1,03,000 maunds "unaccounted for, or in transit, or on the railway platform."

3. A letter has also been received from Mr. Barton Assistant to the Bhaugulpore Commissioner, showing that up to the 31st January there were actually in store—

	Mds.
In the Monghyr district	1,24,093
" Bhaugulpore district	64,385
" Purneah district	1,15,173
Total	3,03,651

leaving 2,26,000 maunds "in transit" and "not accounted for," out of the total of 5,29,000 maunds shown as dispatched to or received in the Bhaugulpore district at paragraph 3 of my letter above-mentioned.

4. As the Lieutenant-Governor wishes His Excellency the Viceroy in Council to have before him the latest information, this letter is submitted in manuscript at once, and may be read with my printed letter despatched last night.

Appendix E. to foregoing narrative.

No. 322.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Calcutta, { dated January / Recd. by Gov. of India 7th February } 1874.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,

I am directed to submit for the orders of the Government of India a very important question in connection with the provision of adequate relief works in the tracts where actual and severe distress may be expected soon to appear.

2. In the enclosed Circular* of the 30th December, the Lieutenant-Governor admitted that tank-works and other such works might have to be taken in hand for relief purposes; but at the same time the Lieutenant-Governor said that the financial question must be faced and laid before the Government of India, with a view to the settlement of the point whether public money could be spent on works situated on, and which would more or less improve, private permanently settled estates.

* See appendix C to the Seventh Narrative.

3. The appended letter dated 18th January, from the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, puts the matter broadly; it in effect says,—"we cannot provide a sufficient number of embanked roads which can usefully be undertaken, and which can supply all the labour that ought to be supplied. There are plenty of excellent and useful tanks, which would do much good, and which will bring the work near to the homes of the people, but there is

little hope of our getting the zemindar to undertake a sufficiency of these works either from advances or otherwise."

Such being the position, it might be quite possible to issue orders urging the district officers to press upon the zemindars that their interest and their duty required them to undertake such works. There can be little doubt that the landholding interest is directly concerned in the matter; but there is equally, the Lieutenant-Governor fears, little doubt but that it will in many cases be difficult and tedious to bring the zemindars to take that view of their interest; and there is risk that, while the work of persuasion is going on, the relief works may fall short, and the people may be left without work and without wages.

4. It is not only from the Bhaugulpore Division that such works have been reecommended as the best kind of relief works we can undertake. In the Patna Division and elsewhere similar proposals have been made. And a very pressing form which representations have taken is, that the cattle will die in many districts if the people are not employed to deepen the tanks till they come to water. The managers of the great estates under the Court of Wards have undertaken a large amount of relief work in the shape of tanks, but beyond these estates it is always a question whether the zemindar can or will undertake the duty, and where he will not very great difficulty arises.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor is very glad to be able to say that many zemindars have done and are doing much for their estates; but there will remain many estates where they do not. In one case there may be legal disabilities; in another case there may be many shareholders who cannot agree; in a third the responsible man may live in another district and refuse to answer the Collector's letters; and in such cases no one will have any legal power of compelling the zemindars to do their duty. Probably zemindars may be induced to allow such works to be done, and may even agree to the stipulation which has been attached to the part payment by Government in case of advances, viz., that works on which public money is spent should be for ever accessible to the people for drinking and such like purposes. But it might be difficult to put that stipulation in binding and effective shape in all cases; and if Government decided to do this, and to enforce a contribution, it might be necessary to have recourse to legislation.

6. This subject was discussed at the conference at Government House on the 24th instant, and it was agreed that it should be reported for more mature deliberation. Possibly Sir R. Temple's local inquiries may assist in forming a conclusion. The Lieutenant-Governor's present view is that in some cases, when proper public works cannot be found, either the Government or the relief committees must undertake works, which are not public works in the ordinary acceptation of the term, in order to give employment to the people and save the cattle. Unless Government is prepared to legislate, we must confine ourselves to those works which seem most beneficial to the people, and make the best bargain we can with the landholders in each case. In such circumstances Government might undertake works of a large and heavy description or very emergently required to save the country, while petty village works necessary for relief might be undertaken by the relief committees.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 11 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To His Grace the Right Honorable the DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD DUKE, Calcutta, the 13th February 1874.

IN continuation of our weekly despatches, we have the honor to forward a copy of the Supplement of the Calcutta Gazette of Wednesday last. It contains the most recent reports of the prices of food in Bengal, and of the general condition of the Province. Your Grace will observe that the effects of the rainfall, which we reported in our despatch of the 6th instant, have been most beneficial, and that the condition of the country generally has been materially improved.

2. We have received no information that the rainfall has materially improved the means of communication by river in the distressed districts, and indeed, this was hardly to be expected at the present season.

3. The accounts from the North-Western Provinces and from Oudh lead us to hope that the rubbee crop will be large, and this will afford means for meeting any demand for food which may arise in the districts of those provinces which have been affected by the failure of the autumn rains.

4. We informed Your Grace that we should, before long, be able to foresee with some degree of accuracy the extent of the country in which severe distress is inevitable. We are now in possession of the conclusions at which Sir Richard Temple has arrived, after visiting the worst parts of North Behar, and we enclose, for the information of Your Grace, copies of Sir Richard Temple's minutes of the 31st January, the 1st, the 5th, the 6th, the 8th, and the 10th instant, and of a telegram of the 12th, since received.

5. Sir Richard Temple estimates that a provision of 4,000,000 of maunds of food-grains should be made for Tirhoot, 1,000,000 for Chumparun, and 550,000 for Sarun (if the amount of food at three-quarters of a seer per head, per diem, is calculated upon the number and for the time mentioned in the telegram; but Sir Richard Temple has not as yet made a requisition for the quantity required for Sarun). For the north of the Patna Division, therefore, there will be a requirement up to the 15th of June, of 5,550,000 maunds in all, of which a portion will be provided by the Rajahs, Zemindars, the Court of Wards, and persons who have received advances from Government. We calculate that about 180,000 tons of food-grains, to be provided by Government, have to be conveyed into the north of Behar before the 15th of June. We are in a position to meet this demand without difficulty, and we have thought it right to approve, without hesitation, of the arrangements which Sir Richard Temple has made for the provision of transport from the railway to the northern parts of Tirhoot. We trust that these measures will be effectual, but we shall await further reports before expressing complete confidence upon this matter. Your Grace will observe that we have expressed to the Government of Bengal our disappointment that the requirements of North Tirhoot have, up to the present time, been under-estimated by the local officers. The arrangements for transport to Chumparun and Sarun are not expected to occasion any great difficulty.

6. We deputed Mr. Molesworth, Consulting Engineer for State Railways, to proceed to Barrh, in order to take immediate steps for constructing a tramway from Chumpta Ghât, on the northern bank of the Ganges, opposite Barrh, to Durbunga (forty-four miles), and we are glad to find that he considers the work to be feasible within such time as to be useful for the conveyance of food to the north of Tirhoot. It will be pressed on with the greatest possible expedition.

7. We alluded in our last despatch to the apprehension of distress in Nepaul. We enclose copy of a correspondence* which has passed with the Government of Bengal upon this subject, from which Your Grace will observe that it has not escaped the notice of Sir Richard Temple, and that we have given instructions to Mr. Girdlestone, the Resident in Nepaul, to confer with Sir Richard Temple, and to act upon his advice in his communications with the Nepalese Government.

* Pages 225–227.

8. We enclose a return showing the quantities of rice exported from the port of Calcutta and Chittagong since the 1st of October last,* divided into the

* Page 227.

different qualities of rice and distinguishing the places to which it has been exported.

The figures for last year are also given for the purpose of comparison.

The statistics of the export from Orissa will be furnished as soon as they have been received.

* Page 227.

9. We enclose a copy of a letter* which we have addressed to the Government of Bengal on the subject of the action to be taken by the Central Relief Committee, and the general conduct of relief operations. We have thought it desirable to explain our opinion that the rigid application of a labor test is inapplicable to the relief of distress where it extends over a large area of country, such as North Behar.

* Page 172.

* *See* page 10.

10. Your Grace will observe from the instructions* for Relief Committees, which we forwarded in our despatch No. 7 of the 30th ultimo, that we did not lay down any rules enforcing such a test, and on reference to our original orders issued on the 7th of November,* at the commencement of the period of scarcity, it will be seen that the institution of public works, and the extensive employment of the people upon such works, were intended as preliminary and precautionary measures, and by no means as the only manner in which relief should be extended to the people at a later period of the scarcity. We make these remarks, as some misapprehension appears to exist as to our views upon this important subject.

11. With respect to those parts of the country which have been affected by the drought, but do not lie within the Province of Bengal, we have to observe that Sir William Muir is taking every necessary measure for the relief of distress in the south-eastern districts of the North-Western Provinces, and we have not received from him any intimation that he will require assistance in the way of supplies from the Government of India in respect to those districts, the prospects of which have, on the whole, been materially improved by the late rains.

12. The Viceroy has received from Sir George Couper, the Chief Commissioner of Oudh, a carefully prepared minute, explaining the measures which he proposes to take for the relief of distress in the northern parts of Oudh adjoining the Terai. As this minute has not yet been received officially, we will only observe that Sir George Couper has personally visited those districts, and that the measures which he proposes to take have been framed in communication with the local officers and with the Rajah of Bulrampore, in whose estates the most distressed parts of the country lie, and we believe that they will be found sufficient. Sir George Couper has no apprehension that there will be any difficulty in laying in supplies in advance for any part of the country that may require them during the rains.

13. The drought that has now affected North Behar, coupled with former droughts within a short period of years, has necessarily attracted our attention to the provision of a system of irrigation which may, so far as is humanly possible, provide against the recurrence of similar calamities. Much consideration was given to the subject after the famine of 1866, but the plans which we have now before us do not extend to that portion of the country which is suffering the most severely from the drought. We have accordingly, as Your Grace will observe from our despatch No. 271, in the Public Works Department of the 12th instant, given directions for the immediate institution of surveys and enquiries throughout that district, with the object of deciding, as soon as possible, upon a scheme which may be taken in hand at the next working season. It would not be desirable to commence a work of such permanent importance without careful previous enquiry and deliberation, but Your Grace may rely upon the subject receiving prompt attention from us so soon as the necessary information has been obtained.

14. In accordance with the 5th para. of our last despatch No. 9 of the 6th instant, we have the honor to forward a corrected copy of the proceedings of the public meeting held at Calcutta on the 4th instant, for the purpose of forming a Central Relief Committee.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

Enclosures to foregoing Despatch.

No. 177 P.S., dated Calcutta, the 13th February 1874.

From C. BERNARD, ESQ., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

I am directed to submit copy of a minute by Sir R. Temple upon the state of affairs in the Chumparun district. The Lieutenant-Governor fully approves and concurs in the instructions which Sir R. Temple has given. The only suggestion Sir George has to offer is that supplies of grain might possibly be brought into Chumparun by the Durolee Ghât from Oudh, or, perhaps, from Azimgurh, if happily the spring harvest turns out well in the Benares districts.

P.S.—A further Minute, dated the 10th February, has this morning been received, and a copy is submitted at once, so as to be in time for the outgoing mail.

MINUTE by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I.—(No. 13, dated Camp Bettiah, the 8th February 1874.)

Having visited the Chumparun district, travelling through it from east to west, and proceeding viâ Bettiah to Ramnuggur, I have to record the following remarks regarding the quantity of grain which ought to be conveyed into the interior of the district by the 15th of June next and the means of conveying it.

2. First, as to the quantity: that depends of course, on the number of persons who may be expected to need assistance in some shape or other.

3. Mr. Kean, the Collector, after carefully conferring with me, makes the following statement.

Adapore.—This is a great rice-growing thannah: the greater portion of the crop failed. The cold weather crops (rubbee) are not much grown. Indian corn, however, is grown: there will be a four-anna crop. The poppy is said to be good; but the rice crop having almost totally failed, and there being no rubbee, or very little, I think at least 30 per cent. of the population would come on our hands in this thannah, which, as far as my present information goes, is the worst thannah in the sudder division.

Dhaka.—In this thannah also the rice crop failed, but it produced an eight-anna crop of "makai," and the rubbee will be about a six-anna crop. The poppy is also fair. I think 25 per cent. for this thannah.

Motiharee.—In this thannah the rice crop was not so entirely a failure. The rubbee and poppy are also comparatively good. I would calculate 20 per cent. for this thannah.

Gobindgunj.—The same as Motiharee.

Kessuaria and Modubun.—Mr. Weekes is making minute inquiries regarding the condition of these two thannahs. The poppy is said to be a failure, and lately unfavourable accounts of the rubbee have been received. The rahar has also been damaged by frost; a large crop of "kodo" and makai was gathered in these thannahs; perhaps 30 per cent.

Bettiah.—The accounts from this thannah have been all along comparatively good, *i.e.*, no such entire failure of crops as in some other thannahs has been reported. I would rank this thannah with the adjoining thannahs of Gobindgunj and Motiharee, and calculate 20 per cent.

Bagaha.—In this thannah distress will, no doubt, be greatly felt; it ranks as the second worst thannah in the district. I would calculate 35 or 40 per cent.

Lowrya—This is undoubtedly the worst thannah in this district. The rice crop failed entirely and there is no rubbee or poppy to speak of. I would calculate 50 per cent.

This caculation would be—

	Population.	Per cent.	
Adapore	114,561	30	34,350
Dhaka	230,484	25	57,600
Motiharee	134,621	20	26,920
Gobindgunj	141,986	20	28,380
Hessuria	150,863	30	45,240
Modubun	84,873	30	25,440
Bettiah	289,522	20	57,900
Bagaha	114,879	40	45,920
Lowrya	170,760	50	83,350
			405,200

In round numbers	400,000
At ¾th of a seer, deduct ¼th	100,000
	300,000 seers.

For two months full	600,000 seers.
„ three months, a half	450,000 „
„ two months, one-third	200,000 „
	1,250,000 „
Dividing by 40	31,250 maunds.
	30
	937,500 maunds.
Adding average of seven months for one month	133,928
	1,071,428 maunds.

4. Mr. T. Gibbon, the manager of the estates of the Rajah of Bettiah, a gentleman of great knowledge and experience, makes a somewhat more favourable statement as follows :—

Adapore	20	per cent. of the population will require assistance in some shape.
Dhaka	15	„ „
Motiharee	10	„ „
Gobindgunj	10	„ „
Kessuria	15	„ „
Modubun	15	„ „
Bettiah	20	„ „
Bagaha	50	„ „
Lowrya	50	„ „

In all 316,000 persons will require assistance at one time or another.

I anticipate—

¼ in February	79,000	persons average per diem.
½ in March	158,000	„
¾ in April	237,000	„
Full in May	316,000	„
„ in June	316,000	„
„ in July	316,000	„
¾ in August	237,000	„
¼ in September	79,000	„
	1,738,000	people.

or on an average per diem 217,000 persons for eight months at ¾th a seer per head, requiring 4,068 maunds a day (about), or 976,320 maunds in all.

5. The worst part of all is the Ramnuggur estate, chiefly comprising the Lowrya thannah. Mr. Howe, the civil officer there, expects that 60 or even 50 per cent. of the people may come on his hands at the worst season.

6. Mr. Vertannes, the Executive Engineer of the Gunduck Embankment, expects to have 20,000 laborers at work in the hot season.

7. Mr. Cooper, the Deputy Opium Agent, also a gentlemen of great experience, considered that in the thannahs of Kessuria and Modubun the assistance required might prove much greater than that above indicated.

8. In general terms it may be said that the rice crop is the staple product of that part of the district which may be defined by the Nepal frontier on the north, the Gunduck river on the west, the Bagmuttee on the east, and on the south by a line drawn straight on the map from Bagaha on the Gunduck to Dhaka Ramchundra ; that crop has failed, and the main food of the people there has been lost. In the rest of the district the spring crops are very poor. Besides these the people have had only the bhadoi, or Indian corn, which yielded but half the average, except towards the southern border, where the bhadoi crop was good.

9. These calculations are only anticipations which may fail to be realized; still they represent the best opinions that can be formed; and such opinions must be acted on now, otherwise the opportunity of providing the supplies will slip away.

10. On the whole I consider that one million of maunds of Government grain must be imported into this district by the 15th June, that is, before the setting in of the rains. It remains to be seen how this requirement is to be met.

11. The transport Agency at Patna, under Mr. Hewitt, have already sent on 215,000 maunds to arrive in the district by the 15th February.

12. The Collector is now concluding an arrangement with European contractors of proved

means and ability to cart not less than 50,000 maunds a week from Bunkur Ghât opposite Patna after the 15th February, which would give 200,000 maunds a month for 3½ months from 15th February to 1st June, or 700,000 maunds.

13. For the works on the Gunduck embankment, 24,000 maunds have arrived by the Gunduck river, and some further quantity is still in boats on the river. I believe that the total by river route will not exceed 50,000 maunds.

14. Thus the total Government provision may be set down at 975,000 maunds.

15. Then 150,000 maunds are being brought into the district by the manager of the Bettiah estates and by the planter resident in that portion of the district, which will come by the river route, and this supply will help to support those who might otherwise come on the hands of Government. If this quantity be considered together with the Government provision, it will be seen that there is a margin to ensure safety.

16. I believe that the Government provision, as above set forth, will suffice, inasmuch as, after the 15th May, the Gunduck will begin to rise, and will afford navigation to the neighbourhood of the most distressed localities, so that, if the land-carriage were to prove insufficient, it could be supplemented by water-carriage, or, if further supplies were still required, they could be obtained by river route.

17. I consider that the preparedness, which I have myself seen, of the transport arrangements, even to the remotest localities of distress, is creditable to the administration of the Chumparun district; and the Collector informs me that this is in a large degree due to Mr. T. Gibbon and to Mr. R. Lethbridge, both of whom will doubtless render still further public services during the coming crisis.

18. I believe that the arrangements of the carrying contracts, which I have inspected, are worthy of the confidence of Government.

19. I have instructed the Collector to have the transport routes examined, especially with a view to excavating tanks for watering the cattle.

20. I have accordingly to recommend that 50,000 maunds a week from 15th February may be sent forwards by Railway from Howrah for the service of the Chumparun district.

MINUTE by the Honorable SIR R. TEMPLE, K.C.S.I.—(No. 15, dated Camp Hutwa, the 10th February 1874.)

1. Having left the Chumparun district, I have to record briefly some general remarks regarding the condition of affairs there in reference to scarcity and relief.

2. There have recently been two falls of rain, amounting in various places to one inch or one inch and a half, even to two inches. The prospect of the spring harvest is much improved thereby. Much land is also being sown with such crops as cheena and moong, which will yield grain by the end of April, and afford some food supply by May. This supply may help to replenish the empty grain markets for some short period; perhaps for a month—some say for more than a month. There is much uncertainty as to the yield of this supplementary crop, which is sown largely when other crops fail, and but little in prosperous years. But it will afford some relief, and it will abridge somewhat the period of want. The recent rainfall, after the long drought, has raised the spirits of the people, and caused despondency to give way to undue hopefulness. More thoughtful people, however, advise me that the general situation, as previously apprehended, is not materially changed.

3. I believe that our precautions and preparations should go on without alteration or relaxation.

4. The local grain trade may do something to meet the demands of the central part of the district. But it is limited in its operations, and it will do little or nothing for the supply of those tracts along the north and north-western borders of the district which have lost their sole support from the withering of the rice crop. Neither at Motiharee nor at Bettiah (the two principal places of the district) could I find even one grain dealer of any capacity or position.

5. The district authorities do not give a favorable account of the public spirit and disposition of the zemindars. I have not heard of one who has behaved creditably. Three of the principal zemindars appear, indeed, to have evinced a disposition the reverse of satisfactory.

6. On the other hand, the Rajah of Bettiah personally manifests a desire to behave well. His European manager (Mr. T. M. Gibbon, an able and excellent man) has arranged to import 150,000 maunds of grain for the Bettiah estate, and will arrange other measures of relief. But the Rajah's treasury is impoverished, and his finances are embarrassed, and I by no means undertake to say that the above measures, though *per se* considerable, are really commensurate with the moral obligations of the Rajah, or with the size of his estates.

7. The Rajah of Ramnuggur, the owner of a fine zemindaree, with a population of at least 150,000 souls, was reported to me as having done nothing. He afterwards came to Bettiah, and agreed to import grain, to give advances to his ryots, and to stand security for advances to be made to them by Government. If he fulfils this agreement, I may yet be able to write in favorable terms regarding him.

8. I have met most of the European Indigo Planters, who are so numerous in this district, and have received from them cordial assurances of help in the distribution of relief.

9. In the eastern part of the district many complaints of scarcity and distress were made to me by villagers. But in the western parts of the district, where matters are so much more

threatening, the people preserved a patient and uncomplaining demeanour, which can, I think, be attributed only to the sight of the Government preparation, and the conviction that succour is at hand.

10. All along the northern frontier there will be very serious scarcity, beginning at the eastern corner, and becoming worse and worse westwards, till the north-western corner is reached, where the failure of food supply is utter, and where the case will be formidable in extent and in degree.

11. In consultation with the Collector I have arranged the additional Sub-divisional Committees and the Sub-Committees with a view to the effective administration of relief in these tracts, and have authorised the immediate erection of temporary accommodation for the European officers. There will be three Sub-divisional Committees and five Sub-Committees, all under the District Committee, which has been duly formed.

12. Some of the European superintendence required is already available. If more European officers are found to be needed, I will make a further communication.

13. The European officers in Ramnuggur Sub-divisional Committee—they will be four in number, including Mr. Howe, of the Civil Service—will be resident all through the rains in a very isolated and insalubrious situation. This cannot be avoided, and they are fully aware that, as regards famine in Chumparun, the officers at Ramnuggur occupy the post of honour. I am in communication with Dr. Francis, Deputy Inspector General, regarding the provision of medical aid.

14. Relief works are being commenced in every part of the district. These chiefly consisted of roads. The Collector had doubts as to whether village tanks could be regarded as relief works. I have ruled that they are to be so treated, and that the excavation and clearing out of old village tanks afford the very best means of relief.

15. These works were largely attended up to the day when the rain fell. Since that day the attendance has fallen off, as the people have gone away to sow the supplementary crops—"cheena," "moong," &c.

16. The new Executive, constituted in this district under orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, will prove very useful in the supervision of relief works. I met the new Executive Engineer, Mr. Murray, of Motiharee, and explained to him what was expected of his Department. I authorised the construction of a temporary office building for him. He complains of the want of good overseers. This complaint is, however, universal, and I fear that there will be a deficiency. However, I shall communicate further with the Superintending Engineer on the subject when I return to Patna.

17. Incendiarism, robbery, and crimes, which usually break out in times of scarcity, are reported as becoming rife along the northern border. I have, therefore, requested the Collector to entertain additional police up to the strength of 80 men, including petty officers, to watch incendiarism and to guard the grain depôts.

18. Many representations have been made regarding the danger of the seed-grain being used up for food, and the necessity of seed-grain being stored by Government. The matter is one of some difficulty, but, after consideration, I hope to arrive at some definite conclusion regarding it.

19. It seems probable that the sale of Government grain in the Ramnuggur tract cannot be much longer delayed. I have instructed the district authorities on the spot to adopt this measure on any day when they find that safety demands its adoption. Meanwhile I have authorised them to advance grain to ryots on security being given, either on the Rajah's security or on the hypothecation of the ryots' land with the Rajah's consent; also to pay the relief work laborers in kind.

20. The utmost vigilance has been enjoined on all the district authorities regarding the immediate relief of cases of individual distress.

21. There are no signs yet of the temporary telegraph lines from Mozufferpore viâ Motiharee to Bettiah and Ramnuggur. I have again urged the need of expedition on the attention of Major Mallock, who has been deputed by the Director-General to supervise works.

22. I have inspected the new Gunduck embankment on the east or left bank of that river. It will be very beneficial as protecting the rice-lands from excessive inundation. This may be inferred from the experience of the long existing embankments on the western or right bank. I am not equally sure of the need for the irrigation channel proposed to run marching with the embankments. Perhaps the money appropriated for the channel might be better spent in other ways. If the channel be not made, however, it will be necessary to make sluices and openings in the embankments to let out water for irrigation. The embankment itself will give employment to 20,000 labourers during the worst season along a line of 70 miles in length.

23. I have enquired particularly into the supply of boats and the navigable channel of the Gunduck. This navigation is regarded by the Chumparun authorities as a valuable resource. It is a resource of some importance, but the boats are not numerous nor capacious, and the current is strong in the rainy season, and my information is not such as to warrant the abandonment of our land carriage on this occount.

24. My Minute No. 13 of the 8th February shows that we expect to have to assist 400,000 persons in some shape or other during the worst season, and that we have arranged to import one million of maunds into the interior of the district by the beginning of June, to which may be added the 150,000 imported by the Rajah of Bettiah.

25. I had the satisfaction of seeing that the carriage contractors have got their system into

effective working order. I saw strings of Government grain carts wending their way among the villages, especially among the tracts of the remote Ramnuggur estates. This is, indeed, exactly what I desired to see.

26. The local resources in carts and bullocks are large. The contractors are able to obtain without any difficulty 6,000 carts for the performance of their contract. Much of the local carriage, however, will cease to be available as soon as the indigo-manufacturing season commences in June.

27. At present the contractors are taking delivery of the grain at Bunkur Ghât, opposite Patna, and follow the route viâ Mozufferpore and Bettiah to Ramnuggur. I have, however, approved of their trying for a part of their contract an alternative route viâ the ghât opposite Dinapore, and thence through the Sarun districts, Gobindgunj on the Gunduck, and thence to Bettiah. This will relieve the pressure now beginning to be extreme at Bunkur Ghât.

28. I trust that it will not be necessaay to indent on the North-West Provinces for carriage for the service of the Chumparun district.

29. The contractors state that at present the route is well supplied with water, save in one place, to which the attention of the Collector has been drawn. Instructions have, however, been repeated to the effect that tanks are to be excavated at the halting places.

30. The Collector and his officers evince every anxiety to understand and carry out the instructions they receive in reference to the impending scarcity.

No. 300 A., dated Calcutta, the 6th February 1874.

From A. Mackenzie, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

I am directed to forward, for the consideration of the Government of India, a Minute by Sir Richard Temple on the subject of the supply and transport of grain to the Tirhoot district, together with copy of a note by the Lieutenant-Governor.

No. 20, dated Durbhanga, the 1st February 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., with Sir Richard Temple, on Special Service, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am directed to submit copy of a minute recorded by Sir Richard Temple regarding the transport arrangements for the Tirhoot district, and to express his hope that the arrangements therein described may meet with the approval of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Minute by the Honorable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., dated Camp Durbhunga, the 31st January 1874.

No. I.

Having visited the Tirhoot district, seen some of the tracts most affected by drought, conversed with the Commissioner and the Civil Officers, and with most of the principal non-official residents, European and native, I desire to state the amount of Government grain which we should be prepared to bring into the district, and the arrangements for transport from the left bank of the Ganges into the interior.

The principal relief officer, Mr. Worsley, calculates the amount of grain required for his operations at four millions of maunds, or 148,200 tons.

The Collector, Mr. Halliday, estimates 3,500,000 maunds, which estimate is approved by the Commissioner, Mr. Steuart Bayley.

It is borne out to some extent by Colonel Burne, manager of the Durbhunga Estate, which has a population of half a million of people, situated in the most drought-stricken parts of the district. He states the requirement for his portion of the district at 740,000 maunds.

Mr. Macdonnell, civil officer of the Dhurbhunga subdivision, expects that, at the worst period, 400,000 persons will come on the hands of Government in his sub-division.

Mr. Cochran, civil officer of the Mudhoobunee sub-division, states his fear that at the worst period more than 400,000 persons will require relief in his sub-division in some shape or other from Government.

Mr. O'Reilly, the civil officer of the Seetamurhee sub-division, informed me that he expected to have 150,000 persons on the hands of Government during the worst months.

There will be distress throughout the north-west corner of the Tajpore sub-division. The Collector thinks that 30,000 persons may here come on our hands.

In the rest of Tajpore and in the two remaining sub-divisions of Hajeepore and Mozufferpore there is not likely to be any general distress. But in Mozufferpore there will be some thousands of persons seeking relief.

Thus the estimates of local officers give about one million as the number of souls who will come on our hands in the Tirhoot district out of a total population of upwards of four millions, or 25 per cent.; and this is the district most severely affected in the whole Behar province.

The estimate of a million of persons corresponds very much with the estimate of 3½ millions of maunds, or 129,700 tons as separately made by the Collector.

These statements represent nothing more than anticipations regarding subjects wherein certainty is not possible. But the time has now come when we must make the best estimate we can of the amount which will have to be transported into the interior from the left or north bank of the Ganges.

Looking at all the statements together, I consider that it will not be safe to provide carriage for less than four millons of maunds of food-grain, or 148,200 tons, which gives a margin over and above the Collector's estimate. The worst two months will be May and June, though the month preceding that period (April) may be bad: and the three months subsequent, July, August, and September, will almost certainly be so. Up to July land carriage only will be available. From July there will be help from water carriage, but the land carriage will fall off, and it would be preferable to bring the whole, or four millions of maunds, into the northern part of the district by the 15th June, the distances for inland carriage being from 40 to 80 miles from the Ganges.

Such being the present requirement, I have to see how it is to be met.

It was ascertained at Patna that the transport agent there (Mr. Hewitt) had despatched from there 2,00,000 maunds to arrive in the distressed sub-divisions of Tirhoot by 15th February, and had arranged to send from that date 50,000 maunds a week, which arrangement, would place 8,00,000 maunds in those sub-divisions by the 15th June, making up one million in all.

The Court of Wards (Durbhanga) has already arranged to bring 2,00,000 maunds.

The amount for which cash advances have been granted by Government to zemindars, indigo planters, and others, on condition that they bring the grain up in time, may be taken at 50,000 maunds.

The Collector, under direction of the Commissioner, has just made contracts with trustworthy European contractors to bring up 1,10,000 maunds a week from Chumpta Ghaut opposite Barrh from the 15th February, which arrangement up to 15th June would place 17,60,000 maunds in the distressed sub-divisions.

I have invited tenders, on the suggestion of the Lieutenant-Governor, North Western Provinces, for contracts, to be concluded there, to carry 2,00,000 maunds a week from left bank of Ganges to these sub-divisions from 1st April to 15th June, which arrangement, if effected, would bring in two millions of maunds.

These figures give the following results up to 15th June:—

	Maunds.
Patna Agency - - - - - -	10,00,000
Court of Wards - - - - - -	2,00,000
Zemindars, indigo-planters, and others - -	50,000
By local contracts - - - - -	17,60,000
By North-West contracts - - - - -	20,00,000
Total - - - - -	50,10,000

These arrangements will, if successful, provide more than the four millions required by 15th June, and will leave a fair margin to cover those partial failures which must be expected in operations of this kind.

I have provided a reserve of carts to be at disposal of the Commissioner in event of need or accident, by ordering purchase of 500 pair of draught-bullocks in Nepaul, the carts to be made in Tirhoot; 500 carts with bullocks will be purchased on the frontier of Chumparun district, or failing that, the bullocks will be purchased at Shahabad cattle fair, and carts made up in Tirhoot; 500 carts with bullocks are being obtained through the Government of the North-Western Provinces. Thus the reserve will be made up of 1,500 carts drawn by bullocks.

I have further, at the instance of the Commissioner and the Collector, recommended the laying down of a tramway from the left bank of Ganges to Mudhoobanee viâ Durbhanga to relieve the country carriage during the hot season.

Again, the Commissioner hopes to conclude a contract for the carriage of 50,000 maunds a week from 15th February from the Ganges opposite Monghyr to Durbhanga. This arrangement, if successful, would place 800,000 maunds in the distressed sub-divisions by 15th June, and may be regarded as a reserve to make up for deficiencies in other parts of the general plan.

We cannot be sure that the contracts asked for in the North-West Provinces will be taken up. If they are not, we have still time to purchase or hire large quantities of carriage in those Provinces.

Also, further purchases of draught-cattle can, if necessary, be probably effected in Nepaul or elsewhere, the carts being made up in Tirhoot.

We can, if absolutely necessary, obtain pack-bullocks from Central India; but we are averse to that plan if it can be avoided, because of the difficulty of fodder.

We can, as a last resource, obtain camels through the Commissariat at Agra; but the expense and the distance detract from the value of this plan.

By the advice of the Commissioner and the Collector, I have sent a requisition to the Government, North-Western Provinces, for 50,000 maunds of cotton seed (highly recommended as fodder), to be sent by railway to Patna; and a similar requisition to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, or 100,000 maunds in all. I am assured by the best informed persons in Tirhoot, that this supply will be most useful to the transport service during the hot months.

By excavation of wells and old tanks along the routes of the grain transit, the Commissioner and the Collector hope to provide drinking-water for the cattle employed in the transport. They have arranged their relief works with this view.

The resources of the Tirhoot districts in carriage are more than ordinarily great. The indigo-planting and manufacture cause a large number of carts and bullocks to be kept up by the ryots and villagers. There is a large export trade, in prosperous years, of produce from the district (estimated, inclusive of rice, at five millions of maunds annually), which is chiefly carried to the Ganges by carts. There are many European non-official gentlemen resident in the district engaged in trade or industry. Thus it becomes possible to effect contracts, the execution of which can be relied upon to a considerable extent. The Commissioner and the Collector have very properly decided to resort to contracts for carriage, and not to collect carriage by direct agency of police or other establishments.

Lastly, if notwithstanding all these precautions, something more should be required after 15th June, there would still remain two more months up to 15th August, during which supplies could be brought up to distressed districts by water carriage.

These transport arrangements hold good only as far as the principal points within the distressed tracts. There will still remain detailed arrangements for the conveyance of grain to the villages. These will be made separately.

It is assumed that the railway will bring the requisite quantities of grain to the south or right bank of the Ganges. There will remain the provision of boats for crossing the Ganges; and for this purpose from 400 to 500 boats will suffice. This number Mr. Hewitt will certainly be able to obtain, and he has been instructed accordingly.

According to the above estimate, I have by the advice of the Commissioner and Collector, to recommend that 2,00,000 maunds a week may be sent forward from Calcutta for the service of the Tirhoot district, consigned to care of Mr. Hewitt.

I hope that the arrangements explained in this minute will not be thought larger than what the occasion demands. Unless we act effectively now regarding transport, the opportunity for action will pass away. The tracts most severely affected by scarcity happen to be those which are the most distant, the most isolated, and the most helpless. In most parts of Mudhoobanee and in many parts of Durbhanga, the September crop is always small, consequently the distress will be more than ordinarily protracted, will last through the autumn, and will not disappear at the earliest till December. And during the rainy season the rivers in that quarter (the Tiljooga, the Bolan, and the Kumla) are navigable only for small boats.

R. Temple.

Note on Sir R. Temple's Minute regarding the Supply of Grains for the Tirhoot district.

This Minute only reached me very late yesterday evening. I think that it should be at once laid before the Government of India, and therefore submit it early this morning with this general note, without delaying to refer to recent figures.

I confess that the estimate now made exceeds what I had thought that Government could undertake in a distressed district, and also exceeds my estimate of our powers of transport. I have always supposed that there must be some stocks; that the year's produce, small though it be, will one way and another last for some time; that private trade will do something; that something will be saved by pinching, and a resort of food not usually consumed; and that Government can only supply the margin left when all these resources are taken into account. Admitting that the people of this country are more self reliant in the matter of food, and less inclined to throw themselves permanently on Government or the public than in some other countries, I yet feel that this may, to some extent, be due to the fact that they have been obliged to help themselves in default of other means. And though all humane men would be glad if it were possible to maintain the people in full comfort and health in times of scarcity the attempt to do so might not only prove not only an impossible task, but if it were possible it might have the effect of rendering the people much less self reliant than hitherto. I believe, then, that it is necessary that we should hedge in our aid by severe tests; that painful though it be, we cannot in practice do more than so much as will avert actual starvation, while the people must still submit to severe privation and suffering on such an occasion as that which has overtaken us.

I am certainly not one of those who place an undue reliance on private trade for imports of food from abroad into Bengal. I have had no reliance whatever on any such trade. But for the distribution of food within this country, I have throughout believed that private trade will, in most quarters, do much, and should be permitted to do so, though there are some limited tracts in which it fails, and where Government must undertake almost the whole task. Wherever private exists or can be developed, I have not the least doubt that it acts in every way more beneficially than the operations of Government.

Now as regards a great part of Tirhoot private trade cannot be overlooked. Patna is in fact at this moment overflowing with private grain seeking an outlet, and if that outlet be found, farther private supplies are forthcoming in large quantities from the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces. Private trade certainly reaches Mozufferpore. We learned from the last report that 20 new grain shops had lately been established there by outside dealers. And by giving facilities for carriage and advances, I cannot doubt that private trade may be led to do much in Central and North-Western Tirhoot.

The last report stated that 200,000 maunds of grain had lately been imported from Nepal into the Seetamurhee division alone. In other quarters, by driblets, something, no doubt, finds its way into the distressed country. We have always then contemplated that the route from Patna by Mozufferpore should as much as possible be left open to private traffic, and that this traffic should be, as much as possible, stimulated by advances. I have relaxed the rule which originally required persons taking advances to import grain from a distance so far that the Tirhoot and other local dealers may have advances for importations from Patna and other railway stations. I cannot but think that Sir R. Temple has much under-estimated what may be done by these advances when he puts the amount to be obtained by this means at 50,000 maunds only. I hope it will prove to be very much more.

So much I have said regarding private trade merely to clear the ground; but I most entirely agree that we must not too much rely on private trade. For north-east Tirhoot, I believe we must ourselves undertake most of the work.

The tract in Tirhoot which chiefly depends on rice, and where the failure has been most excessive, is not the whole, but speaking roughly about half the district. In this view the estimate of a million people on our hands assumes nearer 50 per cent. than 25 per cent. of the population of the most distressed tract—a very liberal estimate.

Accepting that estimate of the number to be supported, I still cannot but think that the supply of food for them is estimated too liberally. Sir Richard Temple says three and half million maunds tallies with the estimate of one million people. To be safe, he says four million of maunds. This implies a provision of three and half to four maunds per head. Now we have estimated the food required for the whole support of an adult male to be ¾th of a seer or 1½lbs. per diem, viz., 1 lb. of rice or wheat and 1½ lb. of pulse, vegetable, fish, &c. The failure has been chiefly a rice failure; the pulses are good. The present rain will allow some quick-growing grains and vegetables to be sown, fish, milk, &c., are still in the country. Many classes habitually eat meat even in the shape of dead bullocks, mice, &c. If Government supplies 1 lb. per head of rice or other grain, I think the people may find the remaining quantity of food necessary to subsistence; and the above estimate is for an adult male, and if we extend it to the whole population, men, women, children, and infants, it becomes very liberal. I have been inclined to think that if, infants and all included, we supply a maund of 82 lbs. for 90 days, or three months, that eked out in other ways will probably suffice. Certainly 1½ maunds or 123 lbs. for four months would be a very ample provision.

As regards the time for which provision must be made, it must be remembered that it is not till comparatively late in the season, that the largest numbers come on our hands; then, if the people survive the worst months before the rains without being too entirely reduced; they gradually withdraw to cultivation. Tirhoot is a moist district; if the present genial fall moistens the ground well, and augurs the early rain-supply which very frequently follows a bad year, a good deal may be grown even in the hot months, and what is called the bhadoie, *i.e.*, the fast-growing maize, murwa, &c., come in in August. I have been inclined to think a four months' supply for the distressed population about a fair estimate, especially if we have some further reserve for the rains. That four months' supply would be 1½ million maunds.

At any rate it appeared to me that if we could secure two million maunds in the tracts distant from river and rail before the rains, and arrange for a reserve which could be thrown in early in the rains in case of necessity, we should have done our duty fairly by the Tirhoot district.

Now as regards transport. For some time I was not satisfied that so much in proportion had been done in Tirhoot as in some other districts; less has been despatched to Tirhoot than to Chumparun, and Tirhoot is certainly the district regarding which I have felt most cause for anxiety. Latterly things have got into better train, but seeing all that has passed, I was inclined to feel satisfied if the arrangements were such that 100,000 maunds per week were actually and without fail despatched by the direct land routes to the north of Tirhoot, the routes being so arranged as to leave room for a good private traffic on the Mozufferpore route. Latterly the local officers had promised more, and I have continued for some time past very distinctly to say that the need of the Tirhoot district exceeded the means of carriage on which we can rely, and that the local officers were simply to send forward as much as they probably could, any excess over my minimum demand being so much gain. Though they have held out hopes of more than the rate I have stated, still, looking to previous shortcomings, I had not ventured recently to calculate on more than 100,000 maunds per week by the direct routes. At this rate the supply would stand somewhat as follows:—

	Mds.
Despatched by Hr. Hewitt to end of January - - -	200,000
I put aside grain imported on advances as private traffic, but there is, in addition to the above despatch, imported by local dealers for Government - - - - - -	45,000
To be despatched in three months from 1st February to 1st May, say 13 weeks, at 1,00,000 maunds per week - - -	1,300,000
May be despatched in May, so as to be placed before the rains, say	300,000
Arranged by Durbhangah estate (a quantity which may be increased)	200,000
	2,045,000

This gives upwards of 2,000,000 maunds provided before the rains, exclusive of what I may call reserve side routes. These latter are the routes by Monghyr and the Ghugree rivers which are being tried, and the route by the Bhaugulpore district and Soopool, whence we propose to assist Tirhoot if we can supply anything in excess of the needs of Soopool. I fear, however, we cannot calculate on much from this quarter.

I would, however, make sure that we have in boats taken as far up the rivers as they can get a very considerable supply, which would be ready to go forward to Durbhangah and other points the moment the rivers open, and further supplies would be stored at the riverside stations. In this way I calculated on our being able to supply two millions of maunds (or half what Sir Richard Temple proposes) before the rains, and say another million of maunds in the early months of the rains if need be. If the rains are long delayed we can continue to cart; if they come early, our water arrangements would come into play early.

According to Sir R. Temple's statements it appears that the local officers now calculate on forwarding by local carriage much more than I had ventured to calculate on, that is, they have arranged to send forward 160,000 maunds per week. I can only say that, if they really can do so, I think they should. It will all be clear gain to get forward as much as we can as soon as we can. Now that we are a good deal relieved as regards our fears for some other districts, we can, I believe, supply for Tirhoot this amount of grain or rather the whole 200,000 maunds per week, at which Sir R. Temple puts the present demand. But when we come to the additional supply of another 200,000 per week from 1st April, by means of carriage to be obtained from the North-Western Provinces, I confess I have the greatest doubts of the practicability of the measure. I doubt if the railway could supply so much to Tirhoot with due regard to the needs of other districts. I still more doubt if the enormous supply of carts from the North-Western Provinces, which is calculated on, is a possible thing. I understand that Sir R. Temple has contemplated obtaining 20,000 carts from the North-Western Provinces. To carry 200,000 maunds per week would require at least so many carts of a description superior to the ordinary 10-maund carts of our districts. We must allow at least ten days for each trip; for more distant depôts a fortnight, besides an allowance for reserve, break-downs, and rest. I am not sure that we have ever in India put 20,000 soldiers into actual active moment in one field of operations at one time. An army of 20,000 carts brought from a distance, with bullocks and attendants and all, would be an astounding undertaking. Whence are they to come? How are they to be brought down? and where are men and bullocks to get food and provender and shelter? And if it were done, this would be for one large district alone, without calculating the needs of other districts. My own view is, that if from the neighbouring districts of the North-West Provinces we can get carriage sufficient to assist and secure the immediately adjoining districts of Chumparun and Sarun, we shall do very well.

For Tirhoot I am inclined to think that if local means can do all, or nearly all, that Sir R. Temple calculates on obtaining from them, we may be satisfied with that supply with only moderate assistance from the outside for special purposes.

6th February 1874. G. CAMPBELL.

No. 474.

From ARTHUR HOWELL, ESQ., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL.

Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

SIR, Calcutta, the 13th February 1874.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 300A, of the 6th instant, with enclosed note of the Lieutenant-Governor upon a minute by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the supply of food in the Tirhoot district.

2. These documents have been laid before the Government of India, and the Governor General in Council cannot but express the disappointment which he feels at the local officers having for so long neglected fully to appreciate the requirements of those parts of the country, and thereby occasioned the postponement to the present time of arrangements for transport which should have been made many weeks ago.

3. Although it may hereafter be found that the estimates now sent forward are somewhat in excess of the actual requirements, yet, bearing in mind that those estimates have been made by the local officers who are immediately responsible, and moreover, that subsequent information has been received to the effect that a considerable number of people in Nepaul may not improbably come upon the hands of the British Government, the Government of India think that Sir Richard Temple has exercised a wise discretion in recommending that four millions of maunds of grain shall be provided for the district of Tirhoot, and that arrangements should be made for the transport into the interior of a larger quantity, in order that the probability that part of the transport arrangements will break down may be guarded against beforehand.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor expresses some doubt as to the advantage of obtaining the supply of transport for which tenders have been called for from the North-Western Provinces. His Honor will be glad to hear that Mr. Molesworth has reported that a tramway can be constructed from Chumpta Ghât to Durbunga, and that orders have been given for the immediate commencement of the work. This may perhaps modify the views of Sir Richard Temple as to the requirements for transport after April, when the contracts contemplated will commence; but the Government of India desire to comply with the requisitions which Sir Richard Temple may make after visiting the localities and conferring with the local authorities.

5. From information given by Sir George Campbell to the Viceroy, His Excellency believes that the Government of Bengal have taken measures to comply with Sir Richard Temple's request, that 200,000 maunds a week should be sent from Calcutta for use in the district of Tirhoot.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) A. Howell,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 564—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,

Calcutta, dated 9th February 1874.

Minutes dated 1st and 5th February, by Sir R. Temple.
Note of points settled at Durbhangah by Sir R. Temple with the Commissioner of Patna.
Supplementary Minute by Sir R. Temple dated 6th February.
Copy of letter from the Bengal Government to the Commissioner of Patna.

I am directed to submit copies of the papers marginally noted received from the Patna division. Sir Richard Temple's orders and instructions, for the completeness of which the Lieutenant-Governor is very much obliged, have been communicated to the local officers. At the same time the Lieutenant-Governor has considered it right to draw special attention to the extreme urgency of some of the points Sir R. Temple has so properly taken up.

2. There is one point on which the Lieutenant-Governor desires to solicit that orders may issue and action may be taken at once, and that is in regard to the four miles of double line tramway required at Champta Ghât opposite Barrh. I am to solicit that, if the major scheme of a tramway from Champta Ghât to Durbhanga be set aside, immediate orders may issue for making and stocking with wagons (the latter is as important as the former) four miles of double line from Champta Ghât across the sands to such terminus as the local officers may direct.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 37, dated Camp Seeraha, the 5th February, 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., with Sir Richard Temple, on Special Service, to C. E. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am directed to submit copy of a minute (No. 10) recorded by Sir Richard Temple, reporting the state of affairs, and his proceedings in the Tirhoot district, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

No. 10.

Minute by the Honorable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I.

Having visited the sub-divisions of Durbhunga and Mudhoobunee, which in respect to relief operations will probably be the heaviest in the Patna Division, and where the brunt of the whole work will mainly fall, I have to record the following remarks in reference to the general instructions forwarded under cover of Government Circular No. 2678R of the 26th ultimo.

2. Both these sub-divisions will be fit places for carrying out the instructions in Rule I., Part I., for having more than one sub-divisional committee.

3. Under Rule 4, Part I., the Collector should be requested to state the places where he recommends such additional sub-divisional committees to be organized. I consider that there should be one such additional sub-divisional committee established in Alapore, the eastern part of the Mudhoobunee tract, and one at some point in the south-eastern part of Durbhungah tract. A selected civil servant should be appointed Chairman of each of these additional sub-divisional committees. Thus there would be four sub-divisional Committees in the two sub-divisions. If the Commissioner desires it, I will endeavour to obtain the services of any officer whom he may name. But it is essential that the officer should be specially selected for the duty.

4. The sub-committees mentioned in Rule 7, Part I., will be numerous in both these sub-divisions. I regard this as a matter absolutely essential to success. The area of each should be divided into circles. From the centre of each circle the radii should be from twelve to fifteen miles long, so that the officer resident at the centre should be able to frequently inspect every

village. The officers in question should be European if possible; failing that, however, a selected Native may be appointed. I apprehend that ten such circles will be required in Mudhoobunee, and twelve or thirteen in Durbhungah, inclusive of circles in which the sub-divisional committee might be situate. The determination of the exact number is left to the discretion of the Commissioner.

5. A selected European officer should be appointed on each circle, and house accommodation should be at once provided for him. In Mudhoobunee I see that houses belonging to the Durbhungah Raj, and other houses, may be available; and there may also be some available houses in the Durbhungah sub-division. But the Commissioner is authorized at once to cause such bungalows as may be necessary to be constructed so as to be ready by the hot weather.

6. The Commissioner is requested to see at once what staff of officers he has now available for these sub-committees. I shall be happy to apply for the services of any officer, civil, military, or uncovenanted, whom he may name as suited for this important duty.

7. I shall be glad to receive by early date lists of the gentlemen proposed for the sub-divisional committees and the sub-committees in both these sub-divisions, with the names of the places where their head-quarters are to be.

8. It will be the particular duty of the sub-committee to see to the persons described in in Part II., Rule 3, Clause *f.* I fear that many Tirhootea Brahmins will have to be included in this provision, but great caution should be exercised in admitting such persons.

9. I apprehend that in both these sub-divisions many localities will come under the provisions of Clause *g*, which authorizes the sale of food from Government stores. The Commissioner will authorize the Collector to declare the places where and the date from which these provisions are to come into effect. It will be desirable to postpone the date as long as may be safely possible.

10. The attention of each sub-committee should be directed to Clause *h*, which provides for establishment of relief centres in every village where severe distress may exist. It will be an essential part of the officers' duty to frequently inspect such villages, and see that all persons justly needing relief are relieved without any exception.

11. In conclusion I would impress on the local authorities that, in order to prevent loss of life in these two sub-divisions during the worst season, the organization of the sub-committees with manageable circles is absolutely necessary.

Camp Durbhungah, the 1st February 1874. R. TEMPLE.

COPY forwarded to S. C. Bayley, Esq., Commissioner of Patna, for information and guidance.

Durbhungah, the 1st February 1874. C. E. BUCKLAND.

Dated Camp Seeraha (Border of Chumparun and Tirhoot districts), the 5th February 1874.

MINUTE by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I.

Having left the district of Tirhoot and entered that of Chumparun, I desire to record the following remarks for the information of the Government of Bengal.

2. I have visited five out of the six sub-divisions of the very extensive district of Tirhoot, the Tajpore sub-division alone remaining unvisited; and I have had the advantage of meeting all the principal residents of the district, Native and European.

3. All the orders at present required, both as regards inland transport of grain and the formation of sub-divisional relief committees and sub-committees, have been given. But hereafter many supplementary orders will be required as matters advance.

4. The sub-committees throughout the Durbhunga and Mudhoobunee sub-divisions especially, and in part of Seetamarhee, will be numerous. For each sub-committee a European officer will be needed. Thus the staff of officers will require strengthening. Upon these points separate communication will be made. But I trust that only such officers may be despatched for famine work as may be selected for their aptitude. Indifferent men, if entrusted with such duty, will prove worse than useless.

5. I am highly satisfied with the district authorities generally in respect to relief business. They evince a zealous and intelligent appreciation of their duties, and merit the confidence of the local Government. To this, however, there is one exception regarding which I have written separately.

6. The presence of so large a body of indigo planters is a great advantage at the present time, both as respects the taking up of contracts for carriage and the distributing of relief. All the planters whom I meet give me cordial and unhesitating assurances that they will do their best to help in distributing relief among the villages with which they have connexion or relation.

7. The zemindars seem generally to be exerting themselves in the way of executing village works, tanks, and the like. I have suitably exhorted every zeminder whom I have met.

8. The Durbhanga raj has done something in the way of supplying grain and in executing relief works. But without any disparagement of its exertions, I do not consider that the raj has done enough as yet. I have impressed this view on the raj officers, and asked them to give large help in providing carriage, which I trust they will do.

9. The share which the raj has taken in constructing roads is very creditable. The raj Engineer, Mr. Stevens, deserves particular commendation.

10. The district generally is well provided with kucha roads, which is a great advantage at the present time. There is, and will be, difficulty in respect to drinking water for transport cattle along the main lines of road. But water, even in this year of deficient moisture, seems to be tolerably near the surface; so I hope that this difficulty may be remedied.

11. The cattle of the district are as yet in more than ordinarily good condition, having been fed on the stubble of the withered rice crop. The stubble has been largely stacked in most parts of the district. In some parts, however, I am informed that this precaution has been neglected by the people, and that some waste has occurred.

12. The European carriage contractors seem to think that their cartmen will be able to manage to scrape together fodder for the draught bullocks even in the hot weather. Looking to the uncertainty of this, and to the fatal consequences of a failure at the critical season, I am endearouring to lay in a large supply of reserve fodder at Patna.

13. The golas of grain depôts have been prepared all over the district, and the stocking of them with stores is proceeding rapidly. The eyes of the people seem to be much fixed on these depôts, and anxious inquiries are made as to when the stores will be opened. Every one who so inquires is told that the opening will be postponed so long as may be safely practicable.

14. The best informed opinions agree that the state and prospects of affairs are much worse now than in 1866 as regards the Durbhanga and Mudhoobanee sub-divisions, but better considerably as regards the Seetamarhee sub-division.

15. Several planters of long experience have told me that they had in the early part of the winter despaired of the safety of the lives of people. But when they hear of the arrangements which are being made by Government they express confidence, but also surprise, at the extent of the efforts. They however consider that nothing short of these efforts would suffice to save the district from serious mortality.

16. All European residents express confidence as to a sufficiency of carriage forthcoming. Notwithstanding that, however, I consider it most desirable to introduce a certain amount of carriage from the North-West Provinces, which I am accordingly endeavouring to arrange.

17. The native merchants and bankers of the district seem to me to be generally deficient in enterprise and public spirit. Few of them, however, are of sufficient calibre for large undertakings. The grain trade of the district has hitherto been one of export only; and it has not caused the growth of large local dealers. The Patna merchants buy up the crop from the producers. The producer sends the grain to Patna, where the merchants take delivery. Such is the description given to me. The large merchants might no doubt import now, if they were so minded; but they seem not to see their way to sending rice at a profit: they dread the cost of carriage and the distance of the localities, and they keep their grain at Patna.

18. The universal opinion in Tirhoot seems to be that neither the Patna merchants nor the Tirhoot merchants will or can supply in any large degree the wants of Mudhoobunee and Durbhunga and of the northern half of Seetamarhee. In the rest of the district (about two millions of population) the necessities will be on a more manageable scale; and there private trade will, I trust, do all, or nearly all, that is required. In the distressed tracts (somewhat over two millions of population) private trade will do a little, and the people certainly have stocks (though nobody can say exactly how much), and thus full fifty per cent. even of this section of the people may live without Government help. But the other half, numbering full a million persons, will be beyond the reach of trade, and will come in one way or other on the hands of Government. Such is the result of the best opinions, both official and non-official collated to the utmost of my care, and upon that basis the general arrangements are being framed. We cannot depend on the case being better than this. It may become worse of course; and with this view in all our arrangements we shall provide a margin for safety.

19. The consequence practically is, that we expect to import four millions of maunds of Government grain into the districts, and to insure its being carried inland without fail. We try to provide carriage for five millions. The programme of dates, despatches, and consignments is arranged with a view to the four millions of maunds being laid down in the distressed districts by the middle of June.

20. I think that zemindars may be induced to help their tenants to a large extent: also, that grain-dealers in northern borders of Tirhoot will take advances to obtain grain from Patna. They have been duly invited to do this.

21. I regret that I cannot gather much hope from the district officers of any extensive emigration from Tirhoot to Burmah. Their attention is however being given to the subject.

22. The temporary telegraph lines to the relief centres will augment our administrative power. I earnestly hope that the tramway northwards from Barr to Durbhunga and Mudhoobunee, which has just been sanctioned by Government, will prove feasible. If successfully constructed, it will be a great relief to carts and bullocks along the principal line of transport.

23. There will, I fear, be some difficulty about procuring rice in husk (paddy) for seed for next harvest in the distressed districts, I will write further as soon as I am able to arrive at a conclusion on the subject.

24. There has been recently a fall of rain, from half an inch to a full inch, in some of the northern parts of Tirhoot, in which parts the hopes of the people have revived. Some coarse and quick-growing crops are being sown on vacant rice lands wherever this rain has fallen. But there will be no germination unless a further fall of rain shall occur in a fortnight hence. If these inferior crops shall be raised, they will afford some relief from the middle of April to the middle of May.

25. I have not been much beset—not so much as might have been expected—by persons or crowds of persons complaining of scarcity. But hundreds of fresh applicants in many parts of the district are daily coming to the relief works. Though probably there will be no widespread distress for some little time to come, yet I am very apprehensive of individual cases of severe distress occurring in ever part of the district. It is difficult to be sure, of finding out these cases at this stage of affairs. I have, however, addressed a most earnest warning to all the civil officers in the district, and requested them to communicate this warning to all landholders, European and Native.

26. The transit arrangements under Mr. Hewitt at Patna will work well on the completion of the two branch railway lines to the right bank of the Ganges. The country boats for the river crossing will, I believe, prove efficient. The steamers cannot be relied upon by reason of defects in channel. The organization at the two principal ghats on left bank, Bunkur and Chumpta, is far from completed, but will be soon completed.

R. Temple.

Notes by Sir Richard Temple.

Memorandum of subjects settled, and instructions given by Sir Richard Temple, in communication with the Commissioner and Collecter of Tirhoot at Durbhangah.

1. Yes; this makes 1,60,000, which agrees with the 50,000, and the 1,10,000 in my minute of the 31st January.	1. The Collector of Tirhoot is to provide carriage from the resources of his own districts for 1,00,000 maunds weekly from Chumpta Ghât to Durbangah, and for 60,000* maunds weekly from Bunker Ghât to Seetamarhee. This is independent of what the Commissioner may be able to arrange for carrying from Monghyr, or by means of the Government carriage ordered. The work is to be done by contract as far as possible, and the agency of the police is to be in every way discouraged. * Since increased to 1,00,000.
2. Yes: this is most important. See my separate memorandum. I understand that Mr. Gale, the principal indigo planter in Mudhoobanee, and a large ticcadar in the Raj villages, has taken a contract for 30,000 maunds a week from Durbhangah to Mudhoobanee sub-division. The additional assistants in the Raj are agreed to.	2. The officers of the Durbhangah Raj are to provide for the carriage from Durbangha, of all the grain to be distributed into the interior of the Mudhubuni sub-division. For this purpose the manager is authorised to take on the services of two additional assistants at Rs. 300 a month each.
3. I have sent my recommendation to Calcutta on the 31st.	3. A tramway, if sanctioned, is to be laid down from Chumpta Ghat viâ Dulsingserai and Hyaghât to Durbhangah, and eventually to Mudhobuni.
4. Arrangements about Mr. Stevens approved; he is an excellent man.	4. The work is to be placed under Mr. Stevens, and to enable him to carry out his duties sufficiently, he is to be appointed Superintending Engineer of the special circle of Raj relief works and tramway roads.
5. The proposed establishment for him agreed to.	5. He should have under him for this purpose— 1 Executive Engineer } For tramway roads. } To be paid by Government. 2 Assistant Engineers } 1 Senior Assistants for Purneah roads } 3 Junior Assistants to be lent to the Raj and paid by the Raj for Raj relief works.
6. I have seen the place. The bund or dam should be put in hand at once. It will improve our water route at once; even if tramway should not be undertaken it will be essential to roadways. It will be a capital relief work.	6. He is to put a bund across the Koray for the tramway road, which it is hoped will also render available a water route viâ Rosrah to Hyaghât.
7. I concur in abandoning the Keray.	7. The water route viâ the Koosey, Telgoojah, and Korny is to be given up as it has proved a failure.
8. I have applied for Mr. Magrath's services accordingly.	8. The services of Mr. Magrath are to be applied for to the Government of Bengal, with a view of his being placed in charge of the Madhoobuni sub-division.
9. The digging out of old tanks along transport routes most essential for water supply. They will be capital relief works; see my separate memorandum.	9. Along all the routes of grain transport, old tanks wherever available are to be dug out, or new tanks or wells made. so as to provide a constant supply of water for transport cattle.

10. I have applied for the cotton seed to the Government, North-Western Provinces, and the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.	10. A lac of maunds of cotton seed is to be applied for from North-Western Provinces, and Central Provinces, and to be stocked along the transport routes.
11. Yes; most proper. The present will be a good opportunity for permanently improving the tanks of the district by relief labor.	11. Officers are authorized to deepen old tanks wherever necessary, to provide relief works, and to secure water for the cattle of the district.
12. Quite proper; I shall be glad to be furnished with names of all officers.	12. A responsible officer is to be placed in charge of each main line of grain transport to employ permanent gangs of laborers thereon and to be held responsible for its being kept in continual repair.
13. Yes; see my separate memorandum about Mudhubuni and Durbhangah relief circles. The immediate construction of the bungalows is authorized.	13. Relief centres are to be established in all the afflicted portions of the district; each centre to have a radius of about ten miles, and the sub-divisional officers are at once to construct temporary mat bungalows at each centre. It is estimated that twenty such centres will suffice for Tirhoot, and arrangements will be made for supplying an officer to each.
14. The cotton and puttooah have been applied for through Government North-Western Provices.	14. A supply of cotton for weaving, and puttooah for making string, will be applied for to be distributed in the villages for some relief work.
15 & 16. Quite approved; but I shall be glad to have names of the officers.	15. In addition to the transport arrangements already mentioned, the following instructions have been given. 16. A responsible officer is to be placed in charge of all the arrangements of each of the receiving stations of Bunker Ghât and Chumpta Ghât, and mat bungalows are to be put up at once for their accommodation.
17. Yes; I have officially addressed the Government of North-Western Provinces with this view.	17. Tenders have been invited through the North-Western Provinces' Government, for contracts to carry a lac of maunds weekly from each of the above ghâts into the interior.
18. I have arranged to make this up to 1,500 carts with bullocks.	18. A reserve of 1,500 carts with bullocks, is to be placed at the Commissioner's disposal in case of any failure of contractors' arrangements.
19. I agree to buy the 500 spare bullocks. Commissioner will please arrange.	19. A supply of 500 bullocks is to be bought at the Berhampore fair, and kept in reserve along the transport lines to assist the contractors in case of their cattle breaking down.

S. C. BAYLEY.

No. 41, dated Motiharee, the 6th February 1874.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, ESQ., on Special Service, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

With reference to my letter No. 37 of yesterday's date, submitting copy of Sir Richard Temple's minute No. 10 I am directed to submit copy of a further minute No. 12, which may be regarded as a supplement.

MINUTE by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 12, dated Motiharee, the 6th February 1874.

As a supplement to my minute, No. 10 of yesterday's date, I desire to add that I am highly satisfied with the condition, progress, and prospects of the local relief works in the Durbhanga and Seetamurhee sub-divisions, but not so as regards the Mudhoobanee sub-division. In Durbhanga, the Raj Engineer, Mr. Stevens, and the sub-divisional officer, Mr. Macdonnell are fully alive to the necessity of the case; the same remark applies to Mr. O'Reilly and Sergeant O'Farrell in Seetamurhee. Some relief works are planned in Alapur, the worst part of Mudhoobunee. The Commissioner and the Collector have proceeded thither, and also Mr. Anderson, the Executive Engineer of the new or northern division of Tirhoot, and I expect very shortly to hear of the relief works being set on foot there.

2. The formation of a new Public Works Division there will be very beneficial. There remains the southern, or Mozufferpore executive division, in which the signs of activity are less manifest.

3. I have ordered temporary bungalows to be immediately erected at every place where the European president of a sub-committee is to be placed. As there will be many such sub-committees in each of the distressed sub-divisions, several bungalows will have to be erected, while in several places accommodation already exists.

R. TEMPLE.

No. 563—S.R.

From the **Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal** in the Statistical Department, to the **Commissioner of Patna.**

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,
Calcutta, the 10th February 1874.

I am directed to forward copy of a minute dated the 5th February 1874, recorded by Sir Richard Temple after his visit to Tirhoot. The substance of the orders passed therein have already been communicated to you. I am at the same time to forward printed copies of Sir Richard Temple's Durbhangah minute of the 1st February, and of your note of the points on which Sir Richard Temple passed orders in communication with yourself. These copies will be convenient for communication to your officers.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor desires me to observe that, so far as the papers show, the officers of the Durbhangah estate have not as yet done fully their duty towards the people of the estate; and he hopes that they will at once exert themselves to open sufficient village relief works, to organize village relief through village agency, and generally to do the duty lying upon an opulent and powerful landlord. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to be able to say that Mr. Stevens, the Durbhanga Engineer, seems to have done his duty very fully, and to merit the special acknowledgments of Government.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that you and your officers are taking very early and energetic action upon that part of Sir Richard Temple's orders which concerns—

(*a.*) The collection of fodder on traffic routes;

(*b.*) The maintenance of really passable and serviceable roads and ferries on the grain routes. The enormous pressure of carriage (nearly one thousand carts a day) makes this a matter of the very highest importance;

(*c.*) The promotion of private importation from Patna by means of advances to petty dealers;

(*d.*) The methodical organisation of arrangements at Barrh, Futwa Ghât Station, Chumpta Ghât, and Bunkur Ghât. Where there is so constant a stream of traffic and so much loading and unloading, very strict and careful method will be necessary.

4. In regard to officers for relief centres, a telegram has to-day gone to you, and the Lieutenant-Governor has informed you that two more civil servants are expected from the North-Western Provinces. If need be, he will apply for additional military officers; and you are authorised to employ European factory assistants, or to appoint approved natives to be temporary Famine Inspectors on the footing of Deputy Collector or Sub-Deputy. The Lieutenant-Governor fears that he cannot send you many more European officers from Bengal, and he apprehends that ordinary Bengalees, unaccustomed to Behar, and of no special proved aptitude, would not be useful on work of this kind. Sir George Campbell is glad to know and to acknowledge that very many planters are offering their aid gratuitously to the relief committees.

5. With reference to Sir Richard Temple's supplementary minute of the 6th instant, a copy herewith forwarded, I am to observe that you have authority to procure for the two Executive Engineers of Tirhoot all the local assistance you can, and if the Public Works Department can give any more subordinates for Tirhoot, it will at once do so.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor desires me also to invite your attention to the condition of the relief works in south Tirhoot, and to inquire whether the Public Works Department arrangements there are sufficient.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Telegram dated the 12th February 1874.

From Sir R. **Temple**, Bankipore, to **Viceroy** and **Lieutenant-Governor**, Calcutta.

Just returned from Sarun. Revised estimate for Sarun two hundred and eighty thousand who will require Government assistance in some shape or other for three and a half months. This makes instead of that given in my telegram of second February. Found seventy thousand labourers employed on relief works. Rubbee saved from disaster by recent rains, but still very deficient. Revised estimate for Chumparun four hundred thousand, same as stated in telegram of second. Am sending full official report about Sarun by post. I leave this for distressed tracts in North-eastern Tirhoot and adjoining portions of Bhaugulpore district on Saturday the fourteenth.

No. 572.—S.R.

From the **Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal** in the Statistical Department, to the **Deputy Secretary to the Government of India**, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,
Calcutta, dated 10th February 1874.

I am directed to submit copy of a minute recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the threatened scarcity in that part of Nepal which lies below the Himalayas, and to the north of the British districts of Tirhoot and Chumparun. The Lieutenant-Governor has not seen Mr. Girdlestone's report of the 1st February, and he feels unable to advise any particular course until he knows more exactly what the threatened tracts are, where they lie, what is their population, and what their condition. He can, therefore, only submit Sir Richard Temple's minute for the orders of the Government of India.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor desires, however, to add that, though at the beginning of the scarcity there was some alarm about Nepal and the demands its people might make on the resources of our districts, yet recent reports from Tirhoot and Chumparun have contained no suggestion that considerable quantities of grain have been carried from North Behar into Nepal. On the other hand, the last Tirhoot narrative stated that above 200,000 maunds of maize had come from the Nepal Terai into Seetamurhee, but that the importation had now stopped. From some other quarters fear has been expressed that exportations to Nepal might affect the food supplies of North Behar, but as above stated, the official reports do not give any facts or opinions in support of such an apprehension.

3. On the general question of assisting the Nepalese, the Lieutenant-Governor would submit his opinion that we cannot, on relief works, or at relief centres, or at relief hospitals, make any distinction between British subjects and people from Nepal, but we must treat all who come for aid alike as well as we can.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Minute by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., No. 11, dated Motiharree, the 5th February 1874.

The Resident at Nepal (Mr. C. Girdlestone), having forwarded to me copy of his letter No. 27 C, of the 1st February 1874, addressed to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, regarding the impending scarcity in the Nepalese Terai districts which march along with British territory, I desire at once to state my view on a matter which may at any moment become urgent.

2. On approaching the northern frontier of the Tirhoot and Chumparun districts, I was concerned to find that between our border and the Terai there is generally some narrow strip, of varying breadth, of Nepal territory, with villages much in the same circumstances and condition as the distressed British sub-divisions. I do not know what the population of the strip may be, but I see that in one sub-division of it, Jaleysur, the Resident puts the population at 225,000 souls; and possibly the adjoining sub-division of Sirha may have a similar number. Thus it may be that in contact with our distressed people we shall have half a million of equally distressed Nepalese. This circumstance constitutes an aggravation of our difficulties, which must be met.

3. On the civil officers' inquiring whether Nepalese subjects applying in our territory for work or relief must be treated in the same manner as British subjects, I replied that they must.

4. But the larger question remains; How are the Nepal authorities to get grains which they may purchase in India conveyed upwards from the northern or left bank of the Ganges? Of course they may get carriage locally if they can. But practically they can hardly do so, when all available carriage is engaged for our grain transport. In this way I apprehend little or nothing will be done.

5. One thing the Nepal authorities could, I should think, do, which is this: Their distressed strip of territory has resources in carts and bullocks. They could collect such carriage and send it down to the left bank of the Ganges to fetch grain. The British authorities would give due protection to such convoys, deputing officials to take care of them, so that the carriage might not be detained or seized for other purposes. Even this plan, however, would not probably bring all the grain that might be needed.

6. Therefore, I think we must be prepared to let the Nepal authorities have a portion of the grain supplies which we shall be sending to the north part of Tirhoot, on payment of the cost which may have been incurred in purchase, transport, and the like, by the British Government. I should be happy to arrange this in negociation with the Resident of Nepal.

7. It will be found that we cannot properly refuse succour to the distressed people beyond our frontier, who cannot obtain supplies save through British jurisdiction.

8. Also if any starving or sick Nepalese present themselves at our hospitals or relief-houses, we must, I think, admit them.

9. At the same time I think that the Resident would do well to impress on the Nepalese Government, the wrong and the mistake they commit in prohibiting free trade in grain between their districts and ours.

R. Temple.

No. 462.

From Arthur Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Sir, Calcutta, 12th February 1874.

I am directed to acknowlege the receipt of your letter No. 572 of the 11th instant, with enclosed minute from Sir Richard Temple, regarding the threatened scarcity in that portion of the Nepal territory which borders on Tirhoot and Chumparun.

2. In reply I am to inform you that the Governor General in Council has been in communication with Mr. C. Girdlestone, the Resident in Nepal, on the subject of the assistance which may have to be rendered to the Nepalese Government to meet the distress which is apprehended in the above-mentioned districts.

3. The Government of India have offered the Nepalese Government 1,000 tons of rice at cost price, but, as Sir Richard Temple very truly observes, the difficulty lies mainly in arranging for its transport from the Railway to Nepal. Mr. Girdlestone has accordingly been directed to place himself in communication with Sir Richard Temple, and in his communications with the Nepalese Government to be guided by the instructions that he will receive from him.

4. The Government of India entirely concur with the Lieutenant-Governor and with Sir Richard Temple that no distinction should be made between British subjects and subjects of Nepal if the latter should apply for relief in British territory, and that we should do what we can to assist the distressed people beyond our border with supplies. No interference, therefore, should be permitted with the free transit of food grains on private account from British territories into Nepal.

5. At the same time it is the obvious duty of the Nepalese Government to provide as far as possible for the relief of their people, a duty which from the information received from Mr. Girdlestone, that Government seem entirely to recognize.

6. As the arrangements will be carried out by Sir Richard Temple in communication with Mr. Girdlestone and the Nepalese Government, no further orders can with advantage be given by the Government of India. I am to request that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will furnish Sir Richard Temple with a copy of this letter.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) A. Howell,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

Statement showing the Quantity of Rice, distinguishing between Table and Common, exported to the under-mentioned countries from the Ports of Calcutta and Chittagong in the four months from the 1st October to 31st January in each of the official years 1873–74 and 1872–73.

Countries to which Exported.	From 1st October to 31st January.							
	1873–74.				1872–73.			
	Table.	Common.		Total.	Table.	Common.		Total.
		From Calcutta.	From Chittagong.			From Calcutta.	From Chittagong.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British Indian Ports -	2,877	919	4,449	8,245	8,491	10,596	4,440	23,527
Ceylon - - -	127	4,227	Not distinguished.	4,354	16	12,188	Not distinguished.	12,204
Mauritius, Bourbon and W. I. Islands.	1,168	33,312	19,884	54,364	634	32,388	32,202	65,224
Other foreign ports -	19,213	21,465	379	41,057	10,173	47,232	213	57,618
Total - -	23,385	59,923	24,712	108,020	19,314	102,404	36,855	158,573

Note.—No Table rice exported from Chittagong.

R. B. Chapman,
Secretary.

No. 476.

Government of India.

Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

To the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Sir, Fort William, the 13th February 1874.

As the Central Relief Committee will act in communication with the Government of Bengal, the Government of India wish to make some observations upon the subject of its action and functions, and upon the general conduct of relief operations.

2. The Government of India does not wish to interfere in any way with the discretion of the Central Committee in the allotment of funds to the different Local Committees; but in the exercise of the general supervision over District Committees, which, under the rules agreed to at the meeting of January 24th, was delegated to the Central Committee, His Excellency in Council thinks that it is essential that care should be taken lest any instructions to be issued by the Central Committee should clash with those issued by the local authorities, upon whom the responsibility of relieving distress will devolve.

3. His Excellency considers that unity of control and distinct responsibility are essential to the success of measures for the relief of distress when applied to a large area of country, such as North Behar. The whole force of the administrative machinery of Government, largely increased from its ordinary strength, must be directed to the transport and distribution of food. The responsibility for ensuring a supply of food to those who cannot obtain it by other means must rest with the Commissioner of the Division and the local officers charged with this duty by him.

4. His Excellency is, therefore, of opinion that the functions of the Central Committee, when dealing with such areas of country as North Behar, should be mainly confined to the collection of subscriptions, and to arranging for the supply of food or money to District Committees; that the supervision to be exercised by the Central Committee over the District Committees should only be of a general nature; and that it would be undesirable that the Central Committee should issue detailed instructions for the relief of distress. These details must, in His Excellency's opinion, be very much left to the discretion of the District and Sub-Divisional Committees under the direction of the local officers, who must necessarily possess more complete knowledge than can be attained by any body, however zealous and efficient, acting at a distance from the actual scene of operations.

5. His Excellency does not doubt that the Central Committee will take this view of the subject, but he thinks that it is desirable to prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding arising.

6. It will probably be undesirable that the Central Committee should purchase grain except from Government stores, and any arrangements as to price will be made that may be considered equitable and proper by the Committee.

7. In connection with this subject, and with reference to an observation contained in a note written by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor on Sir Richard Temple's Minute in respect to the provision of supplies in North Tirhoot, I am to observe that where distress, as is the case there, arises from a general deficiency of the food-supply of a large area of country, which deficiency cannot be met by private traders, stringent labor tests are not applicable. The labor test was tried during the earlier portion of the Irish famine; it failed, and ultimately gratuitous distribution of cooked food was substituted. It was under the latter system, coupled with the sale of grain at market rates by Government where private traders could not supply it, that the Irish famine was at last successfully dealt with. The circumstances in India are not entirely similar, but it appears to His Excellency that where they differ, the difference would point to an extension of the system of gratuitous distribution of food, and especially to the establishment of a system of advancing supplies of food to cultivators. When distress extends to whole classes of the population, His Excellency relies upon the local knowledge of the persons entrusted with the distribution of relief to prevent abuses.

8. This subject is one of very great importance. The provision of employment for the laboring population upon public works was directed—and in His Excellency's opinion properly directed—at the outset of the period of scarcity as a preliminary and precautionary measure, so that the means of providing themselves with subsistence might be afforded to the laboring population, and to the smaller cultivators who were not altogether unaccustomed to labor for hire. This application of public works has been proved to be sound by the experience of former periods of scarcity in India; but any system of relief by public works becomes impracticable when applied to a very large proportion of the population of a country. In order to apply it under those circumstances unprofitable work must be found simply as a test by which to prove that the persons applying for relief are proper objects upon which to bestow it. Any application of such a test upon the scale that would be necessary in dealing with North Tirhoot would, in His Excellency's opinion, inevitably break down, and, moreover, by congregating cultivators at centres for the purpose of giving them employment, entail not only considerable hardships upon the people, but, as was found to be the case in Orissa, more serious evils.

9. These observations are by no means intended to imply that wherever useful work can be found, whether of a public or of a private character, advantage should not be taken of it as affording a most valuable aid to the general system of relief, but they have been made for the purpose of preventing the Relief Committees from considering the universal application of a rigid labor test to be recommended by Government.

10. I am to request that a copy of this letter may be furnished to the Central Relief Committee, to Sir Richard Temple, and to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. Howell,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

AND

THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN COUNCIL,

RELATIVE TO

THE FAMINE IN BENGAL.

PART II.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 12 of 1874.

Government of India.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To His Grace the Right Honorable the Duke of Argyll, K.T., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Duke, Calcutta, the 20th February 1874.

We have the honor to transmit the eleventh special narrative of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal for the fortnight ending the 19th instant.

2. Your Grace will observe that the narrative confirms the reports which we gave in our despatch of the 13th instant, and that there is little to be said in addition to that despatch. Her Majesty's Government will learn with satisfaction that although severe distress is anticipated in many parts of the country, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal reports that it has been met and relieved, up to the present time, effectually.

3. The reports from Sir Richard Temple of the requirements of the Bhaugulpore Division and for the south of the Patna Division have not yet been received.

4. The estimate of the quantities of grain required for the distressed districts given in the 26th paragraph of the narrative cannot as yet be considered to be more than approximate. The supplies required are within our means, and we have already, in former communications, explained our ability to enlarge our arrangements for the provision of rice if we find it necessary.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor appears to have entertained some apprehension of the supplies of Government grain in Calcutta being insufficient; there is, however, no ground for such an apprehension. The great increase in the supplies required for Behar in consequence of Sir Richard Temple's requisitions has taxed, to the utmost the powers of the local officers, of the railway and of the contractors employed in unloading vessels as they arrive in port, and it is to be expected that some temporary obstructions may occur to prevent the uninterrupted flow of the large quantities of grain which have now to be conveyed from Calcutta. But every effort is being made by those in charge of the several parts of the transport arrangements to ensure success. To obviate any delay in the working of the transport from Patna to North Tirhoot and Chumparun, we have authorised the Commissioner of Patna to buy in the local market, where supplies are now plentiful, sufficient grain to keep the carriage in full work, should the arrival of grain from Calcutta be temporarily delayed from any cause.

6. The report of the price of common rice in the Purneah district occasioned us some anxiety. The Lieutenant-Governor has noticed the subject in the narrative, and we have since ascertained by telegraph from the Collector that the price has somewhat fallen, and is now ten instead of eight seers for the rupee.

7. Your Grace will observe that the correspondence given in Appendix I.* of the narrative is not complete; it will be completed next mail. The estimate of the famine expenditure summarised in para. 41 and contained in Appendix L.* has

* Page 41.

* Page 46.

not yet been examined in the Financial Department, and cannot consequently be accepted as conveying our views upon the subject. As regards the correspondence in Appendix K.* as to the action of the Central Relief Committee, we have invited the Lieutenant-Governor, accompanied by the members of the Committee, to attend a Conference on the 21st instant, in view to the settlement of such further questions as were not finally disposed of in our letter No. 476 of the 13th instant forwarded to Your Grace last mail.

* Page 43.

8. We have been informed by telegram from the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces that the last week's report is most favorable for the whole Province, and that prospects are decidedly brighter in the eastern districts.

9. As we observe that considerable notice has been attracted by a work written by Dr. Hunter, entitled "Famine aspects of Bengal Districts," we enclose a copy of our Resolution* of the 14th January on the subject of its circulation.

* Page 114.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
B. H. ELLIS.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

ELEVENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF THE DROUGHT IN BENGAL FROM THE 5TH TO THE 19TH FEBRUARY 1874.

Weather and rainfall.

DURING the week ending the 11th February the weather continued to be very variable at the beginning of the fortnight. Rain fell over and above what was recorded in last Narrative to some extent in Bengal, and slightly in parts of Behar, and some days later there was another fall in parts of Bengal. About the 9th February the weather cleared in Behar, where it has since been clear and very seasonable. But it was not till the 12th to 14th that the weather cleared up in Bengal. The meteorological registrar to Government writes of Calcutta, that "up to the 14th of February, the weather generally "close and cloudy, and the wind easterly. Rain fell on several days and was "general over the country. At Calcutta nearly 4 inches were registered between "the 1st and 14th, making, with what had fallen in January, a total of 4·69 inches "since the beginning of the year. The average quantity for the same period is one "inch. The clouds cleared away on the 14th, after a thunder-storm, accompanied "by some hail, and a cool land wind set in from north-west, and has continued "steadily in that quarter, bringing a return of the cold weather and clear cloud-"less skies."

It was specially fortunate that from the 9th February, or thereabouts, the weather in Behar was clear and dry; for sunshine was greatly wanted to bring out the full good done by the rain of the beginning of February, and to ripen the more valuable of the spring grains. In Bengal, where there is but little wheat and barley, and where the spring rice (borodhan), small millet (cheena), and root crops are of much importance, the continuance of damp weather till the 14th did rather good than harm. Very little hail fell, indeed its appearance was chronicled only in parts of Nuddea, Rungpore, and Mymensing; no hail is reported from Behar, where its coming was chiefly feared. The rain fell in a soft and beneficial manner—eminently beneficial to all crops in tracts where there were crops to be benefited. The rainfall of Bengal (central, western, and eastern) ranged from 2 to 5¼ inches during the first fourteen days of February, and averaged quite 2½ inches over the whole of Bengal proper; while in Behar, where excessive rain would have done much harm, the total fall averaged about an inch and a half.

Price of grain.

2. Notwithstanding the beneficial rainfall recorded in last Narrative, and the general improvement in the state of the crops on the ground, and in the prospect of the crop to come, there has been a general though not very great rise in prices during the fortnight. The only exception is the Rajshahye division, over almost the whole of which there has been some slight fall in prices. In some places high prices are attributed to the difficulty of

getting grain to market owing to the rain. The prices now quoted in the principal districts compare with those quoted last fortnight as follows :

	Number of seers sold for a rupee.	
	On 31st January.	On 14th February.
Burdwan	14	13
Beerbhoom	12⅜	12
Hooghly	11 & 12	10 & 10½
Calcutta	12½	10½
Dinagepore	13¼	14
Maldah	11¾	12½
Backergunge	16½	13½
Chittagong	18	17
Noakhally	17½	16
Patna	12	13
Shahabad	13	11¾
Tirhoot	10	10
Chumparun	11¾	11¼
Bhaugulpore	12⅝	11¼
Lohardugga	15½	16
Maunbhoom	15½	14½

There has been a rise in the exporting districts of East Bengal, and the rise has been felt in the Calcutta market, where, according to the reports of the Chamber of Commerce, the demand for export has been less brisk. Purneah is the only district whence very high prices are quoted, and there the price of common rice has risen to 8 seers per rupee. From the published prices current (see enclosure No. 2) no general rise in the price of maize and the lesser millets is apparent, except in the Sonthal Pergunnahs. Some of the narratives, however, say that the supply of these grains is being exhausted. The very high price in Purneah does not seem to have driven people to the relief works, nor is any general severe distress reported from that district as yet. Either the people must be busy with their spring crops, which promise well and are fairly abundant in Purneah, or they must be in better circumstances than ordinary Behar ryots.

Supply of grain.

3. The supply of grain at all the large marts is fairly sufficient, except in the worst tracts of North Behar, where it is difficult to get grain in either large or small quantities at the prices quoted. In South Behar and in parts of Purneah private trade in grain is active, and a good deal of grain moves from place to place. The imports of grain into the Patna and Shahabad districts continue to be very large. About 1,000 tons of private grain a day comes into Behar by railway from the north-west, and about 500 tons a day go up from Calcutta into Behar. The private grain carried into Behar is thus about 1,500 tons a day from both ends, or equal to 45,000 tons (12,50,000 maunds) a month, provided the private imports continue at this rate.

Exports of grain.

4. The total export of grain during the fortnight from Bengal ports to places beyond the sea was, so far as returns are available, 17,355 tons. The extreme activity of the export trade seems thus to have somewhat lulled. The total exports of food-grains from Bengal, from the 1st November 1873 up to date, has been 143,333 tons, and 163,035 tons from the 1st October. Since the scarcity began, Government importations (reckoning what is still in the river and has not yet been taken over) have been 69,900 tons from beyond the sea. Private importations of grain during the same period have now risen to 8,557 tons, of which the bulk came during the month of January. The usual note upon the movement of food-grains will be found at Appendix A.*

* Page 18.

Condition of the people.

5. The condition of the people everywhere, except in the very distressed parts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, Bhaugulpore, Dinagepore and Maldah, may be said to be somewhat more hopeful than it was, according to the information received since the submission of last narrative. The rainfall which, though somewhat late, did immense good, has improved the crops and revived the drooping spirits of the people. From nearly all districts, it is reported that the people have been enabled to prepare their lands for next crop, or to sow the quick-growing though precarious millets which are so much eaten by the poor, while in several Bengal districts the boro or early spring rice-crop has

already been sown. The fear of a water-famine has disappeared for the present, and, so far as the reports show, the cattle are as yet in very good case. Even from the bad parts of Sarun, Purneah, and Monghyr, where distress and need for relief has been for some weeks felt, there would seem to be some temporary improvement in the condition of the people; at any rate famine does not seem in those tracts to be nearer than it was a fortnight ago, though the number of laborers, especially of people of the middle classes, has on the Sarun relief works very greatly increased, and want is felt by people of the outcast tribes in south Monghyr.

In the worst parts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Bhaugulpore, on the other hand, the condition of the people is perceptibly worse than it was a fortnight ago. In Tirhoot vagrancy, begging, and crime is increasing; child desertion has begun; signs of want and suffering can be seen on persons who come to the relief works, and occasional visits to out-of-the-way villages show that the women and children are in places suffering severely from want. From the worst part of Chumparun it is reported that even the ryots will soon be without food supplies, while the condition of the lowest classes is said to be in some places very nearly approaching absolute want. Against these very bad reports may be set the fact that distress is being met and relieved effectually everywhere. In Sarun nearly 70,000 people are employed on the relief works of one kind and another. Charitable relief has begun in Chumparun and Monghyr, and is being commenced in Tirhoot, Purneah, and Maldah. As yet no cases of real starvation are reported, but some ascertained cases of death from sickness caused or intensified by insufficiency of food are said to have occurred. It seems to be a prevalent opinion that if Government relief works had not been opened thus early, and if Government had not imported grain, there would have been very much misery, and there might have been starvation before now. From Dinagepore the Magistrate is able to report that, after a tour through the worst parts of the district, he did not "come across any instances of actual want, that is, of a person without "food or the means of obtaining any."—(See enclosure No. 5.*)

* Page 76.

The rain there was heavier, and has done more good than in North Tirhoot, and the ryots are richer and better able to tide over very hard times. The careful inquiries made by the district Magistrate during his tour bear out the previous reports that over very large tracts of Dinagepore there had been very little rice crop, and there is hardly any spring food-crop in those parts of the district till the spring rice comes in. The Magistrate found the condition of the people had "become on the whole worse in the bad parts and better in the less distressed "quarters." From limited parts of Maldah, also, it is reported that distress is already much felt, that owing to the absence of rich residents local charity does not suffice, and that in the north of the district some hundreds of people are in receipt of relief from the charitable funds collected at the district head-quarters.

On the whole it may be said generally, as Mr. Lowis has said for Dinagepore, that in the very distressed tracts want is intensifying into famine; while in the districts, where there was a less complete failure and cold-weather crops were sown, the crops and the prospects of the people are in better condition than they were a fortnight ago. The scarcity is becoming more and more localised.

Sir Richard Temple's work in Behar.

6. Sir Richard Temple's deputation to Behar has borne much good fruit, and the result of his operations will be noticed before proceeding to the ordinary topics of the Narrative. It was stated in the last Narrative that he had inspected the principal grain-receiving stations of the East Indian Railway, made some short stay at and inspected Patna and the stations for receipt and despatch of grain, and that he had gone on into the most distressed parts of Tirhoot. He has since visited the more distressed parts of Tirhoot, he has travelled into the furthest and most distressed parts of Chumparun, has been through the worst parts of Sarun and Patna, where he met the Bhaugulpore officers. He has now gone back to visit again and arrange relief measures in north-east Tirhoot and the Bhaugulpore sub-division of Soopole, where suffering is said to be already upon some classes of the people.

* Pages 19 to 27.

Tirhoot district.

7. In Appendix C.* will be found copies of the minutes in which Sir Richard Temple summarises his views regarding the three districts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun. He found the condition of the people in the three northern sub-divisions to be bad; he accepted the estimate of the local

officers, that nearly one-half the population of these tracts (or close upon one million of people) would be upon the hands of Government. He considered that to supply them four millions of maunds (about 148,000 tons) of Government grain would be required before the rains, and that arrangements ought to be made for five millions of maunds so as to provide against misadventure. He sanctioned arrangements whereby local contractors were to carry 2,00,000 maunds (about 7,400 tons) a week into the north-east of Tirhoot; he called for tenders from the North-Western Provinces to carry a further amount; and he very strongly urged the immediate construction of a tramway from Chumpta Ghât (opposite the Barh station of the East Indian Railway) to Durbhanga, and beyond Durbhanga into the Madhobanee and Setamarhee sub-divisions. The proposed line of tramway has been examined by Mr. Molesworth, the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, who recommends that a light railway to be worked by engine-power should at once be laid down from Chumpta Ghât to Durbhanga, a distance of 44 miles. The Government of India has ordered the work to be taken in hand at once on the metre gauge; the roadway to carry the line will be put in order by Mr. Stevens, the Durbhanga Engineer; a full staff of engineers, platelayers, and subordinates has been ordered down from the Delhi State Railway; they are to be ready to take the field at once; material is being sent up to Barh, and nothing is left undone that can secure the early completion of the line. The Lieutenant-Governor has instructed the Commissioner so to arrange the carrying power of the country as to lift the railway material promptly, with as little hindrance as may be to the grain transport along the route which the railway takes.

8. Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 5th February* shows the orders he has given for organizing relief committees in the distressed parts of Tirhoot. The most afflicted tracts are divided into circles containing about 100 square miles of country; at a convenient site in the middle of each circle a temporary house is being erected, whereat is to be lodged the European officer charged with relief operation, who will be responsible for constantly inspecting and relieving all the villages of his circle. For some of the circles the entire superintendence of relief operations will be entrusted to planters, who have liberally and cordially offered their services for the work.

* Page 20.

The Lieutenant-Governor has fully accepted and acted on all Sir Richard Temple's arrangements for Tirhoot. He had only doubted whether relief on so very liberal a scale was within the means of Government, and no doubt if the estimates for other districts had been at all in the same proportion as that for Tirhoot, the quantity of grain required would have been far larger than that for which the Government of India has yet arranged, and larger than the Railway could transport to the neighbourhood of the distressed country. The estimates for the other districts being, however, more moderate, the quantity required for Tirhoot may be supplied from Calcutta and the North-Western Provinces together, if we can only manage sufficient transport into the interior. Now that the distress becomes more localised, we can do more for the specially distressed tracts than could have been done if there had been a more far extending need for large relief. The population of the most distressed tract of North Behar, in the districts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Bhaugulpore, is about three and a half millions (say something more than the population of Orissa) for whom it is proposed to provide about six millions maunds of grain, say 225,000 tons. It may possibly not be beyond the means of a great Government to feed such a population.

9. From North Tirhoot Sir Richard Temple travelled along the Nepal border, and then turned southwards into Chumparun; he visited the district head-quarters, the sub-divisional station of Bettiah, as well as the remote and very distressed pergunnah of Ramnuggur. He expressed satisfaction with the arrangements which had been made. He found that relief works were abundant and well managed; that the grain transport operations were well forward, and that a good deal of most useful relief had been administered by Mr. Thomas Gibbon, now agent to the Bettiah Rajah, whose good service has been previously brought to notice. Sir Richard Temple found that the condition of the extreme north of Chumparun was very bad, but that to the south of the district matters were much better, and he accepts the estimate of the local officers

Chumparun district.

that on an average about 217,000 people will be in one way or another on the hands of Government for eight months or 400,000 in the worst times. He estimates that one million maunds of grain will be required for their relief; and he has accepted the arrangement under which 50,000 maunds of Government grain per week are being sent up to Patna for despatch to Chumparun. He found that the local carriage contractors would probably be able to fulfil their engagement to carry this amount weekly as there was an abundance of carts in the district. Sir Richard Temple expressed his belief that water-carriage by the Gunduck river, though a resource of some importance when the snows melt and the river rises a little, was not secure enough to warrant the abandonment of land-carriage. The Lieutenant-Governor has accepted all Sir Richard Temple's plans for Chumparun, and has suggested that, if the spring crops turn out well, Chumparum might draw some supplies from Oude and the North-Western Provinces, *viâ* Durowlee ghât on the Gogra. Arrangements for the administration of charitable relief, similar to those described in the next preceding paragraph, were made by Sir Richard Temple for North Chumparun; and the latest Chumparun Narrative (see enclosure No. 3*) shows that the Ramnuggur relief houses may open with a large attendance of paupers.

* Page 72.

Sarun district.

10. Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 12th February on the Sarun district will be found at Appendix C.* He considers the condition of Sarun to be much less critical than Tirhoot or Chumparun, though even in Sarun there are tracts where, owing to a succession of bad years, the people are very badly off, and much relief will have to be given. Sir Richard Temple found that the Sarun arrangements for meeting and relieving distress by means of works were good; and he noted that nearly 70,000 persons, many of them women and children, were employed on the relief works (public and private) on the 10th February. He ascertained that private importations into Sarun were going on to a considerable extent, and that the local traders there were much more active than in either Tirhoot or Chumparun. He accepted the local officer's estimate that about 200,000 people in Sarun might be upon the hands of Government, and that 500,000 maunds of Government grain, besides 180,000 maunds provided by the Hutwa estate, would be required for the relief of the people. He arranged that out of this a supply of 5,000 maunds daily should be sent from Calcutta to Arrah (in preference to the routes hitherto followed), whence it could be crossed over into and distributed throughout Sarun. Carts for the transport of grain within the district were plentiful. The measures arranged by Sir Richard Temple are being carried out, and 5,000 maunds of grain have been despatched daily to Arrah since the 12th February.

* Page 23.

Distress in Nepal.

11. As he travelled along the Nepal frontier, Sir Richard Temple's attention was directed to the distress among the people across the Tirhoot border. It appeared that there was risk of grave distress there, and Sir Richard Temple suggested that the Government should help the Nepal Durbar to import food for their distressed subjects. The Lieutenant-Governor, when submitting the question to the Government of India, expressed his opinion that distressed Nepalese should be received at our works, relieved by our charity, and treated at our hospitals just as British subjects, and that no distinction could be made between applicants for aid, on whichever side of the border they happened to dwell. The Government of India accepted this view, and at the same time offered the Nepal Durbar 1,000 tons of Government rice at cost price, provided the Nepalese would carry it away from the Patna railway. Sir Richard Temple's minute and other papers on the subject will be found in Appendix E.*

* Page 35.

12. The subject of advances to ryots was discussed in previous Narratives (see Appendix F to the tenth Narrative). The matter has again been considered, and the orders of this Government (see Appendix F.* to the present Narrative) provide that advances of money, grain, or seed are to be made liberally to ryots on Government estates and Wards' estates, that every effort is to be used to make such advances through zemindars or on their responsibility, and that in any case where zemindars will not be answerable, or where ryots can offer no security, either advances of money and grain may be made by the Relief Committees (under part II, clause f. of the instructions), or special report must be made in order that Government may, in case of absolute necessity, undertake the duty which the landholders, for special reasons, are unable to perform.

* Page 36.

Medical aid for relief centres.

13. At Appendix G.* will be found a minute by Sir Richard Temple upon the number of medical officers and medical subordinates which will be required in the Patna division. From the report of the Medical Department and the Lieutenant-Governor's orders thereon, it will be seen that two surgeons are under orders, one for Tirhoot and one for Chumparun, that 25 native doctors have either arrived or are about to arrive in the distressed districts, that 25 more are under orders to join, and that the Lieutenant-Governor has asked for a reserve of 15 native doctors. The requisite complement of compounders and the necessary supply of medicines is also being furnished for each relief hospital or dispensary.

* Page 37.

Fodder for transport.

14. Sir Richard Temple's orders and requisitions for fodder from the North-Western Provinces will be found in Appendix H.* Experiment is to be made whether rice-dust, which is available from Burmah, can be usefully imported for feeding cattle. Arrangements are also made and making for carrying fodder and for sending spare carts and cartwrights along with each train of carts, for maintaining the traffic routes in order, for putting up bridges-of-boats, and for promptly paying the carters where large contractors are not employed. The rates of hire for carts have also been raised considerably on most of the cart routes.

* Page 40.

15. With a view to increasing the efficiency of the cart trains, Sir Richard Temple has applied for the services of a Veterinary Surgeon and two assistants to look after the bullocks on the cart routes; and the suggestion has been submitted for the favorable consideration of the Government of India.

Bhaugulpore division.

16. Sir Richard Temple has not yet reported what supply of Government grain he considers to be required for North Bhaugulpore and Purneah. But he expects that the despatches hitherto made will have to be largely increased, and he has proposed to buy and to hire further means of transport from the North-Western Provinces. A late telegram from Mr. Hankey, however, informs the Lieutenant-Governor that he hopes to provide a sufficiency of carriage from local resources.

General distribution of Government grain.

17. It will have been seen from the foregoing paragraphs that Sir Richard Temple has, with the utmost activity and energy, visited the more distressed tracts of the Patna division. He has discussed with the local officers the condition of affairs on the spot; he has decided all questions as they arose with a promptitude and clearness which the Lieutenant-Governor cannot sufficiently acknowledge.

Private trade in the South Behar districts.

18. The Lieutenant-General hopes that it may not prove necessary very largely to increase the allotments of Government grain for South Behar; he trusts that these comparatively accessible districts may be supplied by private trade. The late rains have secured a good spring crop in the North-Western Provinces and most parts of Oudh; there is every prospect of another abundant harvest in the Punjab; 1,500 tons of grain per diem are being brought into Behar by private importers; everybody is agreed that the Patna dealers have now got large stores of grain which they hesitate to carry into North Behar. If Government refrains from further importations into South Behar, except for the bare supply of laborers on works, and for occasional charitable relief, and if the carriage of these districts is left sufficiently free for private trade, we may, it is hoped for the present, leave the main supply of those districts to private trade. If matters unhappily grow worse, these districts are accessible, and the Government can at the end send up more grain for their relief. In the papers at enclosure No. 5* will be found an account of the arrangements which the Magistrate-Collector of Monghyr is, wisely as the Lieutenant-Governor thinks, making to leave full room for the operations of private trade.

* Page 77.

Despatches of Government grain from Calcutta.

19. The total despatches of Government grain from Calcutta during the fortnight have been 6,10,379 maunds, of which 1,01,813 maunds were for the Rajshahye division, and the rest was for Behar. The total quantity of Government grain sent into the distressed districts up to date has been over 26,00,000 maunds, or close upon 100,000 tons. Now that so much Government grain is coming into Calcutta, and the transport arrangements in the district are more complete, a much greater strain is being put upon the East Indian Railway, which carries supplies to Behar.

During the last three weeks the railway has not been able to carry away daily all the grain which the Government wished, thus—

	The Government notified its wish to send off daily from Howrah.	The railway succeeded in carrying away daily.
	Mds.	Mds.
Week ending 1st February	33,428	25,572
8th	34,714	30,946
,, 15th	60,000	about 38,000
,, 22nd	66,000	week not finished.

The railway have thus been able greatly and steadily to increase the supply of wagons for the Government grain; but still has, as yet, been unable to work up to our requirements, and as yet 52,000 maunds (about 1,900 tons) a day is the most it has taken in one day. The Lieutenant-Governor would wish to be able to send away up to 3,000 tons a day, and has recommended (see Appendix I.*) that if necessary engines and wagons and drivers be borrowed from other lines of railway. The officials of the East Indian Railway have promoted the Government grain traffic in every way that they can, and some of their difficulties formerly arose from the delay in unloading wagons at up-country stations. The East Indian Railway, moreover, is doing a very large private trade, and is carrying about 2,200 tons of grain, seeds and general goods from Allahabad downwards for private parties, besides an unusually brisk private trade from Calcutta. The Lieutenant-Governor's letter to the Government of India, and the notice of daily despatches of Government grain for the current week, will be found at Appendix I.* There was some fear, moreover, whether the supplies of Government rice available in Calcutta for immediate despatch would suffice to maintain the high rate of despatches required; in fact for the last three days the despatches from Calcutta have been less than should have been owing to paucity of grain available for despatch. On this point, also, the Government of India was consulted. The despatches have certainly for some time past verged very closely on the limit of the supplies, but it is believed that larger supplies will soon arrive from Burmah. The Government of India has promised to consult with the railway authorities, and to take such steps as may be required, and the railway Agency has promised to try henceforth to carry away 2,500 tons of Government grain daily, and to attempt more if the Government officers can unload and carry it away from the railway stations. Already grave inconvenience has occurred because the despatches of grain to Patna at the beginning of the current week were insufficient to employ all the carriage which the contractors had provided. There is no doubt or difficulty about the Eastern Bengal Railway's carrying away for Government as much grain as need be sent by that line.

* Page 41.

* Page 43.

Transport across the Ganges.

20. Almost all of the very distressed tracts are on the north of the Ganges, while the railway stations are on the south, so that most of the Government grain, directly it is unloaded from the railway wagons, has to be put across the river. Beginning at the highest station on the river, 5,000 maunds a day is ferried across punctually, and without any hitch whatever, in native boats from Arrah for the supply of the Sarun district. From the new siding at the river-side below Patna 20,000 maunds a day can be ferried over partly by a steamer and two flats, but mainly by native boats. At present there are plenty of native boats, and there is no hitch. It is feared that when the March winds blow, native boat ferries will become tedious; and unhappily the river may then be too low for river steamers to work across. Effort is being made to deepen the channel and to arrange for sending steamers of less draught to Patna. The Barrh ghât station has only just been opened; 16,000 maunds a day are to be sent thither, and ample steamer power is under orders for the ferry. The river is deep and the banks are good; report has just been received that the Barrh ferry station and arrangements are in complete order. The Monghyr station despatches of Government grain had been stopped for two or three weeks, owing to a block of private or rather Court of Wards' grain. But they will soon begin again, and there are sufficient native boats to carry from 2,000 to 3,000 maunds a day across to Khagareah on the lesser Gunduck. From Sultangunge and Bhaugulpore, whence grain is crossed over for north Bhaugulpore, 4,000 maunds a day have been steadily ferried over in native boats, and the railway stations are reported to be clear from time to time. From Colgong 6,000 maunds a day is ferried over to Caragola by native boats, and the Superintendent of Police in

charge of the service has asked that 8,000 maunds a day may be sent to him, as he can cross the whole of that quantity during the present favorable months. From Sahebgunge to Caragola the railway carries over daily 4,000 maunds. For the ferry which serves the road from Rajmehal to Dinagepore, a steamer, one flat, and native boats fully suffice to carry away the 1,000 to 1,200 maunds daily despatched by cart to Dinagepore. At Kooshtea two steamers and four flats are engaged in ferrying rice from the Eastern Bengal Railway station; and there is also an abundance of native boats, which, however, take a very long time (about a day for every eight miles) in beating up the Ganges to Godagaree and Rampore Beauleah. The arrangements at Kooshtea are able to put across over 3,00,000 maunds (about 11,000 tons) a month, and would do more if Government required. From Goalundo Government grain is sent by steamers up to Kaligunge in Rungpore, and to Shahazadpore in Bograh; and a small amount of grain is despatched weekly from Goalundo up the Burrul, and by water into the south of the Dinagepore district. Thus far, therefore, the ferry arrangements are ample. The Commissioner of Patna has, however, applied for three more steamers with flats to work the Barrh ferry, where a quantity of railway material will have to be crossed for the Durbhanga railway. The Government orders which form enclosure No. 7* show that the Lieutenant-Governor has arranged for complying with these demands. * Page 110.

Carriage into the interior, Patna Division.

21. The arrangements for carting grain into the interior have, in the Patna Division at any rate, been expanded so as to deal sufficiently with the very much larger importations of Government grain now going forward. For the Tirhoot district, arrangements have been made with large contractors who engage to carry 200,000 maunds weekly (or upward of 1,000 tons a day) into the interior; the rates of hire are very high, being seven annas (close upon one shilling) per ton per mile, or three pie per maund per mile. A similar contract has been made for carrying 50,000 maunds into North Chumparun, and 50,000 maunds are being carried weekly into Sarun. Sir Richard Temple has found that these transport contractors have begun well and are working regularly. Other reports show that the grain is cleared away from the Behar stations as rapidly as it arrives. For the interior of Patna, Gya and Shahabad, and for the Soane Canal Works, the available carriage is very ample for the conveyance of all the Government grain allotted to those districts. But during the last week or so some of this carriage must have been lying idle, as the railway could not carry up enough grain to supply all districts. At enclosure No. 8* will be found the Lieutenant-Governor's instructions to district officers to pay full demurrage for all carts and boats that are detained, so that none of the available carriage may be dispersed. * Page 111.

Bhaugulpore Division.

22. In the Monghyr district the grain stores are comparatively near to the railway; and every maund of Government grain that has yet been sent for Monghyr has been carted away as it arrived, and is now in store. The carriage arrangements of North Bhaugulpore and Purneah have now been very carefully inspected by Mr. Hankey, who found some want of organisation, has given orders for setting right, and has stayed to see those orders fully carried out. The latest news from Mr. Hankey is that he has nearly arranged to raise the despatches to North Bhaugulpore to 50,000 maunds per week, to the full extent required. From Caragola hitherto only 4,000 maunds a day have been carted into the interior; but here, too, the carrying power is being enlarged.

Rajshahye Division.

23. For the interior of the Rajshahye division the carriage arrangements which, during the absence of Messrs. Molony and Robinson in the further part of this division did not go on so well as could have been wished, are being much improved and expanded, not yet fully developed. The traffic of these districts in ordinary years is *down* the rivers during the rainy season. During the present dry year the rivers are very low, and at the best of times boats travel very slowly *up* the rivers of the interior. The beds of the Mahanuddy and of the Atrai are being improved, shoals are being removed, and a certain amount of Government grain is going up these streams; but the transport is slow and insufficient, and the district officers have for some time turned their attention more and more to the land routes, and have been organising trains of carts. The distressed parts of Rungpore, Bogra, Maldah and Rajshahye are happily near to the Berhampooter and the Ganges, and they can be supplied with certainty. But Dinagepore is the most distressed district of all; it requires from 6,00,000

to 10,00,000 maunds (37,000 tons); and the latest reports show that only from 35,000 to 40,000 maunds a week are going forward. Perhaps Dinagepore may be able to draw a part of its supplies through Purneah, but the Lieutenant-Governor does not wish much reliance to be placed on that source. He has arranged with the Commissioner and the local officers to increase largely the rate of transport towards Dinagepore. Already in answer to this call report has been received that on one cart route the daily despatches and the carrying power will be doubled before the 1st March.

* Page 110.

Small steamers.

The Lieutenant-Governor has, with the approval of the Government of India (see papers in enclosure No. 7*), arranged for building four small steamers in Calcutta, which will be ready during the end of June, and will be able to run on the inland rivers directly the rivers rise. The Government of India is endeavouring to bring round from Coconada one or more of the large steel steamers and flats (120 feet long and only 18 inches draught) which run on the Godavery; two of the lower Godavery steamers are already on their way to Calcutta. An indent for 10 more steamers of the same type (about 80 feet long and 2 feet 10 inches draught) has been sent to England for the Government of India; the steamers, or as many as can be sent, will come in pieces and will be put together in Calcutta. And it is hoped that by improving the river beds, and with the help of steamers, the full tale of the Dinagepore supplies may be made up at the beginning of the rainy season. When the inland rivers rise, all the afflicted tracts of Rajshahye will become very accessible. Meanwhile as much grain as can be sent by land will be pressed forward, and the rest will be stored at or near the mouths of the rivers which will after June be the routes of supply.

Small bags for packing grain.

25. From many districts representations have been received that the two-maund bags in which Government grain comes are too large for convenient handling in the interior. It is, moreover, impossible to load two-maund bags on pack-bullocks. The Lieutenant-Governor, too, feels that we must look much to eventually distributing the Government grain by head-loads, using the people themselves to bring their own supplies; and it is certain that ordinary coolies cannot conveniently carry even one-maund bags for any considerable distance. He has, therefore, arranged that all the Bengal jails shall manufacture for the Government use 30-seer (61 lb.) bags instead of one-maund (82 lb.) bags; and he hopes to get more than 150,000 of these small bags made every month. The Government of India have been asked to consider the subject, to contract for the supply of some hundreds of thousands 30-seer bags a month, and to arrange that future supplies of Government grain shall come in small bags of this size; and reply has been received that, so far as possible, and as small bags can be supplied, future consignments of rice will be packed therein. It is proposed to supply a quantity of empty 30-seer bags to the relief committees of each very distressed tract, so that they may send out grain to small relief centres in these bags, which can be returned and refilled as often as occasion may require.

* Page 27.

26. In Appendix D.* will be found Sir Richard Temple's minute regarding the arrangements for the supply and transport of grain for the relief of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Bhaugulpore, with a note of the Lieutenant-Governor thereupon and the orders of the Government of India; the Lieutenant-Governor's orders regarding requirements of the Rajshahye division.

The estimate of the quantities of grain required for the relief of the more distressed districts have greatly risen; and at present the estimated requirements up to date stand thus:—

	Quantity of Government grain required.	
	Mds.	Tons.
For Tirhoot—		
As per Sir Richard Temple's estimate accepted by the Government of India - -	40,00,000	148,000
For Chumparun—		
As per Sir Richard Temple's estimate -	10,00,000	37,000
For Sarun—		
As per Sir Richard Temple's estimate -	5,00,000	18,500

	Quantity of Government grain required.	
	Mds.	Tons.
Southern districts of the Patna division and the Soane Canal works— As per this Government and the local officers' estimate; perhaps Gya may be found to require more - - - - -	5,00,000	18,500
Bhaugulpore district— Separate estimates not received, but following the scale adopted in Tirhoot, there will probably be required at least - -	7,00,000	25,900
Monghyr district— Has already received 1,50,000, and whatever more may be required can be delivered at any time. Say in all - - -	3,00,000	11,000
Purneah district— As yet 2,50,000 maunds have been allotted. But the requirements on the North Behar scale will probably reach - - -	5,00,000	18,500
Rajshahye division— As estimated by this Government on the statements of the local officers (see enclosure No. 5) 16,75,000 maunds, but say - -	15,00,000	55,500
Total - -	90,00,000	332,900

If the transport arrangements prove sufficient to carry all that Sir Richard Temple proposes, then the reserve left from the grain already provided by the Government of India will be very small, and will not suffice to meet the demand for a reserve of 20,000 tons which the Lieutenant-Governor requested might be kept to meet the possible necessities of the eastern districts, where there may perhaps be an undue depletion of stocks so as to make it difficult for private trade to supply the north-eastern district, where the failure of crops has been so great. If we find that we can carry to the distressed districts all the quantities shown above, and if they are all required, the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that the Government of India will be able to arrange for still further supplies from the abundant harvest of Burmah, and so to provide a reserve for Bengal necessities.

Relief works.

27. The fortnightly returns of laborers employed upon relief works are now submitted (see enclosure No. 9*), complete for the first time. These returns do not show the laborers employed on relief works executed by the Court of Wards, and such works in Tirhoot, Sarun, and Bhaugulpore are very considerable. It will be seen that the total of laborers employed in Sarun on the last day of the fortnight was only 57,000 according to the table in enclosure No. 9, while the Magistrate in his narrative (enclosure No. 3*), puts the total at over 68,000. In round numbers the total number of laborers on the relief works according to the latest advices, may be put down at—

* Page 112.

* Page 70.

Patna Division - - - - -	120,000	people.
Soane Canal works - - - -	32,000	„
Gunduck embankments - - - -	9,500	„
Bhaugulpore Division (inclusive of Khurruckpore works) - - - - - -	19,000	„
Rajshahye Division - - - - -	24,000	„
Burdwan Division, Nuddea and Chota Nagpore -	6,000	„
Northern Bengal Railway - - - -	3,000	„
Total -	213,000	„

In Bhaugulpore, Purneah and Chumparun, a large per-centage of the work-people belong to castes which do not usually take to field labor. In Sarun two-fifths of the laborers are men, while three-fifths are women and children. A great many people are employed also on tanks and irrigation works executed by land-holders with the help of advances from Government; on single works of this kind 200 and 300 people are often employed. Armies of ryots who would otherwise be in distress for themselves and their cattle, are receiving wages and employment in the transport of Government grain. The districts where relief works as yet draw but very few of the people are Purneah and North Bhaugulpore. The Lieutenant-Governor has directed very careful inquiries on the spot, with a view to ascertaining whether work is really and readily available in these tracts; whether the people are sufficiently and punctually paid, and whether there are any other administrative shortcomings in the management of the works. In Dinagepore, which marches with Purneah, people flock to the works, and thus the fewness of the Purneah laborers is the more remarkable. If it turns out that all the relief arrangements are really as they should be, and if the people neither come to the works nor starve, then we may hope that Purneah is, despite the grievous failure of the rice crop, better off than had been feared.

Apparent unpopularity of relief works in some districts.

28. It has been definitely settled that village tanks and such like works may under certain conditions be re-dug, or dug as relief works where other useful works may not be available. In Appendix E. of the last narrative the recommendations of the Lieutenant-Governor on this subject were given, and these have now been sanctioned by the Government of India (see enclosure 4*). In a previous narrative it was stated that there had been special difficulty about providing suitable relief works in South Monghyr. The Commissioner has now, during his visit to the spot, arranged for sufficient works, and has been able to educe a great deal of liberality from zemindars who are opening relief works at several points. In Sarun and Tirhoot such works are also being actively carried on, and Sir Richard Temple has authorised them in abundance.

Tank and irrigation works.

* Page 74.

The Irrigation Department was unable to give, on the papers and the information hitherto available, a final opinion upon the scheme for leading an irrigation channel behind the Gunduck embankment in the Sarun district; and so Colonel Gulliver, the Chief Engineer of Irrigation, has been deputed to Behar to inquire and decide on the spot whether this work (which will cost two lakhs of rupees for earthwork and two lakhs for masonry, &c.) can be undertaken with any certainty of its being remunerative, or of its eventually being worked into the greater project for irrigating Sarun from the Gunduck. Colonel Gulliver will, at the same time, examine certain other lesser schemes for joining together a series of reservoirs which stretch across the Chumparun, and for training the little Gunduck so as to save the Mozufferpore station.

29. In the Burdwan Division the most noticeable feature is the export going on from all parts concurrently with much failure of crops. The inference is, that the cultivators have grain, but this will probably grow much dearer as the season advances, and the laboring and landless class will suffer. It is to be feared that in many parts of this division, where the people have been already reduced by fever, charitable relief will have to be very extensively given. This may specially be looked for in the district of Burdwan itself. The reports of most of the sub-divisional officers are here gloomy, though the Magistrate does not himself apparently take so serious a view of things, and the Commissioner who has just specially visited the district under the Lieutenant-Governor's order takes a similar favorable view. The Lieutenant-Governor has directed that the necessary organization for charitable relief should be at once elaborated. The Maharajah of Burdwan has, with the liberality which has always distinguished him, formed a relief department for his estates with centres at Burdwan, Culna, and Chinsura. The whole cost of its operations will be borne by him, and he has intimated his readiness to do anything else that is necessary for charitable purposes. The Maharajah is only in this repeating what he did in 1866. No material change has taken place in Bancoorah, Beerbhoom, and Hooghly. Advances for land improvements have been very freely taken. Arrangements for works have been made, and the Commissioner has been pushing on the preparations for charitable relief centres. In Midnapore a scheme of district works has been sanctioned, which is believed to be well adapted to the necessities of the affected tracts, and as the Magistrate is of opinion that there will be a deficiency of grain in the wilder tracts, he has been allowed to make advances to zemindars and others to enable them to store.

Burdwan Division.

30. In the Chota Nagpore Division the district of Maunbhoom has benefited like other parts by the rain. Exportation is still going on, and it is anticipated that from this cause and the consequent dearness of food the poorer classes may suffer more than they would otherwise

Chota Nagpore Division.

have done. The Commissioner has recommended the storing of 50,000 maunds of Government grain at Burrakur. At present it is impossible to give this, as the railway cannot carry more than it is necessary to pour into the more distant parts of Behar. Fortunately, however, the parts of Maunbhoom where the grain may be required are near the rail and the Grand Trunk Road, and can be supplied at short notice if real need arises. A credit of a lakh of rupees has been granted for advances to zemindars and others for the purchase and importation of grain, while the tolls levied at the Burrakur bridge have been suspended as regards grain proceeding westward. There is an ample provision of works in this district, and the people go readily to them. Rs. 22,540 have also been taken as advances for land improvements, chiefly tank and petty irrigation works.

In Palamow it has been arranged to store 30,000 maunds of grain. The local zemindars have undertaken to bring 20,000 maunds of this from the neighbouring markets of Lohardugga, which are well supplied, and the rest will be sent by return coal and timber carts from the Soane depôt at Dehree. Work is here, as elsewhere in this division, provided in abundance.

In Singbhoom the villagers have undertaken a series of tanks and small irrigation works, of which Government will pay half the cost from the Government Estates Improvement Fund, and a system of village roads has been devised connecting the country markets. With these, and advances given for the storage of grain, it is hoped that the wants of this district have been sufficiently met.

Nuddea and the 24-Pergunnahs.

31. In the Presidency division the two districts affected are portions of Nuddea and the 24-Pergunnahs. As regards Nuddea, it is only in a few thannahs of the district bordering upon Moorshedabad that any special distress is considered likely to occur. The Commissioner, who has just visited Nuddea and knows the district well, reports that parts to the north of the district will require careful watching, but for the rest, the district is better off than it was in 1866. Work is provided for all who need it, and sums aggregating over Rs. 32,000 have been applied for as advances for land improvements. 1,900 people are employed on the district relief works, and many hundreds more on the works which are being opened by planters and zemindars for the relief of their ryots and for the improvement of their estates. The district stocks are believed to be good, save in the tracts above referred to, and the condition of the people generally is fair, though high prices will press severely on the poorer classes. In the 24-Pergunnahs there are some symptoms of distress in a part of the Satkhira sub-division bordering on the Sunderbuns, which is dependent for its crop on river floods, which were this year wanting. The rivers here are ordinarily brackish, and the cultivators have suffered, not only from want of the usual overflow of sweet water, but also from short supply in their tanks. Roads are being put in hand to give employment to the laboring class, and the Lieutenant-Governor has sanctioned the extension to the district of the relaxed rules for the grant of advances for land improvement. Government will pay one-third the cost of any works found really useful for water-supply.

Irrigation Department Works.

32. The daily average number of laborers on the Soane Canal works fell, in consequence of the rain and cold, from 36,000 to 32,000 during the fortnight under review. The laborers are in good case and draw their supplies from the neighbouring bazars. The Superintending Engineer has, however, intimated his intention to open the Government grain stores to workmen at places where the price of common rice has fallen below 10 seers per rupee. Of the Gunduck embankments in the Chumparun district the Irrigation Department writes: "the number of laborers "thronging to the works has been daily increasing. * * * At present 6,000 "is the average number employed." In last fortnight's narrative (paragraph 25) the number was 680. On the lower embankments in the Sarun district the daily number of workpeople has risen during the fortnight from 1,438 to 3,500. In the Burdwan division two other channels for leading the Damoodah water into the beds of old rivers have been lined. The great success of a similar work in the Kana Nuddee was reported in last narrative. 725 people are employed daily on an undertaking for the improvement of the head works of the Kana Nuddee.

Northern Bengal Railway.

33. The latest reports of progress from the Northern Bengal Railway are not very recent. There were then about 3,000 people on the works, and any quantity of work was ready for all comers. Bricks are being burnt on the lower lengths. The Government grain is being

delivered and stored along the line. The Government of India has passed preliminary orders upon the estimates, has called for further detailed information, has promised to expedite the supply of material from Europe, and has at the same time given full authority to the engineers to proceed with so much of the work as can help to relieve distress. The Superintending Engineer, Major Lindsay, wrote recently that, unless work-people came in much greater numbers, he would not be able to complete the railway bank all through from Nattore to Julpigoree, as he had hoped to do. Save in parts not specially distressed labor is not abundant. The completion of the bank this season is of special importance, because if it is thrown up before the rainy season, the engineers will be able to see exactly the effect of their bank on the drainage of the country, and to decide upon the waterway required. Accordingly, the Lieutenant-Governor has authorised Major Lindsay, if the time for completing his bank begins to run short, to import laborers from other distressed districts.

Central Relief Committee.

34. The proceedings of the public meeting of the 4th February, at which a central relief committee was appointed, will be found at enclosure No. 10. The subscriptions to the Calcutta fund have reached Rs. 2,50,000, which, with the 10,000*l.* already collected in London, makes a total of 35,000*l.* subscribed up to the present date. This is exclusive of the sums raised in the distressed districts, which sums will be spent by the relief committees of those districts, accounts and reports of such expenditure being furnished to the central committee. The detailed instructions which were to be issued by the central committee (see part IV, rule 2 of Appendix G. to the tenth Narrative*) have been framed by the central committee and submitted to Government; but they are to be finally settled at an early meeting of the executive committee, when Mr. Schalch, the chairman, will state the results of his recent conference with the Commissioner of each of the distressed divisions. The very distressed tracts are to be divided into small circles of about 100 square miles each, at the centre of which will be stationed a trustworthy officer of the standing of Deputy Collector, who will be responsible for finding out distress and relieving it in every village of his circle. Sir Richard Temple desires that as many as possible of the relief officers for Behar should be Europeans, and effort is being made to find fit men in sufficient number. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that for Maldah and Dinagepore, where the language and people are familiar to them, selected Bengalee officers will make efficient superintendents of relief circles.

* Page 131.

Scheme of charitable relief.

Functions of Central Committee.

35. The Government of India has intimated that it will be undesirable to burden the central relief committee with directing the details of charitable relief, as the Commissioners of Divisions are responsible for directing the district officers.

Copies of the correspondence of the Lieutenant-Governor's instructions under which the Government of India orders were communicated to the central committee and to the officers of distressed tracts, will be found in Appendix K.*

* Page 43.

Labour test.

36. The Government of India has further expressed its view that, in tracts where distress is keen and general, the "labor test" must not, and in practice cannot, be strictly applied to applicants for relief; and has pointed out that the Irish famine was in the end successfully relieved by importing grain and distributing it through the local dealers. It may here be mentioned that the Government of India has accorded to the Lieutenant-Governor discretion to sell Government grain to the public through local dealers, in places where private trade may be insufficient or non-existent, and where the Government grain stores can bear so heavy a drain. The question of selling Government grain was first raised by this Government at the beginning of January on a representation from Mr. Robinson of Dinagepore. From Sir Richard Temple's minutes, and from the local officers' reports, it would appear that the Government grain stores may eventually have to be thus opened at places in the north of Chumparum, of Tirhoot, of Bhaugulpore, and of Dinagepore, where private trade does very little for the supply of the vacuum in the food stocks. Copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's orders regarding the exercise of due discretion in this matter, with extracts of the correspondence, will be found at enclosure No. 11.*

* Page 112.

Charitable relief actually begun.

37. Meanwhile active distribution ef charitable relief has been begun in parts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, Monghyr, Purneah, and Maldah. By the last accounts the daily number of persons in receipt of charitable relief was less than 2,000. The completion of the organization

of the relief circles is being pressed, though, except in the tracts above mentioned, distribution of such relief is happily not yet required. The Lieutenant-Governor has, however, pointed out (see Review of the Patna Narratives, enclosure No. 3),* that even though abundant relief works may suffice for all able-bodied people, yet there must be many poor creatures who, from age and infirmity, are unable to work, and who will, in times of scarcity and dearness, suffer much, and for whom charitable relief must certainly be provided.

Advances to private persons.

38. The total advances taken by private persons for purchase of grain was by the last accounts not much over six lakhs (60,000*l.*) Applications for loans for land improvements are being made in large numbers; but the unavoidable enquiries into questions of rights and security have taken some time, and as yet but few loans have been actually paid out. In view of these delays the Lieutenant-Governor anxiously considered whether he could propose or authorise the disbursement of part of an advance before the requisite enquiry had been completed. He came to the conclusion that, for the present, it would be inexpedient to do so. But he has sanctioned several additional executive officers for the prosecution of the necessary enquiries, and has invested some fifteen selected district and sub-divisional officials with powers of a Collector under the Land Improvement Act. Care has been taken that these powers shall be exercised subject to the control and within limits set by the Collector of the district in each case.

Increase to district staff.

39. More than thirty extra civil officers of different grades have been posted to the distressed districts for relief work. Still more are on their way, and the officers of other districts and divisions have been informed that the Government trusts to them to work short-handed, so that they help their brother officers in Behar and Rajshahye in bearing the heavy work now devolving upon them. The Government of India has sent twelve civil servants drawn from the North-Western Provinces, Bombay, and the Central Provinces. Some of them have already done very good work; one, as Sir Richard Temple points out, holds efficiently the very important post of relief officer at Ramnuggur, in North Chumparun.

Employment of military officers.

40. At paragraph 30 of the last Narrative, it was stated that certain officers of the Quarter-Master-General's Department had been posted to famine districts. Several junior officers of the same department have now been sent to work under Colonel McGregor. The Commissioner of Patna reports that these officers, acting under Colonel McGregor's orders, are of the greatest assistance in controlling and directing the transport operations, and in prospecting for new routes. In the Bhaugulpore Division, Captain Grant, also a skilled officer, has already, in concert with Mr. Hankey, done much to improve and systematize the Bhaugulpore carriage arrangements. Of Captain Ker's work in the Rajshahye Division, report has not yet reached Government; but from the alacrity with which he took up his duty, the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt he will do good service. Major DeKantzow is spoken of as having begun specially well. The Government of India has been good enough to promise the services of eighteen more military officers to superintend relief operations.

Estimate of total famine expenditure.

41. During the fortnight under review the Lieutenant-Governor submitted to the Government of India an estimate (see Appendix L),* so far as it was possible to frame one, of the total expenditure to be incurred on relief operations during the present famine. The estimate published by the Government of India (namely, three millions sterling) has been taken as the first cost in Calcutta of the 340,000 tons of Government grain which have been provided. The items of the estimate are as follows:—

	£
Special temporary establishments - - -	50,000
Promotion of private trade in grain - -	150,000
Relief work expenditure - - - - -	1,000,000
Purchase and transport of Government grain -	4,445,000
Charitable relief apart from the supply of grain -	100,000
Government grants-in-aid to private relief works -	50,000
Advances for purchase of grain and for land improvements - - - - - -	500,000
Total - -	6,295,000

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* Page 53.

* Page 46.

From which may be deducted probable recoveries—

	£	£
By sale of Government grain - -	1,445,000	1,945,000
Re-payments of advances - -	500,000	
Probable net expenditure - -		4,350,000

This estimate presumes that there will be a favorable season, and that good harvests will be reaped by the end of September or beginning of October 1874.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 19th February 1874.

Appendix A.

1. Last return showed that the total export of food-grains to places beyond Bengal for the four months ending on the 31st January 1874 had been as follows:—

	Tons.
From Calcutta - - - - - - -	103,454
„ Chittagong - - - - - -	32,376
„ Orissa - - - - - - -	7,665
Total -	143,495

The figures, as regards some of the out-ports, were partly obtained by telegraph, but they have been generally corroborated by the regular returns.

The export beyond Bengal from Calcutta for the first 17 days of February was 13,796 tons. From Chittagong for the first 14 days it was 5,291 tons, and from Balasore 453 tons. The other returns have not yet come in. The total exports so far as ascertained are thus 163,035 tons from 1st October, and 144,333 tons from 1st November to date.

The import of food-grains to Calcutta from places beyond Bengal has, according to the Custom House returns, been as follows:—

	On Private Account.	For Government.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
In October - - - - - - -	2	0	2
„ November - - - - - - -	1,652	2,064	3,716
„ December - - - - - - -	1,834	9,646	11,480
„ January - - - - - - -	5,071	23,533	28,604
Total -	8,559	35,243	43,802

The Collector of Customs believes that much of what is entered as private grain is really consigned to private firms on Government account, and the returns of the officers of the Government of India show much larger arrivals for Government, which may be accounted for partly as above, and partly because, in the statements submitted to the Government of India, much grain is treated as arrived which is in ships coming up the river or on the river, and which has not yet been entered in the Custom House returns. The whole matter will, it is hoped, be cleared up for the next narrative. It is understood that as calculated by the Government of India officers' in the above manner, 69,680 tons of Goverment grain have reached the port from places beyond Bengal up to date. The Custom House returns for the first seventeen days of February show a total import of 16,607 tons, most, if not all of this, being for Government.

2. The despatches of rice from Howrah by rail to stations above Rajmehal on Government and private account, between the 4th and 17th February were 730,800 maunds or 27,066 tons. From the beginning of October 129,451 tons of rice have gone up by rail, of which 62,260 tons was Government, and 66,191 private grain.

The railway carried into Behar from above Mirzapore 547,341 maunds, or 20,271 tons between the 25th January and 14th February, making 69,520 tons since the 1st of November last.

During the month of January 96,959 maunds, or 3,591 tons of food-grains, chiefly wheat, reached Howrah from Behar.

3. Between the 4th and 17th February 609,471 maunds of food-grains (22,574 tons) came into Calcutta through the eastern canals, making 127,472 tons since the 1st October.

4. The traffic on the Ganges is still trifling, the registering station at Sahebgunge showing in the first fortnight of February 46,769 maunds or 1,732 tons going up, and 18,537 maunds or 686 tons going down. At Goalundo, during the same period, 80,300 maunds or 2,974 tons were registered going up, and at Kooshtea 11,865 maunds or 439 tons passed down.

A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

The 19th February 1874.

Appendix C.

No. 37, dated Camp Seeraha, the 5th February 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., with Sir Richard Temple, on Special Service, to C. E. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am directed to submit copy of a minute (No. 10) recorded by Sir Richard Temple, reporting the state of affairs, and his proceedings, in the Tirhoot district, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

No. 2.

Minute (No. 10) by the Honorable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I.

Having visited the sub-divisions of Durbhunga and Mudhoobunee, which in respect to relief operations will probably be the heaviest in the Patna Division, and where the brunt of the whole work will mainly fall, I have to record the following remarks in reference to the general instructions forwarded under cover of Government Circular No. 2,678 R of the 26th ultimo.

2. Both these sub-divisions will be fit places for carrying out the instructions in Rule I, Part I, for having more than one sub-divisional committee.

For Instructions to Relief Committees, see page 131.

3. Under Rule 4, Part I, the Collector should be requested to state the places where he recommends such additional sub-divisional committees to be organized. I consider that there should be one such additional sub-divisional committee established in Alapore, the eastern part of the Mudhoobunee tract, and one at some point in the south-eastern part of Durbhungah tract. A selected civil servant should be appointed Chairman of each of these additional sub-divisional committees. Thus there would be four sub-divisional Committees in the two sub-divisions. If the Commissioner desires it, I will endeavour to obtain the services of any officer whom he may name. But it is essential that the officer should be specially selected for the duty.

4. The sub-committees mentioned in Rule 7, Part I, will be numerous in both these sub-divisions. I regard this as a matter absolutely essential to success. The area of each should be divided into circles. From the centre of each circle the radii should be from twelve to fifteen miles long, so that the officer resident at the centre should be able to frequently inspect every village. The officers in question should be European if possible; failing that, however, a selected Native may be appointed. I apprehend that ten such circles will be required in Mudhoobunee, and twelve or thirteen in Durbhungah, inclusive of circles in which the sub-divisional committee might be situate. The determination of the exact number is left to the discretion of the Commissioner.

5. A selected European officer should be appointed on each circle, and house accommodation should be at once provided for him. In Mudhoobunee I see that houses belonging to the Durbhungah Raj, and other houses, may be available; and there may also be some available houses in the Durb sub-division. But the Commissioner is authorized at once to cause such bungalows as may be necessary to be constructed so as to be ready by the hot weather.

6. The Commissioner is requested to see at once what staff of officers he has now available for these sub-committees. I shall be happy to apply for the services of any officer, civil, military, or uncovenanted, whom he may name as suited for this important duty.

7. I shall be glad to receive by early date lists of the gentlemen proposed for the sub-divisional committees and the sub-committees in both these sub-divisions, with the names of the places where their head-quarters are to be.

8. It will be the particular duty of the sub-committee to see to the persons described in Part II, Rule 3, Clause *f*. I fear that many Tirhootea Brahmins will have to be included in this provision, but great caution should be exercised in admitting such persons.

9. I apprehend that in both these sub-divisions many localities will come under the provisions of Clause *g*, which authorizes the sale of food from Government stores. The Commissioner will authorize the Collector to declare the places where and the date from which these provisions are to come into effect. It will be desirable to postpone the date as long as may be safely possible.

10. The attention of each sub-committee should be directed to Clause *h* which provides for establishment of relief centres in every village where severe distress may exist. It will be an essential part of the officers' duty to frequently inspect such villages, and see that all persons justly needing relief are relieved without any exception.

11. In conclusion I would impress on the local authorities that, in order to prevent loss of life in these two sub-divisions during the worst season, the organization of the sub-committees with manageable circles is absolutely necessary.

Camp Durbhungah, R. Temple.
The 1st February 1874.

Copy forwarded to S. C. Bayley Esq., Commissioner of Patna, for information and guidance.

Durbhungah, C. E. Buckland.
The 1st February 1874.

Dated Camp Seeraha (Border of Chumparun and Tirhoot districts), the 5th February 1874.

Minute by the Honorable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I.

Having left the district of Tirhoot and entered that of Chumparun, I desire to record the following remarks for the information of the Government of Bengal.

2. I have visited five out of the six subdivisions of the very extensive district of Tirhoot, the Tajpore sub-division alone remaining unvisited; and I have had the advantage of meeting all the principal residents of the district, Native and European.

3. All the orders at present required, both as regards inland transport of grain and the formation of sub-divisional relief committees and sub-committees, have been given. But hereafter many supplementary orders will be required as matters advance.

4. The sub-committees throughout the Durbhunga and Mudhoobunee sub-divisions especially, and in part of Seetamarhee, will be numerous. For each sub-committee a European officer will be needed. Thus the staff of officers will require strengthening. Upon these points separate communication will be made. But I trust that only such officers may be despatched for famine work as may be selected for their aptitude. Indifferent men, if entrusted with such duty, will prove worse than useless.

5. I am highly satisfied with the district authorities generally in respect to relief business. They evince a zealous and intelligent appreciation of their duties, and merit the confidence of the local Government. To this however there is one exception regarding which I have written separately.

6. The presence of so large a body of indigo planters is a great advantage at the present time, both as respects the taking up of contracts for carriage and the distributing of relief. All the planters whom I meet give me cordial and unhesitating assurances that they will do their best to help in distributing relief among the villages with which they have connexion or relation.

7. The zemindars seem generally to be exerting themselves in the way of executing village works, tanks, and the like. I have suitably exhorted every zemindar whom I have met.

8. The Durbhanga raj has done something in the way of supplying grain and in executing relief works. But without any disparagement of its exertions, I do not consider that the raj has done enough as yet. I have impressed this view on the raj officers, and asked them to give large help in providing carriage, which I trust they will do.

9. The share which the raj has taken in constructing roads is very creditable. The raj Engineer, Mr. Stevens, deserves particular commendation.

10. The district generally is well provided with kucha roads, which is a great advantage at the present time. There is, and will be, difficulty in respect to drinking water for transport cattle along the main lines of road. But water, even in this year of deficient moisture, seems to be tolerably near the surface; so I hope that this difficulty may be remedied.

11. The cattle of the district are as yet in more than ordinarily good condition, having been fed on the stubble of the withered rice crop. The stubble has been largely stacked in most parts of the district. In some parts, however, I am informed that this precaution has been neglected by the people, and that some waste has occurred.

12. The European carriage contractors seem to think that their cartmen will be able to manage to scrape together fodder for the draught bullocks even in the hot weather. Looking to the uncertainty of this, and to the fatal consequences of a failure at the critical season, I am endeavouring to lay in a large supply of reserve fodder at Patna.

13. The golas or grain depots have been prepared all over the district, and the stocking of them with stores is proceeding rapidly. The eyes of the people seem to be much fixed on these depôts, and anxious inquiries are made as to when the stores will be opened. Every one who so inquires is told that the opening will be postponed so long as may be safely practicable.

14. The best informed opinions agree that the state and prospects of affairs are much worse now than in 1866 as regards the Durbhanga and Mudhoobanee sub-divisions, but better considerably as regards the Seetamarhee sub-division.

15. Several planters of long experience have told me that they had in the early part of the winter despaired of the safety of the lives of people. But when they hear of the arrangements which are being made by Government they express confidence, but also surprise at the extent of the efforts. They however consider that nothing short of these efforts would suffice to save the district from serious mortality.

16. All European residents express confidence as to a sufficiency of carriage forthcoming. Notwithstanding that, however, I consider it most desirable to introduce a certain amount of carriage from the North-West Provinces, which I am accordingly endeavouring to arrange.

17. The native merchants and bankers of the district seem to me to be generally deficient in enterprise and public spirit. Few of them, however, are of sufficient calibre for large undertakings. The grain trade of the district has hitherto been one of export only; and it has not caused the growth of large local dealers. The Patna merchants buy up the crop from the producers.

The producer sends the grain to Patna, where the merchants take delivery. Such is the description given to me. The large merchants might no doubt import now, if they were so minded; but they seem not to see their way to sending rice at a profit: they dread the cost of carriage and the distance of the localities, and they keep their grain at Patna.

18. The universal opinion in Tirhoot seems to be that neither the Patna merchants nor the Tirhoot merchants will or can supply in any large degree the wants of Mudhoobunee and Durbhunga and of the northern half of Seetamarhee. In the rest of the district (about two millions of population) the necessities will be on a more manageable scale; and there private trade will, I trust, do all, or nearly all, that is required. In the distressed tracts (somewhat over two millions of population) private trade will do a little, and the people certainly have stocks (though nobody can say exactly how much), and thus full fifty per cent. even of this section of the people may live without Government help. But the other half, numbering full a million persons, will be beyond the reach of trade, and will come in one way or other on the hands of Government. Such is the result of the best opinions, both official and non-official, collated to the utmost of my care, and upon that basis the general arrangements are being framed. We cannot depend on the case being better than this. It may become worse of course; and with this view in all our arrangements we shall provide a margin for safety.

19. The consequence practically is that we expect to import four millions of maunds of Government grain into the districts, and to ensure its being carried inland without fail. We try to provide carriage for five millions. The programme of dates, despatches, and consignments is arranged with a view to the four millions of maunds being laid down in the distressed districts by the middle of June.

20. I think that zemindars may be induced to help their tenants to a large extent: also, that grain-dealers in northern borders of Tirhoot will take advances to obtain grain from Patna. They have been duly invited to do this.

21. I regret that I cannot gather much hope from the district officers of any extensive emigration from Tirhoot to Burmah. Their attention is however being given to the subject.

22. The temporary telegraph lines to the relief centres will augment our administrative power. I earnestly hope that the tramway northwards from Barr to Durbhunga and Mudhoobunee, which has just been sanctioned by Government, will prove feasible. If successfully constructed, it will be a great relief to carts and bullocks along the principal line of transport.

23. There will, I fear, be some difficulty about procuring rice in husk (paddy) for seed for next harvest in the distressed districts. I will write further as soon as I am able to arrive at a conclusion on the subject.

24. There has been recently a fall of rain, from half an inch to a full inch, in some of the northern parts of Tirhoot, in which parts the hopes of the people have revived. Some coarse and quick-growing crops are being sown on vacant rice lands wherever this rain has fallen. But there will be no germination unless a further fall of rain shall occur in a fortnight hence. If these inferior crops shall be raised, they will afford some relief from the middle of April to the middle of May.

25. I have not been much beset—not so much as might have been expected—by persons or crowds of persons complaining of scarcity. But hundreds of fresh applicants in many parts of the district are daily coming to the relief works. Though probably there will be no widespread distress for some little time to come, yet I am very apprehensive of individual cases of severe distress occurring in every part of the district. It is difficult to be sure of finding out these cases at this stage of affairs. I have, however, addressed a most earnest warning to all the civil officers in the district, and requested them to communicate this warning to all landholders, European and Native.

26. The transit arrangements under Mr. Hewitt at Patna will work well on the completion of the two branch railway lines to the right bank of the Ganges. The country boats for the river crossing will, I believe, prove efficient. The steamers cannot be relied upon by reason of defects in channel. The organization at the two principal ghâts on left bank, Bunkur and Chumpta, is far from completed, but will be soon completed.

R. TEMPLE.

No. 105 F, dated Bankipore, the 6th February 1874.

MEMORANDUM by BABOO DURGA GATI BANERJEE, Personal Assistant for Commissioner.

FORWARDED to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department, for information.

NOTES BY SIR RICHARD TEMPLE.

MEMORANDUM of subjects settled, and instructions given by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, in communication with the Commissioner and Collector of Tirhoot at Durbhangah.

1. Yes; this makes 1,60,000, which agrees with the 50,000, and the 1,10,000 in my minute of the 31st January.	1. The Collector of Tirhoot is to provide carriage from the resources of his own district for 1,00,000 maunds weekly from Chumpta Ghât to Durbangah, and for 60,000* maunds weekly from Bunker Ghât to Seetamarhee. This is independent of what the Commissioner may be able to arrange for carrying from Monghyr, or by means of the Government carriage ordered. The work is to be done by contract as far as possible and the agency of the police is to be in every way, discouraged.

* Since increased to 1,00,000.

2. Yes; this is most important. See my separate memorandum. I understand that Mr. Gale, the principal indigo planter in Mudhoobanee, and a large ticcadar in the Raj villages, has taken a contract for 30,000 maunds a week from Durbhangah to Mudhoobanee sub-division. The additional assistants in the Raj are agreed to.	2. The officers of the Durbhangah Raj are to provide for the carriage from Durbhangah, of all the grain to be distributed into the interior of the Mudhubuni sub-division. For this purpose the manager is authorised to take on the services of two additional assistants at Rs. 300 a month each.
3. I have sent my recommendation to Calcutta on the 31st.	3. A tramway, if sanctioned, is to be laid down from Chumpta Ghât *viâ* Dulsingserai and Hyaghât to Durbhangah, and eventually to Mudhobuni.
4. Arrangement about Mr. Stevens approved; he is an excellent man.	4. The work is to be placed under Mr. Stevens, and to enable him to carry out his duties efficiently, he is to be appointed Superintending Engineer of the special circle of Raj relief works and tramway roads.
5. The proposed establishment for him agreed to.	5. He should have under him for this purpose— 1 Executive Engineer } For tramway roads } To be paid by Government. 2 Assistant Engineers } 1 Senior Assistant for Purneah roads } 3 Junior Assistants to be lent to the Raj and paid by the Raj for Raj Relief works.
6. I have seen the place. The bund or dam should be put in hand at once. It will improve our water route at once; even if tramway should not be undertaken it will be essential to roadways. It will be a capital relief work.	6. He is to put a bund across the Koray for the tramway road, which it is hoped will also render available a water route *viâ* Rosrah to Hyaghât.
7. I concur in abandoning the Keray.	7. The water route *viâ* the Koosey, Telgoojah, and Korny is to be given up as it has proved a failure.
8. I have applied for Mr. Magrath's services accordingly.	8. The services of Mr. Magrath are to be applied for to the Government of Bengal, with a view of his being placed in charge of the Madhoobuni sub-division.
9. The digging out of old tanks along transport routes most essential for water supply. They will be capital relief works; see my separate memorandum.	9. Along all the routes of grain transport, old tanks wherever available are to be dug out, or new tanks or wells made, so as to provide a constant supply of water for transport cattle.
10. I have applied for the cotton seed to the Government, North-Western Provinces, and the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.	10. A lac of maunds of cotton seed is to be applied for from North-Western Provinces and Central Provinces, and to be stocked along the transport routes.
11. Yes; most proper. The present will be a good opportunity for permanently improving the tanks of the district by relief labour.	11. Officers are authorised to deepen old tanks wherever necessary, to provide relief works, and to secure water for the cattle of the district.
12. Quite proper; I shall be glad to be furnished with names of all officers.	12. A responsible officer is to be placed in charge of each main line of grain transport to employ permanent gangs of laborers thereon, and to be held responsible for its being kept in continual repair.
13. Yes; see my separate memorandum about Mudhubuni and Durbhangah relief circles. The immediate construction of the bungalows is authorised.	13. Relief centres are to be established in all the afflicted portions of the district; each centre to have a radius of about ten miles, and the sub-divisional officers are at once to construct temporary mat bungalows at each centre. It is estimated that twenty such centres will suffice for Tirhoot, and arrangements will be made for supplying an officer to each.
14. The cotton and puttooah have been applied for through Government North-Western Provinces.	14. A supply of cotton for weaving, and puttooah for making string, will be applied for to be distributed in the villages for some relief work.
15. & 16. Quite approved; but I shall be glad to have names of the officers.	15. In addition to the transport arrangements already mentioned, the following instructions have been given.
	16. A responsible officer is to be placed in charge of all the arrangements of each of the receiving stations of Bunker Ghât and Chumpta Ghât, and mat bungalows are to be put up at once for their accommodation.
17. Yes; I have officially addressed the Government of North-Western Provinces with this view.	17. Tenders have been invited through the North-Western Provinces Government, for contracts to carry a lac of maunds weekly from each of the above ghâts into the interior.

18. I have arranged to make this up to 1,500 carts with bullocks.	18. A reserve of 1,500 carts with bullocks, is to be placed at the Commissioner's disposal in case of any failure of contractors' arrangements.
19. I agree to buy the 500 spare bullocks. Commissioner will please arrange.	19. A supply of 500 bullocks is to be bought at the Berhampore fair, and kept in reserve along the transport lines to assist the contractors in case of their cattle breaking down.

S. C. Bayley.

No. 41, dated Motiharee, the 6th February 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., on special service, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

With reference to my letter No. 37 of yesterday's date, submitting copy of Sir Richard Temple's minute No. 10, I am directed to submit copy of a further minute No. 12, which may be regarded as a supplement.

Minute by the Honorable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., No. 12, dated Motiharee, the 6th February 1874.

As a supplement to my minute No. 10 of yesterday's date, I desire to add that I am highly satisfied with the condition, progress, and prospects of the local relief works in the Durbhanga and Seetamurhee sub-divisions, but not so as regards the Mudhoobanee sub-division. In Durbhanga the Raj Engineer, Mr. Stevens, and the sub-divisional officer, Mr. Macdonnell, are fully alive to the necessity of the case; the same remark applies to Mr. O'Reilly and Sergeant O'Farrell in Seetamurhee. Some relief works are planned in Alapur, the worst part of Mudhoobunee. The Commissioner and the Collector have proceeded thither, and also Mr. Anderson the Executive Engineer of the new or northern division of Tirhoot, and I expect very shortly to hear of the relief works being set on foot there.

2. The formation of a new Public Works Division there, will be very beneficial. There remains the southern, or Mozufferpore executive division, in which the signs of activity are less manifest.

3. I have ordered temporary bungalows to be immediately erected at every place where the European president of a sub-committee is to be placed. As there will be many such sub-committees in each of the distressed sub-divisions, several bungalows will have to be erected, while in several places accommodation already exists.

R. Temple.

No. 56, dated Bankipore, the 12th February 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., with Sir R. Temple, on special service, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am directed to submit for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of a minute No. 18, dated February 12th, recorded by Sir Richard Temple regarding the state of affairs in the Sarun district, and to express a hope that the arrangements therein mentioned may meet with His Honor's approval.

2. Sir Richard especially begs that Mr. Toynbee may at once be instructed to despatch 5,000 maunds of grain a day for the Sarun district to the Arrah station, instead of to any other station on the East Indian Railway, and to continue despatching this daily supply until the required amount of 500,000 maunds (of which some 130,000 have been received) shall have been acknowledged by the Collector of Sarun. At Arrah the grain will be taken charge of by Major Jackson, on special duty, for the Collector of Sarun: arrangements have been made for its transport to the ghât on the Ganges near Dooreegunj, where Mr. C. E. F. Tonnerre will take it over also for the Collector, and from whence it will be conveyed to Chupra and other places for distribution in the interior of the district.

3. The object of this proposal is to relieve the pressure at the Patna station, and to enable the Collector of Sarun to receive his consignments in the manner most convenient to him.

N.B.—Mr. Toynbee is sending 2,500 bags (5,000) daily to Arrah for Sarun as an emergent indent, Major Jackson having telegraphed that carts had been arranged for this quantity. The quantity is cut from the Patna ghât allotment pending order.

Minute No. 18, by Sir Richard Temple, dated Chupra, 12th February 1874.

1. Having travelled through the Sarun district from north to south, and having visited the western portions of the Hutwa estates where the distress is likely to be worst, I have to record the following remarks.

2. In the southern, or lower portion of the district on the left bank of the Ganges and Gogra, the crops are in fair condition. This comprises the thannahs of Digwara, Chupra, Manjlee, and Durowlee, with a total population of 680,000 souls.

3. In the rest, or upper portion of the district, of which the population amounts to 1,380,000 souls, the crops are more or less deficient. The Indian corn did not yield more than six annas, or half the average. The rice crop (which covers one-fourth of the whole cultivation) failed almost entirely. The rubbee crops did not, until recently, promise to yield more than two or three annas, or one-fourth of the average. They have, however, been much improved by the recent rain, and now a six-anna yield is expected.

4. In some localities, however, in the Berowlee and Bussuntpoor thannahs near the Gunduck, the failure is worse than that just described. And in some places, such as Booreh and Afrat, to the west of Hutwa, where there have been three unfavorable years in succession, or where the people mainly depended on the rice crop, a more severe degree of distress is to be anticipated than elsewhere.

5. On the whole, the deficiency of the food supply is serious in that portion which has a population of 1,380,000 souls. The district, too, is densely peopled (778 to the square mile), and the surrounding districts, Chumparun, Tirhoot, and Goruckpore are also distressed. Thus supplies can only be drawn from the south, or from distant districts to the west.

6. It is satisfactory to note that this district has many grain marts, and many grain dealers of substance and enterprise. Such places are Meergunj, Goorthnee, Siswan, Maharajgunj, Roopun, Chap, and Revelgunj ; and the Collector, Mr. J. S. Drummond, informs me that the importations of grain into these and similar places have been large of late, and that, too, from long distances.

7. In this important respect the Sarun district contrasts favorably with the Chumparun and Tirhoot districts.

8. Already, however, there are signs of distress throughout the upper part of the district. On the 10th February there were nearly 70,000 persons employed on relief works. Of these a large proportion consisted of women and others who would not ordinarily be resorting to labor of this sort.

9. The works consist partly of tanks, but chiefly of roadways which are being made or repaired all over the district in every direction. Captain May, the executive engineer, informs me that he has now 900 miles under operations. It is represented to me, however, that there will be difficulty in finding continuous work for so many people.

10. On the strong recommendation of the Collector, and the district engineer, I have ordered that the clearing out of the old inundation channels for irrigation, which run through the most distressed localities, be included in relief works. The Collector will arrange with Captain May accordingly to commence the clearing out immediately.

11. The district authorities appear confident regarding the resources of the district in carts and bullocks for the transport of the Government grain. Their view is fully confirmed by what I learnt from Mr. Donald Reid, the manager of the Sadowa indigo concern. There are native chowdreers (headmen) at Revelgunj and other marts, through whom the Collector obtains carriage without any difficulty, and without resorting to the police or such like agency.

12. After the middle of May the Gunduck will become navigable to the north-east part of the district. The Gogra also, with one of its affluents, will carry boats right up to the western part of the district.

13. I have now to consider briefly what is the number of persons for whom we should be prepared to afford assistance in some shape or other, and what is the quantity of grain which we should require, and what are the means of transport.

14. The Hutwa estates comprise the most distressed localities. I have carefully consulted Mr. Hodgkinson, the manager of the estates (which are under the Court of Wards). He thinks that at the worst season, which will last from 1st of June to the 15th September (when the new Indian corn will be coming in) or 3½ months, there may be 80,000 persons needing assistance in some shape or other, and the Collector informs me that this estimate is not too high. There are now 9,000 persons receiving assistance, and the number will gradually rise till it attains its maximum about the beginning of June. The population of the Hutwa estates amounts to 400,000 souls.

15. I consider that at least 180,000 maunds ought to be stored within Hutwa limits by the beginning of June.

16. Mr. Hodgkinson has provided 120,000 maunds by purchases from Bengal and elsewhere, some of which has arrived, the rest being on its way. The funds for this have been furnished from the Hutwa Raj Treasury. Mr. Hodgkinson states that that treasury is not at present able to advance more, and he asks for a loan of a lakh of rupees from Government under the rules, for purchasing wheat, barley, and Indian corn from Patna or from the north-west. I shall authorise the loan being made accordingly, and request him to endeavour to obtain the grain from Patna market which is said to be somewhat overstocked. If he fails to obtain it at Patna, we can resort to the north-west. This loan will suffice to bring up the provision from 120,000 maunds to 150,000 maunds. In order to make up the 180,000, maunds there remain 30,000 maunds to be despatched from the Government stores to be received by rail at the Arrah station, for which quantity a requisition must be duly made to Government. This grain will be advanced to the Hutwa Raj, and we shall expect Mr. Hodgkinson to use his best endeavours to recover the value for Government.

17. As regards the rest of the district, the Collector considers that provision should be made for 200,000 persons. The number of those now receiving relief is 60,000, which may rise gradually till it reaches its maximum at the end of May, remaining high till September. According to that I consider, after consulting Mr. Drummond, that there ought to be a provision of not less than 500,000 (five hundred thousand) maunds to be carried into the interior of the district by the 15th June, after which date water carriage will be to some extent available.

18. Already 250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand) maunds have been allotted by the local Government from time to time, of which 130,000 (one hundred and thirty thousand) maunds have

arrived, the rest being in course of transit, thus leaving 250,000 maunds additional to be provided. I have accordingly to recommend that the despatches by railway of grain for the Sarun district may be regulated accordingly.

19. For inland transit the Collector is confident that the carriage of his district will suffice, and from what I have seen, I am disposed to accept this view.

20. The Collector, however, particularly desires that all the grain for the Sarun district may be sent to the Arrah station, where he has an officer of his own stationed, and where he can conveniently manage the crossing of the Ganges. He represents that he has tried the plan of obtaining some of his supplies from the Patna station, and that embarrassing delays always resulted, save when a steamer was employed for the purpose exclusively. This matter is indeed of great importance, not only to secure the efficiency of the service for the Sarun district, but also to relieve the already overburdened service at Patna.

21. I have accordingly to ask that all the consignments of Government grain for the Sarun district may be made to the Arrah station.

22. A district committee for relief should be formed at Chupra for the whole district of Sarun, which would, however, administer relief direct to the country round Chupra. There will be a sub-divisional committee at Sewan under the sub-divisional officer. This committee will administer relief to the whole sub-division, excepting the Hutwa estates. If, as distress developes itself, the Collector finds it desirable to form another committee towards the northern border, he can do so. For the Hutwa estates, Mr. Hodgkinson will be in the position of a sub-divisional committee.

23. The indigo planters and the principal zemindars will, I understand, be willing to assist in the distribution of relief among the villages in their neighbourhood. The indigo planters have taken some advances under the rules from Government for importing grain; and some of the zemindars have done the same. But the Collector is not able to make a very favourable report of the efforts of the principal zemindars on this occasion.

24. The Collector desires to make advances to ryots to sustain them through the coming trouble and I have authorised him to do so wherever the zemindar will stand security, or allow the land to be hypothecated, or where the ryot has property to pledge, or where, under the circumstances, the Collector considers there is a reasonable degree of certainty of the advance being repaid.

25. I have to state in conclusion, that the Collector, Mr. J. S. Drummond, evinces much care and thoughtfulness, and entirely appreciates the duties which devolve on him in respect to the scarcity. Mr. Hodgkinson, the Superintendent of Hutwa, is an able and excellent officer, and is sure to meet the impending trouble in a vigorous and efficient manner.

R. Temple.

No. 51, dated Camp Hutwa, the 10th February 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., with Sir Richard Temple, on special service, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am directed to submit for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of a minute, No. 15, recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the state of the Chumparun district in relation to the impending scarcity.

Minute No. 15, recorded by Honorable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., dated Camp Hutwa, the 10th February 1874.

Having left the Chumparun district, I have to record briefly some general remarks regarding the condition of affairs there in reference to scarcity and relief.

2. There have recently been two falls of rain, amounting in various places to one inch, or one inch-and-a-half, even to two inches. The prospect of the spring harvest is much improved thereby. Much land is also being sown with such crops as cheena and moong, which will yield grain by the end of April, and afford some food supply by May. This supply may help to replenish the empty grain markets for some short period, perhaps for a month, some say for more than a month. There is much uncertainty as to the yield of this supplementary crop, which is sown largely when other crops fail, and but little in prosperous years. But it will afford some relief, and it will abridge somewhat the period of work. The recent rainfall after the long drought has raised the spirits of the people, and caused despondency to give way to undue hopefulness. More thoughtful people, however, advise me that the general situation as previously apprehended is not materially changed.

3. I believe that our precautions and preparations should go on without alteration or relaxation.

4. The local grain trade may do something to meet the demands of the central part of the district. But it is limited in its operations, and it will do little or nothing for the supply of those tracts along the north and north-western borders of the district which have lost their sole support from the withering of the rice crop. Neither at Motiharee nor at Bettiah (the two principal places of the district), could I find even one grain dealer of any capacity or position.

5. The district authorities do not give a favorable account of the public spirit and disposition of the zemindars. I have not heard of one who has behaved creditably. Three of the principal zemindars appear, indeed, to have evinced a disposition the reverse of satisfactory.

6. On the other hand the Rajah of Bettiah personally manifests a desire to behave well. His European manager (Mr. T. M. Gibbon, an able and excellent man,) has arranged to import 150,000 maunds of grain for the Bettiah estate and will arrange other measures of relief. But

the Rajah's treasury is impoverished and his finances are embarrassed. And I by no means undertake to say that the above measures, though *per se* considerable, are really commensurate with the moral obligations of the Rajah, or with the size of his estates.

7. The Rajah of Ramnuggur, the owner of a fine zemindaree, with a population of at least 150,000 souls, was reported to me as having done nothing. I visited Ramnuggur and admonished the Rajah. He afterwards came to Bettiah and agreed to import grain, to give advances to his ryots, and to stand security for advances to be made to them by Government. If he fulfils this agreement, I may yet be able to write in favorable terms regarding him.

8. I have met most of the European Indigo Planters, who are so numerous in this district, and have received from them cordial assurances of help in the distribution of relief.

9. In the eastern part of the district many complaints of scarcity and distress were made to me by villagers. But in the western parts of the district, where matters are so much more threatening, the people preserved a patient and uncomplaining demeanour, which can, I think, be attributed only to the sight of the Government preparations, and the conviction that succour is at hand.

10. All along the northern frontier there will be very serious scarcity, beginning at the eastern corner, and becoming worse and worse westwards till the north-western corner is reached, where the failure of food supply is utter, and where the case will be formidable in extent, and in degree.

11. In consultation with the Collector, I have arranged the additional sub-divisional committees and the sub-committees with a view to the effective administration of relief in these tracts, and have authorised the immediate erection of temporary accommodation for the European officers. There will be three sub-divisional committees, and five sub-committees, all under the district committee which has been duly formed.

12. Some of the European superintendence required is already available. If more European officers are found to be needed I will make a further communication.

13. The European officers in the Ramnuggur sub-divisional committee (they will be four in number, including Mr. Howe of the civil service), will be resident all through the rains in a very isolated and insalubrious situation. This cannot be avoided, and they are fully aware that as regards famine in Chumparun, the officers at Ramnuggur occupy the post of honor. I am in communication with Dr. Francis, Deputy Inspector-General, regarding the provision of medical aid.

14. Relief works are being commenced in every part of the district. These chiefly consisted of roads. The Collector had doubts as to whether village tanks could be regarded as relief works. I have ruled that they are to be so treated, and that the excavation and clearing out of old village tanks afforded the very best means of relief.

15. These works were largely attended up to the day when the rain fell. Since that day the attendance has fallen off, as the people have gone away to sow the supplementary crops, "cheena," "moong," &c.

16. The new executive constituted in this district under orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, will prove very useful in the supervision of relief works. I met the new Executive Engineer, Mr. Murray of Motiharee, and explained to him what was expected of his department. I authorised the construction of a temporary office building for him. He complains of the want of good overseers. This complaint is, however, universal; and I fear that there will be a deficiency. However, I shall communicate further with the Superintending Engineer, on the subject when I return to Patna.

17. Incendiarism, robbery, and crimes, which usually break out in times of scarcity, are reported as becoming rife along the northern border. I have, therefore, requested the Collector to entertain additional police up to the strength of 80 men, including petty officers, to watch incendiarism and to guard the grain depôts.

18. Many representations have been made regarding the danger of the seed-grain being used up for food, and the necessity of seed-grain being stored by Government. The matter is one of some difficulty; but after consideration I hope to arrive at some definite conclusion regarding it.

19. It seems probable that the sale of Government grain in the Ramnuggur tract cannot be much longer delayed. I have instructed the district authorities on the spot to adopt this measure on any day when they find that safety demands its adoption. Meanwhile, I have authorised them to advance grain to ryots on security being given either on the Rajah's security, or on the hypothecation of the ryot's land with the Rajah's consent; also to pay the relief work laborers in kind.

20. The utmost vigilance has been enjoined on all the district authorities regarding the immediate relief of cases of individual distress.

21. There are no signs yet of the temporary telegraph lines from Mozufferpore via Motiharee to Bettiah and Ramnuggur. I have again urged the need of expedition on the attention of Major Mallock, who has been deputed by the Director-General to supervise the work.

22. I have inspected the new Gunduck embankment on the east or left bank of that river. It will be very beneficial as protecting the rice lands from excessive inundation. This may be inferred from the experience of the long-existing embankments on the western or right bank. I am not equally sure of the need for the irrigation channel proposed to run marching with the embankment. Perhaps the money appropriated for the channel might be better spent in other ways. If the channel be not made, however, it will be necessary to make sluices and openings in the embankments to let out water for irrigation. The embankment itself will give employment to 20,000 laborers during the worst season along a line of 70 miles in length.

23. I have enquired particularly into the supply of boats and the navigable channel of the Gunduck. This navigation is regarded by the Chumparun authorities as a valuable resource. It is a resource of some importance; but the boats are not numerous nor capacious, and

the current is strong in the rainy season, and my information is not such as to warrant the abandonment of our land carriage on this account.

24. My minute No. 13 of the 8th February, shows that we expect to have to assist 400,000 persons, in some shape or other, during the worst season; and that we have arranged to import one million of maunds into the interior of the district by the beginning of June; to which may be added the 150,000 imported by the Rajah of Bettiah.

25. I had the satisfaction of seeing that the carriage contractors have got their system into effective working order. I saw strings of Government grain carts wending their way among the villages, especially among the tracts of the remote Ramnuggur estates. This is, indeed, exactly what I desired to see.

26. The local resources in carts and bullocks are large. The contractors are able to obtain, without any difficulty, six thousand carts for the performance of their contract. Much of the local carriage, however, will cease to be available as soon as the indigo manufacturing season commences in June.

27. At present the contractors are taking delivery of the grain at Bunkurghat, opposite Patna, and follow the route viâ Mozufferpore and Bettiah to Ramnuggur. I have, however, approved of their trying, for a part of their contract, an alternative route viâ the ghat opposite Dinapore, and thence through the Sarun districts to Gobindgunge on the Gunduck, and thence to Bettiah. This will relieve the pressure now beginning to be extreme at Bunkurghat.

28. I trust that it will not be necessary to resort to the North-West Provinces for carriage for the service of the Chumparun district.

29. The contractors state that at present the route is well supplied with water, save in one place, to which the attention of the Collector has been drawn. Instructions have, however, been repeated to the effect that tanks are to be excavated at the halting places.

30. The Collector and his officers evince every anxiety to understand and carry out the instruction they receive in reference to the impending scarcity.

R. TEMPLE.

APPENDIX D.

No. 20, dated Durbhanga, the 1st February 1874.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., with SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, on Special Service, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I AM directed to submit copy of a minute recorded by Sir Richard Temple regarding the transport arrangements for the Tirhoot district, and to express his hope that the arrangements therein described may meet with the approval of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

MINUTE by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Camp Durbhunga, the 31st January 1874.

No. 1.

HAVING visited the Tirhoot district, seen some of the tracts most affected by drought, conversed with the Commissioner and the civil officers, and with most of the principal non-official residents, European and Native, I desire to state the amount of Government grain which we should be prepared to bring into the district, and the arrangements for transport from the left bank of the Ganges into the interior.

The principal relief officer, Mr. Worsley, calculates the amount of grain required for his operations at four millions of maunds, or 148,200 tons.

The Collector, Mr. Halliday, estimates 3,500,000 maunds, which estimate is approved by the Commissioner, Mr. Steuart Bayley.

It is borne out to some extent by Colonel Burne, manager of the Durbhunga Estate, which has a population of half a million of people situated in the most drought-stricken parts of the district. He states the requirement for his portion of the district at 740,000 maunds.

Mr. Macdonnell, civil officer of the Dhurbhunga sub-division, expects that, at the worst period, 400,000 persons will come on the hands of Government in his sub-division.

Mr. Cochran, civil officer of the Mudhoobunee sub-division, states his fear that at the worst period more than 400,000 persons will require relief in his sub-division in some shape or other from Government.

Mr. O'Reilly, the civil officer of the Seetamurhee sub-division, informed me that he expected to have 150,000 persons on the hands of Government during the worst months.

There will be distress throughout the north-west corner of the Tajpore sub-division. The Collector thinks that 30,000 persons may here come on our hands.

In the rest of Tajpore and in the two remaining sub-divisions of Hajeepore and Mozufferpore there is not likely to be any general distress. But in Mozufferpore there will be some thousands of persons seeking relief.

Thus the estimates of local officers give about one million as the number of souls who will come on our hands in the Tirhoot district out of a total population of upwards of four millions, or 25 per cent.; and this is the district most severely affected in the whole Behar province.

The estimate of a million of persons correspond very much with the estimate of 3½ millions of maunds, or 129,700 tons as separately made by the Collector.

These statements represent nothing more than anticipations regarding subjects wherein certainty is not possible. But the time has now come when we must make the best estimate we can of the amount which will have to be transported into the interior from the left or north bank of the Ganges.

Looking at all the statements together, I consider that it will not be safe to provide carriage for less than four millions of maunds of food-grain, or 148,200 tons, which gives a margin over and above the Collector's estimate. The worst two months will be May and June, though the month preceding that period (April) may be bad; and the three months subsequent, July, August, and September, will almost certainly be so. Up to July land carriage only will be available. From July there will be help from water carriage, but the land carriage would fall off, and it would be preferable to bring the whole, or four millions of maunds, into the northern part of the district by the 15th June, the distances for inland carriage being from 40 to 80 miles from the Ganges.

Such being the present requirement, I have to see how it is to be met.

It was ascertained at Patna that the transport agent there (Mr. Hewitt) had despatched from there 2,00,000 maunds to arrive in the distressed sub-divisions of Tirhoot by 15th February, and had arranged to send from that date 50,000 maunds a week, which arrangement would place 8,00,000 maunds in those sub-divisions by the 15th June, making up one million in all.

The Court of Wards (Durbhanga) has already arranged to bring 2,00,000 maunds.

The amount for which cash advances have been granted by Government to zemindars, indigo planters, and others, on condition that they bring the grain up in time, may be taken at 50,000 maunds.

The Collector, under direction of the Commissioner, has just made contracts with trustworthy European contractors to bring up 1,10,000 maunds a week from Chumpta Ghaut opposite Barrh from the 15th February, which arrangement up to 15th June would place 17,60,000 maunds in the distressed sub-divisions.

I have invited tenders, on the suggestion of the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, for contracts, to be concluded there, to carry 2,00,000 maunds a week from left bank of Ganges to these sub-divisions from 1st April to 15th June, which arrangement, if effected, would bring in two millions of maunds.

These figures give the following results up to 15th June:—

	Maunds.
Patna agency - - - -	10,00,000
Courts of Wards - - - -	2,00,000
Zemindars, indigo planters, and others -	50,000
By local contracts - - - -	17,60,000
By North-West contracts - - -	20,00,000
Total - -	50,10,000

These arrangements will, if successful, provide more than the four millions required by 15th June, and will leave a fair margin to cover those partial failures which must be expected in operations of this kind.

I have provided a reserve of carts to be at disposal of the Commissioner in event of need or accident, by ordering purchase of 500 pair of draught-bullocks in Nepaul, the carts to be made in Tirhoot; 500 carts with bullocks will be purchased on the frontier of Chumparun district, or failing that, the bullocks will be purchased at Shahabad cattle fair, and carts made up in Tirhoot; 500 carts with bullocks are being obtained through the Government of the North-Western Provinces. Thus the reserve will be made up of 1,500 carts drawn by bullocks.

I have further, at the instance of the Commissioner and the Collector, recommended the laying down of a tramway from the left bank of Ganges to Mudhoobanee viâ Durbhanga to relieve the country carriage during the hot season.

Again, the Commissioner hopes to conclude a contract for the carriage of 50,000 maunds a week from the 15th February from the Ganges opposite Monghyr to Durbhanga. This arrangement, if successful, would place 800,000 maunds in the distressed sub-divisions by 15th June, and may be regarded as a reserve to make up for deficiencies in other parts of the general plan.

We cannot be sure that the contracts asked for in the North-West Provinces will be taken up. If they are not, we have still time to purchase or hire large quantities of carriage in those Provinces.

Also, further purchases of draught cattle can, if necessary, be probably effected in Nepaul or elsewhere, the carts being made up in Tirhoot.

We can, if absolutely necessary, obtain pack-bullocks from Central India; but we are averse to that plan if it can be avoided, because of the difficulty of fodder.

We can, as a last resource, obtain camels through the Commissariat at Agra; but the expense and the distance detract from the value of this plan.

By the advice of the Commissioner and the Collector, I have sent a requisition to the Government, North-Western Provinces, for 50,000 maunds of cotton seed (highly recommended as fodder), to be sent by railway to Patna; and a similar requisition to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, or 100,000 maunds in all. I am assured by the best informed persons in Tirhoot, that this supply will be most useful to the transport service during the hot months.

By excavation of wells and old tanks along the routes of the grain transit, the Commissioner and the Collector hope to provide drinking-water for the cattle employed in the transport. They have arranged their relief works with this view.

The resources of the Tirhoot districts in carriage are more than ordinarily great. The indigo planting and manufacture cause a large number of carts and bullocks to be kept up by the ryots and villagers. There is a large export trade, in prosperous years, of produce from the district (estimated, inclusive of rice, at five millions of maunds annually), which is chiefly carried to the

Ganges by carts. There are many European non-official gentlemen resident in the district engaged in trade or industry. Thus it becomes possible to effect contracts, the execution of which can be relied upon to a considerable extent. The Commissioner and the Collector have very properly decided to resort to contracts for carriage, and not to collect carriage by direct agency of police or other establishments.

Lastly, if notwithstanding all these precautions, something more should be required after 15th June, there would still remain two more months up to 15th August, during which supplies could be brought up to distressed districts by water carriage.

These transport arrangements hold good only as far as the principal points within the distressed tracts. There will still remain detailed arrangements for the conveyance of grain to the villages. These will be made separately.

It is assumed that the railway will bring the requisite quantities of grain to the south or right bank of the Ganges. There will remain the provision of boats for crossing the Ganges; and for this purpose from 400 to 500 boats will suffice. This number Mr. Hewitt will certainly be able to obtain, and he has been instructed accordingly.

According to the above estimate, I have, by the advice of the Commissioner and Collector, to recommend that 2,00,000 maunds a week may be sent forward from Calcutta for the service of the Tirhoot district, consigned to care of Mr. Hewitt.

I hope that the arrangements explained in this minute will not be thought larger than what the occasion demands. Unless we act effectively now regarding transport, the opportunity for action will pass away. The tracts most severely affected by scarcity happen to be those which are the most distant, the most isolated, and the most helpless. In most parts of Mudhoobanee and in many parts of Durbhanga, the September crop is always small, consequently the distress will be more than ordinarily protracted, will last through the autumn, and will not disappear at the earliest till December. And during the rainy season the rivers in that quarter (the Tiljooga, the Bolan, and the Kumla) are navigable only for small boats.

R. Temple.

Note on Sir R. Temple's Minute regarding the Supply of Grains for the Tirhoot district.

This Minute only reached me very late yesterday evening. I think that it should be at once laid before the Government of India, and therefore submit it early this morning with this general note, without delaying to refer to recent figures.

I confess that the estimate now made exceeds what I had thought that Government could undertake in any distressed district, and also exceeds my estimate of our powers of transport. I have always supposed that there must be some stocks; that the year's produce, small though it be, will one way and another last for some time; that private trade will do something; that something will be saved by pinching, and a resort to food not usually consumed; and that Government can only supply the margin left when all these resources are taken into account. Admitting that the people of this country are more self-reliant in the matter of food, and less inclined to throw themselves permanently on Government or the public than in some other countries, I yet feel that this may, to some extent, be due to the fact that they have been obliged to help themselves in default of other means. And though all humane men would be glad if it were possible to maintain the people in full comfort and health in times of scarcity, the attempt to do so might not only prove an impossible task, but, if it were possible, might have the effect of rendering the people much less self-reliant than hitherto. I believe, then, that it is necessary that we should hedge in our aid by severe tests; that, painful though it be, we cannot in practice do more than so much as will avert actual starvation, while the people must still submit to severe privation and suffering on such an occasion as that which has overtaken us.

I am certainly not one of those who place an undue reliance on private trade for imports of food from abroad into Bengal. I have had no reliance whatever on any such trade. But for the distribution of food within this country, I have throughout believed that private trade will, in most quarters, do much and should be permitted to do so, though there are some limited tracts in which it fails, and where Government must undertake almost the whole task. Wherever private trade exists or can be developed, I have not the least doubt that it acts in every way more beneficially than the operations of Government.

Now as regards a great part of Tirhoot private trade cannot be overlooked. Patna is in fact at this moment overflowing with private grain seeking an outlet, and if that outlet be found, farther private supplies are forthcoming in large quantities from the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces. Private trade certainly reaches Mozufferpore. We learned from the last report that 20 new grain shops had lately been established there by outside dealers. And by giving facilities for carriage and advances, I cannot doubt that private trade may be led to do much in Central and North-Western Tirhoot.

The last report stated that 200,000 maunds of grain had lately been imported from Nepal into the Seetamurhee division alone. In other quarters, by driblets, something no doubt finds its way into the distressed country. We have always then contemplated that the route from Patna by Mozufferpore should, as much as possible, be left open to private traffic, and that this traffic should be as much as possible stimulated by advances. I have relaxed the rule which originally required persons taking advances to import grain from a distance so far that the Tirhoot and other local dealers may have advances for importations from Patna and other railway stations. I cannot but think that Sir R. Temple has much under-estimated what may be done by these advances when he puts the amount to be obtained by this means at 50,000 maunds only. I hope it will prove to be very much more.

So much I have said regarding private trade merely to clear the ground; but I most entirely agree that we must not too much rely on private trade. For north-east Tirhoot, I believe we must ourselves undertake most of the work.

The tract in Tirhoot which chiefly depends on rice, and where the failure has been most excessive, is not the whole, but speaking roughly about half the district. In this view the estimate of a million people on our hands assumes nearer 50 per cent. than 25 per cent. of the populations of the most distressed tract—a very liberal estimate.

Accepting that estimate of the number to be supported, I still cannot but think that the supply of food for them is estimated too liberally. Sir Richard Temple says three and half million maunds tallies with the estimate of one million people. To be safe, he says four millions of maunds. This implies a provision of three and a half to four maunds per head. Now we have estimated the food required for the whole support of an adult male to be ¾th of a seer or 1½ lbs. per diem, viz. 1 lb. of rice or wheat and ½ lb. of pulse, vegetable, fish, &c. The failure has been chiefly a rice failure; the pulses are good. The present rain will allow some quick-growing grains and vegetables to be sown, fish, milk, &c. are still in the country. Many classes habitually eat meat even in the shape of dead bullocks, mice, &c. If Government supplies 1 lb. per head of rice or other grain, I think the people may find the remaining quantity of food necessary to subsistence; and the above estimate is for an adult male, and if we extend it to the whole population, men, women, children and infants, it becomes very liberal. I have been inclined to think, that if, infants and all included, we supply a maund of 82 lbs. for 90 days, or three months, that eked out in other ways will probably suffice. Certainly, 1½ maunds or 123 lbs. for four months would be a very ample provision.

As regards the time for which provision must be made, it must be remembered that it is not till comparatively late in the season, that the largest numbers come on our hands; then, if the people survive the worst months before the rains without being too entirely reduced, they gradually withdraw to cultivation. Tirhoot is a moist district; if the present genial fall moistens the ground well, and augurs the early rain-supply which very frequently follows a bad year, a good deal may be grown even in the hot months, and what is called the bhadoie, *i.e.*, the fast-growing maize, murwa, &c., come in in August. I have been inclined to think a four months' supply for the distressed population about a fair estimate, especially if we have some further reserve for the rains. That four months' supply would be 1½ million maunds.

At any rate it appeared to me that if we could secure two million maunds in the tracts distant from river and rail before the rains, and arrange for a reserve which could be thrown in early in the rains in case of necessity, we should have done our duty fairly by the Tirhoot district.

Now as regards transport. For some time I was not satisfied that so much in proportion had been done in Tirhoot as in some other districts; less has been despatched to Tirhoot than to Chumparun, and Tirhoot is certainly the district regarding which I have felt most cause for anxiety. Latterly things have got into better train, but seeing all that has passed, I was inclined to feel satisfied if the arrangements were such that 100,000 maunds per week were actually and without fail despatched by the direct land routes to the north of Tirhoot, the routes being so arranged as to leave room for a good private traffic on the Mozufferpore route. Latterly the local officers had promised more, and I have continued for some time past very distinctly to say that the need of the Tirhoot district exceeded the means of carriage on which we can rely, and that the local officers were simply to send forward as much as they probably could, any excess over my minimum demand being so much gain. Though they have held out hopes of more than the rate I have stated, still, looking to previous shortcomings, I had not ventured recently to calculate on more than 100,000 maunds per week by the direct routes. At this rate the supply would stand somewhat as follows:—

	Mds.
Despatched by Mr. Hewitt to end of January - - - -	200,000
I put aside grain imported on advances as private traffic, but there is in addition to the above despatch, imported by local dealers for Government - - - - - - - -	45,000
To be despatched in three months from 1st February to 1st May, say 13 weeks, at 1,00,000 maunds per week - - -	1,300,000
May be despatched in May, so as to be placed before the rains, say - - - - - - - - -	300,000
Arranged by Durbhangah estate (a quantity which may be increased) - - - - - - - -	200,000
Total -	2,045,000

This gives upwards of 2,000,000 maunds provided before the rains, exclusive of what I may call reserve side routes. These latter are the routes by Monghyr and the Ghugree rivers, which are being tried, and the route by the Bhaugulpore district and Soopool, whence we propose to assist Tirhoot if we can supply anything in excess of the needs of Soopool. I fear, however, we cannot calculate on much from this quarter.

I would, however, make sure that we have in boats taken as far up the rivers as they can get a very considerable supply, which would be ready to go forward to Durbhangah and other points the moment the rivers open, and further supplies would be stored at the riverside stations. In this way I calculated on our being able to supply two millions of maunds (or half what Sir Richard Temple proposes) before the rains, and say another million of maunds in the early months of the rains, if need be. If the rains are long delayed we can continue to cart; if they come early, our water arrangements would come into play early.

According to Sir R. Temple's statements it appears that the local officers now calculate on forwarding by local carriage much more than I had ventured to calculate on, that is, they have arranged to send forward 160,000 maunds per week. I can only say that if they really can do so I think they should. It will all be clear gain to get forward as much as we can as soon as we can. Now that we are a good deal relieved as regards our fears for some other districts, we can, I believe, supply for Tirhoot this amount of grain, or rather the whole 200,000 maunds per week, at which Sir R. Temple puts the present demand. But when we come to the additional supply of another 200,000 per week from 1st April, by means of carriage to be obtained from the North-Western Provinces, I confess I have the greatest doubts of the practicability of the measure. I doubt if the railway could supply so much to Tirhoot with due regard to the needs of other districts. I still more doubt if the enormous supply of carts from the North-Western Provinces, which is calculated on, is a possible thing. I understand that Sir R. Temple has contemplated obtaining 20,000 carts from the North-Western Provinces. To carry 200,000 maunds per week would require at least so many carts of a description superior to the ordinary 10-maund carts of our districts. We must allow at least 10 days for each trip; for more distant depôts a fortnight, besides an allowance for reserve, breakdowns, and rest. I am not sure that we have ever in India put 20,000 soldiers into actual active movement in one field of operations at one time. An army of 20,000 carts brought from a distance, with bullocks and attendants and all, would be an astounding undertaking. Whence are they to come? how are they to be brought down? and where are men and bullocks to get food and provender and shelter? And if it were done, this would be for one large district alone, without calculating the needs of other districts. My own view is, that if from the neighbouring districts of the North-West Provinces we can get carriage sufficient to assist and secure the immediately adjoining districts of Chumparun and Sarun, we shall do very well.

For Tirhoot I am inclined to think that if local means can do all, or nearly all, that Sir R. Temple calculates on obtaining from them, we may be satisfied with that supply with only moderate assistance from the outside for special purposes.

G. Campbell.

The 6th February 1874.

No. 474, dated Calcutta, the 13th February 1874.

From A. P. Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 300A of the 6th instant, with enclosed note of the Lieutenant-Governor, upon a Minute by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the supply of food in the Tirhoot district.

2. These documents have been laid before the Government of India, and the Governor-General in Council cannot but express the disappointment which he feels at the local officers having for so long neglected fully to appreciate the requirements of those parts of the country, and thereby occasioned the postponement to the present time of arrangements for transport which should have been made many weeks ago.

3. Although it may hereafter be found that the estimates now sent forward are somewhat in excess of the actual requirements, yet, bearing in mind that those estimates have been made by the local officers who are immediately responsible, and, moreover, that subsequent information has been received to the effect that a considerable number of people in Nepal may not improbably come upon the hands of the British Government, the Government of India think that Sir Richard Temple has exercised a wise discretion in recommending that four millions of maunds of grain shall be provided for the district of Tirhoot, and that arrangements should be made for the transport into the interior of a larger quantity, in order that the probability that part of the transport arrangements will break down may be guarded against beforehand.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor expresses some doubt as to the advantage of obtaining the supply of transport for which tenders have been called for from the North-Western Provinces. His Honor will be glad to hear that Mr. Molesworth has reported that a tramway can be constructed from Chumpta Ghât to Durbhunga, and that orders have been given for the immediate commencement of the work. This may, perhaps, modify the views of Sir Richard Temple as to the requirements for transport after April when the contracts contemplated will commence; but the Government of India desire to comply with the requisitions which Sir Richard Temple may make after visiting the localities and conferring with the local authorities.

5. From information given by Sir George Campbell to the Viceroy, His Excellency believes that the Government of Bengal have taken measures to comply with Sir Richard Temple's request, that 2,00,000 maunds a week should be sent from Calcutta for use in the district of Tirhoot.

No. 50, dated Camp Bettiah, the 8th February 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., with Sir R. Temple, on special service, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am directed to submit copy of a minute No. 13, recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the arrangements for transport in the Chumparun district, and to express a hope that the proceedings and recommendations therein described may meet with the approval of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Minute No. 13, by the Honorable Sir R. Temple, K.C.S.I., dated 8th February 1874.

Having visited the Chumparun district, travelling through it from east to west, and proceeding *viâ* Bettiah to Ramnuggur, I have to record the following remarks regarding the quantity of grain which ought to be conveyed into the interior of the district by the 15th of June next, and the means of conveying it.

2. First, as to the quantity; that depends, of course, on the number of persons who may be expected to need assistance in some shape or other.

3. Mr. Kean, the Collector, after carefully conferring with me, makes the following statement:—

Adapore.—This is a great rice-growing thannah: the greater portion of the crops failed. The cold weather crop (rubbee) are not much grown. Indian-corn, however, is grown; there will be a four-anna crop. The poppy is said to be good, but the rice crop having almost totally failed, and there being no rubbee or very little, I think at least 30 per cent. of the population would come on our hands in this thannah, which, as far as my present information goes, is the worst thannah in the Sudder division.

Dhaka.—In this thannah, also, the rice crop failed, but it produced an eight-anna crop of "makai," and the rubbee will be abou a six-anna crop. The poppy is also fair. I think 25 per cent. for this thannah.

Motihari.—In this thannah the rice crop was not so entirely a failure. The rubbee and poppy are also comparatively good. I would calculate 20 per cent. for this thannah.

Gobindgunge.—The same as Motihari.

Kessuria and Mudoban.—Mr. Weekes is making minute enquiries regarding the condition of these two thannahs. The poppy is said to be a failure, and lately unfavorable accounts of the rubbee have been received. The "rahar" has also been damaged by frost. A large crop of "kodo" and makai was gathered in these thannahs, perhaps 30 per cent,

Bettiah.—The accounts from this thannah have been all along comparatively good, *i.e.* no such entire failure of crops as in some other thannahs has been reported. I would rank this thannah with the adjoining thannahs of Gobindgunge and Motihari, and calculate 20 per cent.

Buguha.—In this thannah distress will no doubt be greatly felt, it ranks as the second worst thannah in the district. I would calculate 35 or 40 per cent.

Lowrya.—This is undoubtedly the worst thannah in the district. The rice crop failed entirely, and there is no rubbee or poppy to speak of. I would calculate 50 per cent.

This calculation would be:—

Adapore,	114,561	30 per cent.	= 34,350
Dhaka,	230,484	25 "	= 57,600
Motihari,	134,621	20 "	= 26,920
Gobindgunge,	141,986	20 "	= 28,380
Kessaria	150,863	30 "	= 45,240
Mudobun,	84,873	30 "	= 25,440
Bettiah,	289,522	20 "	= 57,900
Bagaha,	114,879	40 "	= 45,920
Lowrya,	170,760	50 "	= 83,350
			405,200

In round numbers	400,000 seers.
At ¾ths of a seer, deduct ¼th	100,000 "
	300,000 "
For two months full	600,000 "
" three " half	450,000 "
" two " one-third	200,000 "
Total	1,250,000 "
Dividing by 40 seers	31,250 maunds.
	30
	937,500
Adding average of 7 months for one month	133,928
Total	1,071,428

4. Mr. T. Gibbon, the manager of the estates of the Rajah of Bettiah, a gentleman of great knowledge and experience, makes a somewhat more favorable statement as follows:—

Adapore	20 per cent.	Of the population will require assistance in some shape.
Dhaka	15 "	
Motihari	10 "	
Gobindgung	10 "	
Kessuria	15 "	
Mudobun	15 "	
Bettiah	20 "	
Bugaha	50 "	
Lowrya	50 "	

In all, 316,000 persons will require assistance at one time or another.

I anticipate—

		Persons average per diem.
One-fourth	in February, *i.e.*	79,000
Half	in March	158,000
Three-fourths	in April	237,000
Full	in May	316,000
„	in June	316,000
„	in July	316,000
Three-fourths	in August	237,000
One-fourth	in September	79,000
	In all	1,738,000

or, on an average per diem 217,000 persons for eight months, at three fourth, a seer per head, requiring 4,068 maunds a day (about), or 976,320 maunds in all.

5. The worst part of all is the Ramnuggur estate, chiefly comprising the Lowrya thannah. Mr. Howe, the civil officer there, expects that 50 or even 60 per cent. of the people may come on his hands at the worst season.

6. Mr. Vertannes, the executive engineer of the Gunduck embankment, expects to have 20,000 laborers at work in hot season.

7. Mr. Cooper, the Deputy Opium Agent, also a gentleman of great experience, considered that in the thannahs of Kessuria and Mudobun the assistance required might prove much greater than that above indicated.

8. In general terms it may be said that the rice crop is the staple product of that part of the district which may be defined by the Nepal frontier on the north, the Gunduck river on the west, the Bagmuttee on the east, and on the south by a line drawn straight on the map from Bugaha on the Gunduck to Dhaka Ramchundra. That crop has failed, and the main food of the people there has been lost. In the rest of the district the spring crops are very poor. Besides these, the people have had only the bhadoi or Indian-corn, which yielded but half the average, except towards the southern border where the bhadoi crop was good.

9. These calculations are only anticipations which may fail to be realized. Still they represent the best opinions that can be formed; and such opinions must be acted on now, otherwise the opportunity of provining the supplies will slip away.

10. On the whole, I consider that one million of maunds of Government grain must be imported into this district by the 15th June, that is before the setting in of the rains. It remains to be seen how this requirement is to be met.

11. The transport-agency at Patna under Mr. Hewitt have already sent on 215,000 maunds to arrive in the district by the 15th February.

12. The Collector is now concluding an arrangement with European contractors of proved means and ability to cart not less than 50,000 maunds a week from Bunkur ghât opposite Patna after the 15th February, which would give 200,000 maunds a month for three and a half months from 15th February to 1st June, or 700,000 maunds.

13. For the works on the Gunduck embankment 24,000 maunds have arrived by the Gunduck river, and some further quantity is still in boats on the river. I believe that the total by river route will not exceed 50,000 maunds.

14. Thus the total Government provision may be set down at 975,000 maunds.

15. Then 150,000 maunds are being brought into the district by the manager of the Bettiah estates, and by the planters resident in that portion of the district, which will come by the river route: and this supply will help to support those who might otherwise come on the hands of Government. If this quantity be considered together with the Government provision, it will be seen that there is a margin to ensure safety.

16. I believe that the Government provision as above set forth will suffice, inasmuch as after the 15th May, the Gunduck will begin to rise and will afford navigation to the neighbourhood of the most distressed localities; so that if the land carriage were to prove insufficient it could be supplemented by water carriage, or if further supplies were still required they could be obtained by river route.

17. I consider that the preparedness, which I have myself seen, of the transport arrangements, even to the remotest localities of distress, is creditable to the administration of the Chumparun district, and the Collector informs me that this is in a large degree due to Mr. T. Gibbon, and to Mr. R. Lethbridge, both of whom will doubtless render still further public services during the coming crisis.

18. I believe that the arrangements of the carrying contracts which I have inspected are worthy of the confidence of Government.

19. I have instructed the Collector to have the transport routes examined specially with a view to excavating tonks for watering the cattle.

20. I have accordingly to recommend that fifty thousand maunds a week from 15th February may be sent forward by railway from Howrah, for the service of the Chumparun district.

No. 64, dated Barrh, the 15th February 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., on special service with Sir R. Temple, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department.

I am directed to smbmit for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal copy of a minute No. 20, recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the transport arrangements required for the Bhaugulpore division.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces has been requested to instruct Mr. H. Rivett-Carnac to arrange for the purchase of 1,000 carts with draught bullocks within the Benares division.

MINUTE No. 20, by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Barrh, the 15th February 1874.

1. I HAVE gone through, with Mr. Barlow, Commissioner, and Mr. Hankey, the transport arrangements of the Bhagulpore division. They report that carts are scarce, and that after all their efforts they are not able to find enough for the conveyance of the grain already allotted to them. It is also a grave circumstance that the tracts most distressed are those near the Nepal frontier, situate at the greatest distance from the Ganges, the base of operations.

2. It is probable that the allotment for the Soopool sub-division will have to be largely increased. But I hope to be able to decide that point within the next week.

3. Meanwhile Mr. Barlow and Mr. Hankey have given me a memorandum whereby they estimate that 3,000 carts are needed by the 1st April, to be supplied from beyond the limits of the Bhaugulpore division. It is essential to the safety of the distressed districts that this demand should in part, at least, be met.

4. As time presses, I have requested the Commissioner of the Patna division to purchase one thousand pair of draught bullocks at the fair now going on in the Arrah district, and to arrange with Messrs. Fox, the contractors, to make up or otherwise provide one thousand carts.

5. I have further asked Mr. Rivett-Carnac, Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce, to arrange to purchase, with the permission of the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, one thousand carts with draught bullocks within the districts of the Benares division.

6. If these arrangements should succeed, then two thousand carts with bullocks, out of the three thousand, will be supplied.

7. Whether the remainder of Mr. Barlow's requisition should be supplied, I will determine after visiting Soopool.

No. 642—S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, in the Statistical Department, to the COMMISSIONER of RAJSHAHYE. Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, the 12th February 1874.

I AM directed to communicate the following instructions regarding the quantity of Government grain which the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to send to your division before the beginning of the rainy season. Your demi-official note of the 9th current says that you wish to learn, as soon as possible, how much Government grain in all is to go to your division.

2. Mr. Robinson estimates that 10 lakhs of maunds will be required to make Dinagepore safe; it is clear that part of Maldah may be very much in need of supplies; and that part of the north of Rajshahye will be in a critical state. The Lieutenant-Governor therefore proposes to make the total allotment for your division north of the Ganges, inclusive of what has been already sent or allotted:—

	Mds.
Dinagepore	10,00,000
Maldah	1,00,000
Rajshahye	1,00,000
Bograh	75,000
Rungpore	2,00,000
Northern Bengal Railway	2,00,000
Total	16,75,000

The Rungpore supply of 1,40,000 maunds has already been proposed by you, and the extra 60,000 maunds should be stored on or near the Berhmapooter at Kaligunge, or at such other site or sites as you may decide. If you desire to suggest any revision of these allotments, you are at liberty to do so.

3. You will have to decide how much of this supply should go by each route, and where it should be stored. It has already been pointed out that you must not rely much on Dinagepore getting any very large share of its supply through Purneah.

4. The principal object will be, for you to get all the grain across the Ganges, and to send as much as you can high up into the interior. The question of the place whence steamers and native boats should be despatched in the warm weather will have to be carefully considered by you; for Goalundo and the river around it is more or less unsafe for boats in the middle of March. Meanwhile, every effort should be made to send as much grain as possible by large native boats to Nownuggur, or such other stores as you may select on the Burrul and Oorasagor.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 643—S.R.

COPY forwarded to Mr. Robinson, Relief Commissioner, to Major Lindsay, Superintending Engineer, and to Mr. Molony, Camp Rampore Beauleah.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 12th February 1874.

APPENDIX E.

No. 572—S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL in the Statistical Department, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Calcutta, dated 10th February / issued February 1874.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit copy of a minute recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the threatened scarcity in that part of Nepal which lies below the Himalayas, and to the north of the British districts of Tirhoot and Chumparun. The Lieutenant-Governor has not seen Mr. Girdlestone's report of the 1st February, and he feels unable to advise any particular course until he knows more exactly what the threatened tracts are, where they lie, what is their population, and what their condition. He can, therefore, only submit Sir Richard Temple's minute for the orders of the Government of India.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor desires, however, to add that, though at the beginning of the scarcity there was some alarm about Nepal and the demands its people might make on the resources of our districts, yet recent reports from Tirhoot and Chumparun have contained no suggestion that considerable quantities of grain have been carried from North Behar into Nepal. On the other hand, the last Tirhoot narrative stated that above 200,000 maunds of maize had come from the Nepal Terai into Seetamurhee, but that the importation had now stopped. From some other quarters fear has been expressed that exportations to Nepal might affect the food supplies of North Behar, but, as above stated, the official reports do not give any facts or opinions in support of such an apprehension.

3. On the general question of assisting the Nepalese, the Lieutenant-Governor would submit his opinion that we cannot, on relief works, or at relief-centres, or at relief hospitals, make any distinction between British subjects and people from Nepal, but we must treat all who come for aid alike as well as we can.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

MINUTE by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 11, dated Motiharree, the 5th February 1874.

THE Resident at Nepal (Mr. C. Girdlestone) having forwarded to me copy of his letter No. 27C, of the 1st February 1874, addressed to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, regarding the impending scarcity in the Nepalese Terai districts which march along with British territory, I desire at once to state my view on a matter which may at any moment become urgent.

2. On approaching the northern frontier of the Tirhoot and Chumparun districts, I was concerned to find that between our border and the Terai there is generally some narrow strip, of varying breadth, of Nepal territory, with villages much in the same circumstances and condition as the distressed British sub-divisions. I do not know what the population of the strip may be, but I see that in one sub-division of it, Jaleysur, the Resident puts the population at 225,000 souls; and possibly the adjoining sub-division of Sirha may have a similar number. Thus it may be that in contact with our distressed people we shall have half a million of equally distressed Nepalese. This circumstance constitutes an aggravation of our difficulties, which must be met.

3. On the civil officers inquiring whether Nepalese subjects applying in our territory for work or relief must be treated in the same manner as British subjects, I replied that they must.

4. But the larger question remains. How are the Nepal authorities to get grains which they may purchase in India conveyed upwards from the northern or left bank of the Ganges? Of course they may get carriage locally if they can. But practically they can hardly do so, when all available carriage is engaged for our grain transport. In this way I apprehend little or nothing will be done.

5. One thing the Nepal authorities could, I should think, do, which is this: Their distressed strip of territory has resources in carts and bullocks. They could collect such carriage and send it down to the left bank of the Ganges to fetch grain. The British authorities would give due protection to such convoys, deputing officials to take care of them, so that the carriage might not be detained or seized for other purposes. Even this plan, however, would not probably bring all the grain that might be needed.

6. Therefore, I think we must be prepared to let the Nepal authorities have a portion of the grain supplies which we shall be sending to the north part of Tirhoot, on payment of the cost which may have been incurred in purchase, transport, and the like, by the British Government. I should be happy to arrange this in negociation with the Resident of Nepal.

7. It will be found that we cannot properly refuse succour to the distressed people beyond our frontier, who cannot obtain supplies save through British jurisdiction.

8. Also if any starving or sick Nepalese present themselves at our hospitals or relief-houses we must, I think, admit them.

9. At the same time I think that the Resident would do well to impress on the Nepalese Government, the wrong and the mistake they commit in prohibiting free trade in grain between their districts and ours.

R. Temple.

No. 462, dated Calcutta, the 12th February 1874.

From Arthur Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 572 of the 11th instant, with enclosed minute from Sir Richard Temple regarding the threatened scarcity in that portion of the Nepal territory which borders on Tirhoot and Chumparun.

2. In reply I am to inform you that the Governor-General in Council has been in communication with Mr. C. Girdlestone, the Resident in Nepal, on the subject of the assistance which may have to be rendered to the Nepalese Government to meet the distress which is apprehended in the above-mentioned districts.

3. The Government of India have offered the Nepalese Government 1,000 tons of rice at cost price; but, as Sir Richard Temple very truly observes, the difficulty lies mainly in arranging for its transport from the railway to Nepal. Mr. Girdlestone has accordingly been directed to place himself in communication with Sir Richard Temple, and in his communications with the Nepalese Government to be guided by the instructions that he will receive from him.

4. The Government of India entirely concur with the Lieutenant-Governor and with Sir Richard Temple that no distinction should be made between British subjects and subjects of Nepal if the latter should apply for relief in British territory, and that we should do what we can to assist the distressed people beyond our border with supplies. No interference, therefore, should be permitted with the free transit of food-grains on private account from British territories into Nepal.

5. At the same time it is the obvious duty of the Nepalese Government to provide as far as possible for the relief of their people, a duty which, from the information received from Mr. Girdlestone, that Government seem entirely to recognise.

6. As the arrangements will be carried out by Sir Richard Temple in communication with Mr. Girdlestone and the Nepalese Government, no further orders can with advantage be given by the Government of India. I am to request that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will furnish Sir Richard Temple with a copy of this letter.

No. 687—S.R.

Copy forwarded to Mr. C. E. Buckland, C.S., for submission to the Honorable Sir Richard Temple.

No. 688—S.R.

Copy of this letter, and of the letter to which it is a reply, with copy of Sir R. Temple's minute referred to therein, forwarded to Commissioner of Patna for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
R. Knight,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, Scarcity and Relief Department,
The 13th February 1874.

Appendix F.

Resolution.

Scarcity and Relief Department.

Calcutta, the 16th February 1874.

The Lieutenant-Governor has again had under consideration the question of making advances of grain or money to ryots. The Government orders of the 3rd February reviewed what had passed upon the subject and issued orders for future guidance. Since then other reports have been received, which make it clear that in very many districts, perhaps the most pressing want, and even in the most distressed districts one of the greatest wants, is for advances to tolerably reliable ryots who only want a little help to tide them over the worst time, and to enable them to sow their crops and provide for the future by their own exertions. The exceptionally poor ryots who have no credit, and to whom prudent land-holders and money-lenders could not safely advance, are properly the objects of charitable relief in the form of advances under Part II., Clause F., of the "Relief Committee Instructions." But there are probably much more numerous classes of ryots to whom advances may be prudently made and should be made by those whose rents, incomes, and loans, depend on the rents and produce of the ryots. Every effort has been and should be made to induce the land-holders and mahajuns to do their duty and fulfil their functions towards these classes. Postponement of revenue under orders No. 155—S.R., dated the 16th January, should be very freely allowed to those in distressed tracts who use their means in this way, that is (as described in the above orders) who distinguish themselves by sustaining their ryots during difficult times of scarcity, and equally to those zemindars-in-chief who allow their under-holders to postpone the payments due from them for the purpose indicated above. Advances for the purchase of grain to those who will use it for advances to the ryots should be freely made on the terms mentioned in paragraph 4 of circular orders No. 80 of 17th November 1873. Very special directions should be given to ensure that the necessary advances to the ryots are freely and well given in all wards' estates and khas mehals in distressed districts; and Commissioners are requested to issue sufficient orders on this point without delay.

2. As already ordered (see last sentence of paragraph 6 of the orders of 3rd February), special report must be made regarding those private estates so peculiarly situated that Government must undertake the function which for special reasons those whose proper function it is cannot perform. No time should be lost in making proposals for dealing with cases of this kind wherever the necessity is so great as to render necessary so emergent a procedure. Previous orders have already provided for advances to all under-holders and permanent ryots who have substantial interest in the soil under private landlords.

3. As regards those ryots who are fairly the objects for charitable relief, the machinery of the sub-divisional relief committees must be freely used to find out and aid the poor ryots described above whose case does not come within the ordinary rules of prudential business, but who may well, with aid of charitable assistance, raise some crop and support themselves for the future, even if the repayment of advances by them may be precarious. This function should be explained to the relief committees.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 706—S.R.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye; to the Magistrate-Collectors of distressed districts in those divisions; and to Mr. C. E. Buckland for submission to Sir Richard Temple; also to the Central Relief Committee.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Calcutta, the 16th February 1874. Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

APPENDIX G.

No. 59, dated Bankipore, the 14th February 1874.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, ESQ., with SIR R. TEMPLE, on Special Service, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I AM directed to forward for submission to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of a minute No. 17, dated Hutwa, 10th February, containing Sir Richard Temple's proposals for an additional medical establishment for the Tirhoot and Chumparun districts.

2. Sir Richard earnestly begs that the Government of India may be moved to comply with these proposals, and that the officers may be directed to proceed without delay to the scenes of their labors.

MINUTE No. 17, by SIR R. TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Hutwa, the 10th February 1874.

I HAVE proposed, or shall propose, the following additional medical establishment for the Tirhoot and Chumparun districts.

2. In Mudhobanee sub-division there will be ten sub-committee circles, including the sub-divisional committee, and twelve sub-committee circles in Durbhunga sub-division, including the sub-divisional circle. In Seetamurree sub-division there will be six sub-committees; in Tajpore sub-division one sub-committee; in Mozafferpore sub-division one sub-committee, exclusive of the sub-divisional circles.

3. For each sub-committee circle I shall propose the appointment of a native doctor and a compounder; according to that, then, there would be required in the Tirhoot district an additional establishment as follows:—

	Native Doctors.	Compounders.
Mudhobanee - - - - - -	10	10
Durbhunga - - - - - -	12	12
Seetamurhee - - - - - -	6	6
Tajpore - - - - - -	1	1
Mozufferpore - - - - - -	1	1
Total - - - - -	30	30

4. I have proposed that an Assistant Surgeon be posted to the Tirhoot district, to take charge of the civil duties at Mozufferpore, while Dr. Gayer, the Civil Surgeon, is on circuit inspecting the medical arrangements of the sub-committees.

5. In Chumparun district there will be seven sub-committees, exclusive of the sub-divisional committees, for each of which I shall propose a native doctor and a compounder. According to that, the following additional establishment would be required:—

Native doctors	7
Compounders	7

6. I shall also propose that a competent medical officer be posted to the Chumparun district, in subordination to Dr. Cullen, to take charge of the civil duties at Motiharee, while the Civil Surgeon may be on tour inspecting the medical arrangements of the sub-committees.

7. I earnestly hope that the Medical Department may be able to comply with these requisitions, having regard to the exigencies of the coming scarcity.

8. A copy of this minute is furnished to Dr. Francis, Deputy Inspector-General, for information.

No. 1,399, dated Calcutta, the 16th February 1874.

From J. C. Brown, Esq., C.B., M.D., Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to report for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, that the following arrangements have been made up to date for affording medical aid to the work-people, &c., employed in the famine districts in Bengal:—

(a.) The services of one hospital assistant and 4 native doctors named in the margin, have been placed at the disposal of the Relief Commissioner of Rajshahye at Dinagepore.

1st class hospital assistant, Shaik Sabur Alie.
V. L. class native doctors Annud Chunder Roy.
Sosee Bhoosun Sircar.
Chunder Kanta Sen.
Apothecary class, native doctor Gooroonath Roy.

(b.) The Deputy Surgeons-General of the following circles have been directed to place the services of the number of medical subordinates noted against each, at the disposal of the Deputy Surgeon-General of the Dinagepore circle, with a view to their being employed in the famine districts under the orders of the Commissioners of the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions.

Lucknow Circle	6
Saugor Circle	4
Agra Circle	2
Nagpore Force	3
	15

Of the 15 medical subordinates, the under-mentioned hospital assistants and native doctors have already arrived at Dinapore and posted as follows:—

For the Bhaugulpore Division.

3rd class hospital assistant Moula Bux and Abas Ally.

For the Patna division.

1st class hospital assistant Tacoor Persaud.
3rd „ „ „ Peer Bux.
3rd „ „ „ Mohomed Syed Yousuf Ally.
Local native doctor Gyan Chund Doss.

In addition to the above, 2nd grade sub-assistant surgeon Ram Chunder Gooto has arrived at Patna for duty under the orders of the Commissioner of that division.

Sanctioned in Bengal Government letter No. 593—S.R., dated 11th February 1874.

(c.) On the 6th instant, according to the instructions received from Mr. Bernard, eight medical subordinates named in the margin, who were serving in the Dinapore circle, were directed to proceed as early as practicable to Tirhoot, and report themselves to the civil surgeon of that station for duty under his orders. The services of Surgeon D. Wilkie have also been made available as assistant civil surgeon of Tirhoot, in order to permit the civil surgeon more effectually to supervise the special relief establishment.

3rd class hospital assistant Roh Ally.
V. L. class native doctor Umbica Churn Doss.
Local native doctors Golam Russool.
Ditto Dilabur.
Ditto Bhika.
Ditto Kedar Nauth Chatterjee.
Ditto Meghoo Ram, and Chunder Kant Banerjee.

(d.) In accordance with the instructions lately received from the Joint Secretary to the Government of Bengal Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, 3rd class hospital assistant Dad Ally, and local native doctor Koylas Chunder Soor, have been directed to proceed to Bettiah, and report themselves to the executive engineer of the Upper Gunduck embankment division for duty under his orders.

Letter No. 268 J. E., dated 3rd February 1874.

(e.) Local native doctor Hur Churn Sen, now on sick leave at the presidency, has been directed to proceed (on the expiration of his leave) to Dinapore and report himself to the Deputy Surgeon-General of that circle for duty in the famine districts.

This office memo. No. 1685A, of the 10th February 1874.

I would solicit His Honor's sanction to the arrangements noted in paragraphs B and C of this communication.

(*f.*) In addition to the above the services of one sub-assistant surgeon, and two hospital assistants have been rendered available for the Northern Bengal (State) Railway, and a proposal has been submitted* for the employment of one surgeon and seven native doctors (in all) in connexion with these works.

(*g.*) I have this morning received Mr. Bernard's demi-official letter enclosing a minute penned by Sir Richard Temple on the medical requirements of the famine districts. Sir Richard Temple intimates, that including, I presume, the eight native doctors already demanded for Tirhoot, and the four men required for Chumparun, the wants of the district are as follows:—

	Native Doctors.	Compounders.
Tirhoot district - - - -	30	30
Chumparun district - - -	7	7

An assistant civil surgeon is also proposed for Chumparun. I beg to nominate Surgeon William Edward Battersby for this post. I shall at once issue orders to Deputy Surgeon-General to direct 25 native doctors to join the districts mentioned in Sir Richard Temple's minute without delay. There are 61 such reported to be available in up-country circles, and these 25 will be brought down at once. Dr. Francis, Deputy Surgeon-General, Dinapore circle, will be asked to provide the requisite number of compounders.

Enclosures returned.

* This office letter No. 1,373 of the 10th February 1874.

No. 767—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department, to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,

Calcutta, the 17th February 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1,399, dated 16th February, reporting upon the arrangements you have made to meet the hospital requirements of the famine districts.

2. It appears that up to the present date the state of things is this:—

Rajshahye division—	
Native doctors and hospital assistants already arrived - -	5
Patna division—	
Twelve native doctors or hospital assistants, and one sub-assistant surgeon already arrived - - - -	13
Bhagulpore division—	
Hospital assistants already arrived - - - -	2
Gunduk Embankment work—	
Hospital assistants already arrived - - - -	2
Northern Bengal Railway works—	
One sub-assistant surgeon and two hospital assistants already sent - - - - - - -	3
Total - - -	25

Besides these twenty-five medical subordinates there are—

On their way, as per clause (B) of your letter - -	9	Hospital assistants or native doctors.
Ditto ditto clause E ditto. - -	1	
Under orders for the famine districts, as per clause (G) -	25	
Total - - -	35	

This will make sixty medical subordinates in all, and I am directed to request that they may be hurried down as quickly as possible.

3. The last sentence of your letter says that the Deputy Surgeon-General of the Dinapore circle has been directed to provide compounders for all these medical subordinates. But in case a sufficient number of competent compounders should not be available, I am to suggest that preparations be made for sending a certain number of compounders from Calcutta. The Lieutenant-Governor would request that instructions may be given for preparing at once, either at Dinapore or Calcutta, sufficient supplies of medicines, &c., for each of the camp hospitals. The Lieutenant-Governor believes that this has been already done to a certain extent; but the preparations should now be rapidly completed.

4. Surgeon D. Wilkie has, it is understood, started for Tirhoot, if not, he should go at once. The Lieutenant-Governor approves of your nomination of Surgeon W. E. Battersby as additional Civil Surgeon for Chumparun, and I am to request that he may join at once.

5. Orders will be separately communicated on the proposal (clause *f.*), that an assistant surgeon and five additional native doctors should be appointed to the Northern Bengal Railway. Meanwhile, as there are so many (sixty-one) native doctors available for special duty in the up-country circles, Sir George Campbell would ask you to order down forty instead of twenty-five additional medical subordinates, as the requirements of the Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye divisions will probably increase largely.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 768—S.R.

Copy, with copy of Sir R. Temple's minute, and of the Surgeon-General's letter No. 1,399, dated 16th February, forwarded to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye, and to Mr. C. E. Buckland for submission to Sir R. Temple.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 17th February 1874.

Appendix H.

No. 62, dated Barrh, the 15th February 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., c.s., with Sir Richard Temple, on special service, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department.

I am directed to forward for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of my letter No. 60 of to-day's date, to the Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, with its enclosure, regarding the supply of fodder from the North-Western Provinces.

2. His Honor will observe that Sir Richard Temple has earnestly solicited the assistance of the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces in obtaining the supply of 200,000 maunds of fodder in all.

3. I am to add that the Commissioner of Patna hopes to be able to recover a portion of the cost hereafter, by sale of some of the fodder to contractors and others.

No. 60, dated Barrh, the 15th February 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., c.s., with Sir R. Temple, on special service, to C. A. Elliott, Esq., Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces.

I have the honor to forward for the perusal of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, copy of a memorandum given by Sir Richard Temple to the Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce, which perhaps Mr. Carnac himself has laid before His Honor.

2. After consulting with the Commissioner of the Patna Division, Sir Richard thinks it requisite to procure 100,000 maunds of fodder in addition to the 100,000 specified in the memorandum, i.e., 200,000 maunds in all, and desires that Mr. Carnac may be deputed with full power to arrange as best he can for the collection of the whole amount, which should be consigned to the care of the Commissioner of Patna.

3. The fodder may be to some extent obtainable from the rubbee crops now coming in. In selecting from them for fodder, two points should be especially borne in mind, (1) the relative cheapness, and (2) the nutritiousness of each kind of crop.

4. Sir Richard earnestly solicits the assistance of His Honor in obtaining this large supply of fodder for the cattle to be employed on the transport service of grain to Tirhoot.

No. 4, dated Bankipore, the 13th February 1874.

Memorandum by Sir Richard Temple.

In reference to the accompanying telegram * from the Central Provinces, and endorsements by the Commissioner of Patna, I shall be glad if Mr. Carnac will be good enough to undertake the completion of this order.

* Copy not sent herewith.

The offer from Central Provinces must be refused as too expensive.

The requisition was for 100,000 maunds of cotton seed, half from the North-Western Provinces and half from the Central Provinces.

The Central Provinces' reply shews the prices to be too high, and we must give up that part of the project unless Mr. Carnac can hit on some means of getting it cheaper.

The North-Western Provinces have arranged, as I understand, 20,000 maunds, are doubtful of getting more—but suggest that the required quantity be made up with other kinds.

I would leave it to Mr. Carnac's discretion to make up the 100,000 maunds in the cheapest and most efficient way he can.

"Bhoosa" would do. "Oil cake" is much recommended, and the more of that the better.

Mr. Carnac can shew this minute to the Government of North-Western Provinces.

APPENDIX I.

No. 689—S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL in the Statistical Department, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Calcutta, the 14th February / issued February } 1874.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit the appended copy of a memorandum by Mr. Toynbee, the Calcutta grain officer, and to invite the attention of the Government of India to the apparent inability of the East Indian Railway to carry away daily the full quantity of grain which the Lieutenant-Governor desires to send from Calcutta.

2. For the last three weeks, and for the coming week, the Lieutenant-Governor has, under the directions of the Government of India, advised the East Indian Railway Traffic Manager of the quantity of Government grain which was to be despatched from Howrah during each ensuing week. Sir Richard Temple's visit to Behar has resulted in a very large increase in the estimate of the necessities of Behar; and the Lieutenant-Governor has notified to the East Indian Railway officers, that he wished to despatch 30,000 bags (about 2,222 tons) a day during the current week, and 33,000 bags (about 2,444 tons) during the coming week.

3. But the East Indian Railway, though it has gradually and steadily increased its supply of wagons, has not yet carried* away more than an average of 18,167 bags (about 1,410 tons) a day. The East Indian Railway Officers, who have throughout most cordially and effectively aided this Government in a way the Lieutenant-Governor cannot sufficiently acknowledge, have not, indeed, stated that they cannot do more than this. The traffic manager (Mr. Batchelor) observed that the Government requirements for the current week amounted to fully eight train-loads a day, while his company was now carrying a daily downward traffic of 2,200 tons (of which about 1,350 tons is food-grains) past Mirzapore, and he truly pointed out that the railway was "carrying a very large traffic, apart from the large grain traffic from Howrah."

4. The Lieutenant-Governor had hoped that during the comparatively cool months the Government might be able to send up the East Indian Railway a good deal more than 2,000 tons daily, and on the 10th February he caused Mr. Cecil Stephenson to be asked whether his line could carry up to 3,000 tons, or even 4,000 tons a day. As yet Mr. Stephenson has not been able to reply, but the Lieutenant-Governor deems the matter to be so important and so pressing, that he directs me to lay this statement of the case before the Government of India.

5. The indents of the local officers, who under Sir Richard Temple's instructions have arranged for carriage up to the amount of their indents, already come to :—

For Tirhoot - - - - - -	2,00,000	maunds a week.
„ Sarun - - - - - -	50,000	„ „
„ Chumparun - - - - - -	50,000	„ „
„ Gya, Arrah and the Soane Canal - -	20,000	„ „
„ Bhaugulpore (must be increased) - -	30,000	„ „
„ Purneah - - - - - -	80,000	„ „
„ Dinagepore (viâ East Indian Railway Rajmehal) (must be increased) - - - -	7,000	„ „

The Bhaugulpore and Dinagepore carriage will, it is hoped, greatly expand. If the larger estimate of the Tirhoot requirements (four millions of maunds) is to be worked up to, the despatches for Tirhoot will have to be made more than 2,00,000 maunds a week. Meanwhile the despatches, merely to supply the above indents, must come to 4,87,000* maunds a week (or about 16,200 tons), equal to 2,330 tons daily, including Sundays.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor is much afraid that the East Indian Railway may not be able to carry all this grain away daily. Yet, as has been above said, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the local officers will be able to take even more grain than the above despatches contemplate; there will now be a demand for carriage of material for the Durbhanga tramway, and that demand will have to be treated as the most emergent of all.

The Lieutenant-Governor is also apprehensive, lest with heavy and continuous strain now put on the East Indian Railway, its drivers and guards should knock-up in the coming hot months. As Mr. Batchelor has pointed out, all this extra traffic on the East Indian Railway, and on the Punjab line necessitates the lifting and storing along both lines of so much extra coal from the Bengal coal fields. And there seems to be much ground for fearing that the resources of the East Indian Railway may be taxed beyond what they can perform, unless means of extending them can be devised.

7. Sir George Campbell would solicit that the advisers of the Government of India on railway matters may look into the matter, and that, if necessary, steps may be taken by borrowing wagons, engines and men from other lines, to enable the East Indian Railway to carry the whole of its ordinary traffic, to cope with the large and important down trade in private grain, and to despatch from Howrah to the distressed districts up to 3,000 tons of Government grain a day during the months of March and April.

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* NOTE.—In past weeks the Government has sometimes not had sufficient rice ready stacked for despatch. But this failure will not, it is believed, recur.

* N.B.—The despatches notified to the traffic department for the coming week are (statement annexed to letter No. 632 of 12th February).

3. It may be well for the Lieutenant-Governor to add, while he is writing about railway carrying power, that so far as experience goes, the Eastern Bengal Railway, by which Dinagepore and most of the Rajshahye divisions are chiefly supplied, can fully and easily carry away from Sealdah all the grain this Government requires to send.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 690—S.R.

One copy of the above, with copy of enclosure, forwarded to Mr. Toynbee, for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 14th February 1874.

Memorandum by Mr. Toynbee, regarding the despatches of Rice from Howrah by the East Indian Railway.

Table showing the despatches advised to and actually sent by East Indian Railway, from January 26th to date.

Number and date of letter advising Mr. Batchelor.	For what week despatches advised.	Daily number of bags advised.	Daily average number actually sent.	Daily difference (less).	Remarks.
206, S.R., dated 21st Jan.	26th Jan. to 1st Feb. -	16,714	12,786	3,928	
336, S.R., dated 30th Jan.	2nd Feb. to 8th Feb. -	17,357	15,473	1,884	
489, S.R., dated 6th Feb.	9th Feb. to 15th Feb. -	30,000	18,167	11,833	four days' average.
632, S.R., dated 12th Feb.	16th to 22nd Feb. -	33,000	—	—	

From the above it will appear, that although a gradual improvement in despatches has taken place since we first advised the railway of our wants in the way of carriage, and though the railway very nearly worked up to the requisitions made on them in the first two weeks, there is reason to fear that the demand for carriage for 30,000 bags daily is more than they will be able to meet. This, at any rate, is the result of the last four days' average. For next week we require carriage for 33,000 bags, and I presume that arrangements are being made up-country to carry away this amount from the railway. We have never yet sent away 22,000 bags—the best day's work we ever did being yesterday's (21,920 bags). This is little more than is now required by Futwah Ghât and Barrh new stations alone. It would seem to be necessary either to reduce the present list of despatches, or to give the wants of certain stations precedence over those of others. I do not think that, under present arrangements, the railway can carry more than 20,000 bags a day on an average and continuously. We must, therefore, either (1) ask the railway to increase their present means, and let us know reliably up to what quantity they can work, or (2) reduce our despatch list to such a quantity as the railway can carry, and advise the mofussil officers to adapt their means of carriage to the real power of the railway.

No. 664, S.R. dated Calcutta, the 13th February 1874.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

I am directed to submit, for the consideration of the Government of India, the following statement of the present outlook in regard to the despatch of Government grain from Calcutta.

2. In order to meet the demands made by Behar officers under Sir Richard Temple's orders, and in order to give full employment to the carriage which has been collected, the Lieutenant-Governor has had to notify to the East Indian Railway Company that he wishes to despatch 2,500 tons of grain daily from Howrah during the week beginning on the 16th February next. The despatches by the East Indian Railway notified for the current week were 2,000 tons a day. If the railway should be able to give wagons for all this quantity of grain daily, our despatches by the East Indian Railway alone will be from the present date (13th February) to the end of the month 35,000 tons. Besides this, we have to send before the end of the month from 7,000 to 9,000 tons by the Eastern Bengal Railway for the Rajshahye Division. The Eastern Bengal Railway can certainly carry all the Government wishes to send. Thus from 42,000 to 44,000 tons will be required for despatch during the present month.

3. So far as the Lieutenant-Governor is aware, there are not much more than 5,000 or 6,000 tons of Government rice available in Calcutta, and he is not sure whether further arrivals up to the amount indicated can certainly be reckoned upon. Sir George Campbell would be very glad if any certain information as to probable arrivals could be given him; for, if we shall not have enough rice in Calcutta to send up country and fully employ the railway and the carriage our

officers have collected or are collecting, it would be well that timely information should be given.

4. I am to explain that, though this Government has asked to have wagons for 2,000 tons a day this week, and for 2,500 tons a day during next week, still there has never yet been sent away more than 21,000 bags (about 1,500 tons) in any one day from Howrah. Still the Railway Company could with more confidence make its arrangements to meet our demands if we had sufficient rice always ready to fill all the wagons they can give.

No. 632 S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department, to J. C. Batchelor, Esq., Traffic Manager, East Indian Railway, Jamalpore.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir, Calcutta, the 12th February 1874.

I am directed to forward a statement showing the proposed despatches of grain from Howrah during next week. I am to express the Lieutenant-Governor's most earnest wish that wagons for this amount of despatches may without fail be given. There is plenty of rice in store at or in the river at Calcutta to maintain these despatches.

2. I am to point out, that as yet, 21,000 bags is the largest quantity sent off from Howrah in any one day.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 633—S.R.

Copy forwarded to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye; to the Magistrate-Collectors of Patna, Gya, Shahabad, Bhaugulpore and Purneah; to Mr. Toynbee and to Mr. Urban Broughton of Howrah.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 12th February 1874.

Statement of proposed despatches of grain from Howrah, during the week beginning Monday, the 16th February 1874.

		Number of bags of two maunds to be despatched (if one-maund bags are used the number of bags will be doubled).	
		Daily.	Weekly.
Rajmehal		500	3,500
Caragola		2,000	14,000
Colgong		4,000	28,000
Sultangunge		2,000	14,000
Barrh Ghât		8,000	56,000
Futwah Ghât siding		11,800	82,600
Bihta Bukhtearpore Bankipore	For Gya	6,200	8,400
Arrah		2,500	17,500
Buxar and small station in Shahabad	For canal and district	1,000	7,000
	Total	33,000	2,31,000 or 4,62,000 maunds.

Appendix K.

No. 476, dated Fort William, the 13th February 1874.

From A. P. Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

As the Central Relief Committee will act in communication with the Government of Bengal, the Government of India wish to make some observations upon the subject of its action and functions, and upon the general conduct of relief operations.

2. The Government of India does not wish to interfere in any way with the discretion of the Central Committee in the allotment of funds to the different local committees; but in the exercise

of the general supervision over district committees, which under the rules agreed to at the meeting of January 24th was delegated to the Central Committee, His Excellency in Council thinks that it is essential that care should be taken lest any instructions to be issued by the Central Committee should clash with those issued by the local authorities, upon whom the responsibility of relieving distress will devolve.

3. His Excellency considers that unity of control and distinct responsibility are essential to the success of measures for the relief of distress when applied to a large area of country, such as North Behar. The whole force of the administrative machinery of Government, largely increased from its ordinary strength, must be directed to the transport and distribution of food. The responsibility for ensuring a supply of food to those who cannot obtain it by other means must rest with the Commissioner of the division and the local officers charged with this duty by him.

4. His Excellency is therefore of opinion that the functions of the Central Committee, when dealing with such areas of country as North Behar, should be mainly confined to the collection of subscriptions, and to arranging for the supply of food or money to district committees; that the supervision to be exercised by the Central Committee over the district committees should only be of a general nature; and that it would be undesirable that the Central Committee should issue detailed instructions for the relief of distress. These details must, in His Excellency's opinion, be very much left to the discretion of the district and sub-divisional committees under the direction of the local officers, who must necessarily possess more complete knowledge than can be attained by anybody, however zealous and efficient, acting at a distance from the actual scene of operations.

5. His Excellency does not doubt that the Central Committee will take this view of the subject, but he thinks that it is desirable to prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding arising.

6. It will probably be undesirable that the Central Committee should purchase grain except from Government stores, and any arrangements as to price will be made that may be considered equitable and proper by the committee.

7. In connection with this subject, I am to observe that where distress, as is the case there, arises from a general deficiency of the food-supply of a large area of country, which deficiency cannot be met by private traders, stringent labor tests are not applicable. The labor test was tried during the earlier portion of the Irish famine; it failed, and ultimately gratuitous distribution of cooked food was substituted. It was under the latter system, coupled with the sale of grain at market rates by Government where private traders could not supply it, that the Irish famine was at last successfully dealt with. The circumstances in India are not entirely similar, but it appears to His Excellency that where they differ, the difference would point to an extension of the system of gratuitous distribution of food, and especially to the establishment of a system of advancing supplies of food to cultivators. When distress extends to whole classes of the population, His Excellency relies upon the local knowledge of the persons entrusted with the distribution of relief to prevent abuses.

8. This subject is one of very great importance. The provision of employment for the laboring population upon public works was directed—and in His Excellency's opinion properly directed—at the outset of the period of scarcity as a preliminary and precautionary measure, so that the means of providing themselves with subsistence might be afforded to the laboring population and to the smaller cultivators who were not altogether unaccustomed to labor for hire. This application of public works has been proved to be sound by the experience of former periods of scarcity in India; but any system of relief by public works becomes impracticable when applied to a very large proportion of the population of a country. In order to apply it under those circumstances, unprofitable work must be found simply as a test by which to prove that the persons applying for relief are proper objects upon which to bestow it. Any application of such a test upon the scale that would be necessary in dealing with North Tirhoot would, in His Excellency's opinion, inevitably break down, and, moreover, by congregating cultivators at centres for the purpose of giving them employment, entail not only considerable hardships upon the people, but, as was found to be the case in Orissa, more serious evils.

9. These observations are by no means intended to imply that wherever useful work can be found, whether of a public or of a private character, advantage should not be taken of it as affording a most valuable aid to the general system of relief, but they have been made for the purpose of preventing the relief committees from considering the universal application of a rigid labor test to be recommended by Government.

10. I am to request that a copy of this letter may be furnished to the Central Relief Committee, to Sir Richard Temple, and to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye.

No. 705—S.R.

From A. Mackenzie, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Calcutta, dated 16th February, issued February 1874.

Sir,

In forwarding for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council a copy of a letter No. 703, dated the 16th February, circulating the views of the Government of India regarding the functions of relief committees, contained in your letter No. 476 of the 13th instant, and also a copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's resolution regarding advances to cultivators, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that these instructions will be considered to meet the case and will be approved.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor has, with the permission of His Excellency the Viceroy, omitted, in circulating your letter, the words in paragraph 7 which referred to a passage in a note of His Honor's, because he thinks that passage has in some degree been misapprehended. Sir George Campbell believes the passage referred to was that in which he refers to the painful necessity of hedging in our aid by severe tests. He there designedly and intentionally used the expression "tests" and not "labor tests," for he has never over-estimated labor tests alone. As a member of the Orissa Famine Commission and elsewhere, he has on previous occasions pointed out how ineffective such tests become when famine has gone beyond a certain point and labor become nominal; and while seeking to utilise labor to the utmost, he has never insisted on its usefulness beyond a certain point.

3. At the last conference at Government House the Lieutenant-Governor submitted to His Excellency the Vicerory as a question for discusion and instruction the question now under consideration as follows:—

V.—When the numbers to be relieved get beyond ordinary poor-houses and careful individual village relief, is it desirable to insist on labor on Government works in return for full rations, or strict poor-house tests; or is it better to give up the attempt to exact labor, and simply to give to all who seem to be poor a minimum of the poorest sustenance—gruel cooked by the Brahmin according to Sir George Balfour's recipe?

4. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the orders of the Government of India as he has explained them, together with the rules of the Central Relief Committee which he has sanctioned, will for the present sufficiently instruct the local officers and committees on the course to be followed in this respect.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 703—S.R.

From A. MACKENZIE, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the SECRETARY to the CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE; to the COMMISSIONERS of PATNA, BHAUGULPORE, RAJSHAHYE, BURDWAN, CHOTA NAGPORE, and PRESIDENCY DIVISIONS; and to the RELIEF COMMISSIONER of RAJSHAHYE.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, the 16th February 1874.

IN forwarding to you the accompanying copy of a letter No. 476, dated 13th February, from the Government of India, regarding the functioms of the Central Relief Committee, I am to say that it is not intended to make any great or sudden change in the system followed. The present orders do not conflict with the instructions issued by the Central Committee which are to be followed, though they should be read by the light of the present orders of the Government of India.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that the Central Committee will appreciate the considerations which induce the Government of India to deprecate in paragraphs 2 to 6 much interference with local details and too detailed regulations.

3. As regards paragraphs 7, 8, and 9, it will be understood that it is by no means intended to discourage the system of relief works which has been hitherto enjoined, or the employment of both the inmates of poor-houses and those receiving out-door relief in various ways as contemplated by the instructions. So long as famine does not reach an extreme point, the relief works and other employments will both utilise the available labor, act as a test of real need, and keep the people receiving relief engaged in a manner conducive to their well-being. It is only when want becomes so general that it is impossible to employ a whole population or to obtain any real and adequate work from great numbers employed on nominal work which they do not do, that the instructions of the Government of India become applicable. If such a state of things should unhappily come about, the Committee's instruction, that gratuitous relief must be given to those for whom work cannot be found, will come into play. In that case it may be necessary to give food to all the needy, and the test on which we must chiefly rely must be that on which the Committee has insisted, viz. that, as a rule, the gratuitous relief so given must be in the shape of cooked food. In this country the great mass of the people are little inclined to accept charity in this form, and this alone will be in their case a sufficient test of their needs. It would be impossible to dispense with this test, because if uncooked grain were distributed gratuitously to all, we should certainly be called on to support almost the whole population—a task beyond the means of Government, unless it be under extremely exceptional circumstances in limited tracts. The Committee's rules amply provide for searching out and relieving those who have good social or other grounds for objecting to the form of relief by cooked food, and are yet so poor and helpless as to require gratuitous relief, which in such cases is to be given by assignments of uncooked food.

4. Again, if famine does not reach the extremest degree of severity, or as soon as it begins in some degree to abate, it is of very great importance that no portion of the population hitherto self-reliant should be allowed to sink into confirmed paupers, and the utmost vigilance must be used to wean such people from dependence on charity and restore them to self-support. For this purpose, both as a test and as a step towards a return to habits of self-reliance, the exaction of labor will be most beneficial, and should in no degree be neglected.

5. As regards the advance of supplies to cultivators usually self-reliant and who only require temporary aid to enable them to continue their cultivation and support themselves, the Lieutenant-Governor had just drafted instructions when these orders of the Government of India were received. The instructions thus drafted seem applicable, and are issued along with this. The Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that the Relief Committee will fully carry out their part of searching out and relieving the very poor cultivators who have not the means or the credit to render it possible to deal with them on ordinary principles.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 704—S.R.

COPY of the above letter and of the Government of India's letter, forwarded to C. E. Buckland, Esq., for the information of Sir Richard Temple.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 16th February 1874.

APPENDIX L.

No. 681—S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL in the Statistical Department, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Calcutta, dated 13th February / issued February 1874.

SIR,

WITH reference to the Financial Secretary's letter No. 3325, dated 26th November and other communications, I am now directed to submit an estimate, as far as it is possible to frame one, of the expenditure to be incurred in consequence of the drought of 1873–74 in Behar and Bengal. Much of this estimate must still be very conjectural, but it is given as well as this Government now can give it. The expenditure will be of two kinds, namely—

(*a.*) Expenditure for which there will be no money return.
(*b.*) Expenditure on advances and loans, most of which will be eventually repaid.

2. First, with reference to the absolute expenditure, this may be ranged under five heads, namely—

I.—Special temporary establishments.
II.—Direct expenditure for the promotion of private trade in grain.
III.—Relief work expenditure, either on roads or public works, or in the shape of aid to private relief works.
IV.—Purchase, handling, transport, storage, &c. of Government grain.
V.—Charitable relief.

I.—SPECIAL TEMPORARY ESTABLISHMENTS.

3. Under cover of my letter No. 3888, dated 11th December, was submitted a statement of establishments "likely to be required." The total charge shown was Rs. 38,000 a month. One or more of the higher appointments then proposed and sanctioned by the Government of India may perhaps not be required. But on the other hand there are,—

(1.) Mr. Hankey, as Inspector of transport arrangements, Patna.
(2.) An Additional Relief Commissioner for North Behar.
(3.) The officers of the Commissariat and Quarter-Master General's Department, and of the Staff Corps departments who are deputed on famine duty.
(4.) The Medical superior and subordinate staff which will be required.
(5.) The temporary Deputy Collectors and sub-deputies, whose appointment is now becoming necessary over and above the six sub-deputies shown at the foot of Appendix A, of the letter above mentioned.
(6.) The charge (Rs. 5 a month apiece) for sepoys employed on grain transport work, and the need, already becoming apparent in the Patna division, for a staff of extra police and guards in excess of the 250 men shown in Appendix B.
(7.) The apparent probability that the work of accounting for the expenditure of the large quantity of grain which is going forward will require more accountants than were estimated for in December last.

For these additional establishments the Lieutenant-Governor would estimate as follows:—

	Rs.
Cost of Mr. Hankey's deputation, he himself drawing only Rs. 500 special allowance, but his place being supplied by an acting officer	1,500 a month.
Cost of Relief Commissioner for the Patna division, similarly calculated on acting allowance	1,500 „
Twenty-five military officers of different departments, with an average deputation allowance of Rs. 400 each	10,000 „
Two extra medical officers, at Rs. 600 each; eight apothecaries or sub-assistant surgeons, at an average of Rs. 200 each, and sixty native doctors with establishments, averaging Rs. 60 each	6,400 „
Twenty-four temporary officers of the rank of Deputy Collectors, at Rs. 200 each, and twenty-four temporary sub-deputies, at Rs. 150 each	8,400 „
100 sepoys and 500 additional police guards, at Rs. 6 average	3,600 „
Twenty additional clerks and accountants above what was at first estimated, on an average of Rs. 80 a month	1,600 „
Total	32,000 a month.

Sir George Campbell will take care that no more temporary appointments are made than is absolutely necessary, and he is sure that Commissioners will also exercise every possible economy. The Lieutenant-Governor suggests no charge against "Famine" for the services of the police officers and others who are employed exclusively on relief work, as he considers that all other departments must be pinched and worked at something under full power, so as to make as many officers as possible available for famine work.

The total charge for establishments (exclusive of engineering staff), will then be as per letter of 11th December 1873	38,000
As now estimated in addition to the above	32,000
Per mensem	70,000
Or for, say, six months	4,20,000

But as the demands will probably increase, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks we should estimate for Rs. 5,00,000.

II.—Expenditure on promoting Private Grain Trade.

4. The Government has taken off road and ferry tolls, except such small dues at deep rivers, as may reimburse the ferry-men. The total ferry and road tolls income of—

	In 1872–73.
The Patna Division was about	2,57,000
„ Bhagulpore	22,000
„ Rajshahye	1,10,000
Total	3,89,000

of this total at least 2,80,000 Rs. will, it is expected, be lost by reason of the suspension of ferry and road tolls.

5. The other measure for promoting private trade has been the payment by Government of half the railway freight of all grain coming into the distressed districts, either from Bengal or the North-Western Provinces. It is not quite possible to estimate exactly the amount of this outlay; much of the private importations come from Loodiana, much from Calcutta, and perhaps it may be safe to reckon the average journey taken by private grain at 400 miles. The total imports of private grain into the distressed districts have been from 700,000 to 800,000 maunds a month. If import goes on at this rate for seven months in all, we shall have a total of about 5,000,000 maunds of private grain imported into the distressed districts before the middle of June 1874. The Government share of the railway freight on this quantity will be about one anna per maund for every hundred miles, or an average of four annas per maund all round. The total charge on this account may thus, if private trade continues to be as brisk as the Lieutenant-Governor hopes it may do, amounts to Rs. 12,50,000, which with the Rs. 2,80,000 of tolls remitted, gives a total of Rs. 15,30,000, or say, in round numbers, Rs. 15,00,000.

III.—Relief Works' Expenditure.

6. As yet the special grants for relief works have* amounted to only Rs. 16,25,000. The Lieutenant-Governor cannot hope that this will nearly suffice for the expenditure which will have to be incurred. Indeed, he trusts that as necessity arises much more will be spent. Already in the one district of Sarun, with a population of two millions, 33,000 persons are employed daily on relief works, and it is to be expected that when the pressure comes, Government will be able to find relief works for about one million persons daily, besides the regular laborers on the Soane Canal embankment and railway works. A million of workmen, women and children included, will cost at least thirty lakhs a month; and the Lieutenant-Governor thinks we may estimate for the spending at the rate of thirty lakhs a month for two months, and of ten lakhs for four

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* See enclosure No. 9 to the Tenth Narrative.

months, or for a total expenditure of one million sterling. This estimate includes the cost of food supplied to the laboring classes at selling rates.

7. Some charges may also have to be made on account of the extra cost of bonâ fide relief works on the Soane Canal and embankment works. It is hoped that nearly all the non-remunerative and weakly labor may, in the Rajshahye Division, be kept on the road and other local works, only able-bodied persons being drafted on to the railway works.

8. The Lieutenant-Governor has recently had to make a special grant of Rs. 3,00,000 to cover the cost of providing tools for workmen. It was early found that there were not enough tools in the country for nearly all the relief works, and so large orders for new tools had to be given. By the end of March all the tools required will be on the spot.

9. It is not possible to foresee what may be the famine charge under the head of inefficient labor on "extraordinary" public works, but it may perhaps be possible to keep the total one crore of rupees (one million sterling) for all relief works, as being likely to cover all charges for tools and for inefficient labor on "extraordinary" works.

It will be observed that the works to be undertaken from these funds are over and above the ordinary provincial works on which provincial money is being expended.

IV.—PURCHASE, HANDLING, TRANSPORT, AND STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

10. In the despatch published in the "Gazette of India" on the 31st January, the Government of India puts the prime cost of the 340,000 tons of Government grain at about three millions sterling. If the whole provision can be put down in Calcutta for this sum, then there will remain the charge for the bags,[*] for handling the grain in Calcutta, sending it up-country, transporting it to the interior, storing and watching and selling it. Into these charges will come the cost of the steamers which have been hired, the coal, &c. (but not the up-keep) of the Government steamers employed on famine duty; the establishment for selling the grain. The charge in Calcutta for handling will not be less than one anna a maund, and it may be more; the railway freight (which has to be paid at full rates), will not be less than six or seven annas a maund all round; the unloading and ferrying charges will be from one to two annas a maund; and the cartage or boat-carriage to the store-houses can hardly fall short of about fourteen annas a maund on the average.[†] Thus it will be unsafe to estimate the expense of transporting the grain to the interior, and of storing and guarding it there, at a lower average than—

	Annas per maund.
Handling in Calcutta - - - - - - -	1
Railway freight - - - - - - - -	7
Ferrying and handling and transhipment - - -	2
Cart and boat transport into interior - - - -	14
Add for storing, re-bagging, and miscellaneous - - -	2
Total - -	26

or about Rs. 42½ a ton. The total charge for transport and purchase, and storage of Government grain would thus be—

	Rs.
Prime cost as estimated by the Government of India -	300,00,000
Transport, &c., at Rs. 42½ a ton - - -	144,50,000
Total - - - - - -	444,50,000

Some of this outlay will be recouped by the sale of Government grain, or by disposal of surplus left at the end. It is quite clear that laborers on Government works alone will not be numerous enough to consume more than a small proportion of the Government provision of grain. There will, therefore, be a good deal of grain available for sale for those who can buy in parts where private trade does not supply the markets, over and above what may be required for charitable distribution. Some of the grain will perhaps be left unspent at the end of the famine, if happily Behar and Bengal have a good summer crop. Reckoning on a fair summer crop, Government may perhaps estimate the proceeds from sale of grain, and from the yield of surplus stores at the end of the famine to approach a crore, while the receipts from sale of grain to the relief laborers to be charged against their wages, may be taken at say 50 lacs; the total receipts on account of the sale of Government grain may be nearly 1½ crores of rupees (or 1½ millions sterling). These figures are necessarily conjectural, but if any estimate is to be made, the Lieutenant-Governor would take about these figures. The net cost of the Government grain transactions will thus be about Rs. 300,00,000. The Lieutenant-Governor is decidedly of opinion that in the end nothing will be obtained for grain from the charitable relief committees. He believes that it will be quite as much as they can do to meet their other expenses, and that whatever is in the first instance debited to them for grain (it will at first be so debited) will be balanced by additional grants which it will be necessary for Government to make subsequently.

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[*] The Bengal Jails alone are manufacturing for the Government rice, about 45,000 to 50,000 Rs. worth of gunny bags per month.

[†] The most expensive cart route of which the Government has yet received report is that from Rajmehal to Dinagepore, where as much as Rs. 1¼ a maund has been charged, though the rate is now being lowered. On other long leads up to the north of Purneah and Chumparun, the cost of carrying each maund will not fall much short of a rupee. Seeing how much of the grain will have to go long distances by land routes, the Lieutenant-Governor can hardly estimate the average cost of internal transport at less than fourteen annas a maund. As the Government requires more and more carts, the rates of hire have to be raised. The Commissioner of Patna recently reported that the contract rate for 1,00,000 maunds a week was three pie per maund per mile, for a lead of up to 80 miles.

He therefore calculates on no returns for grain supplied for charitable relief, but assumes that the committees will meet other charitable expenses with the aid which Government has promised.

V.—Charitable Relief.

11. It is not possible to foresee what charge the Government may have to accept under this head. Subscriptions beyond those of a few leading individuals are, as yet, comparatively small. If the Indian and English subscriptions reach a total of ten lakhs, the Government share of the relief fund will be another ten lakhs as promised. Sir George Campbell can hardly hope that a total relief fund of 200,000*l.* will be able to compass all that the "Instructions to Relief Committees" lay upon them ; and he apprehends that Government will have either to give its grain to relief committees at reduced rates, or in the end to supplement their funds. He, therefore, would estimate the Government share of the charitable relief at not less than 100,000*l.* independent of the grain supplied to the relief committees.

12. There is one other item of Government expenditure which does not come within any of the above heads, and that is the Government subscription (paragraph 23 of circular No. 80, Appendix D. to the second narrative) towards private works "which contribute to the water-"supply or general well-being of the people of any village or tract" in the distressed districts. As will be seen from a subsequent paragraph, there are at present no sufficient materials for estimating what the amount of such subscriptions may eventually be. But they may perhaps be estimated at Rs. 5,00,000, or a sum of three lakhs for the estimated land improvements executed from advances, plus a sum of two lakhs to cover the Government subscription in the case of useful relief works undertaken by landholders from their own funds (see paragraph 18 of the tenth narrative, and also paragraph 5 of the first paper in enclosure No. 4 to the same narrative).

13. The total probable expenditure of public money upon the famine is thus estimated at—

	Rs.
I.—Special temporary establishments - - - - -	5,00,000
II.—Promotion of private trade in grain - - - -	15,00,000
III.—Relief works expenditure - - - - - -	1,00,00,000
IV.—Purchase and transport of Government grain, less by possible receipts, and amounts charged to relief works, &c. - -	3,00,00,000
V.—Charitable relief apart from the supply of grain - -	10,00,000
VI.—Government grants-in-aid to private relief works - -	5,00,000
Total - - -	4,35,00,000
	or £4,350,000

14. There remain the several kinds of advances, which, though they cause a present drain on the treasury will for the most part be repaid, in part with, and in part without interest after the famine is over. These advances or loans are of several kinds, namely—

(*a.*)—Advances for purchase of grain to be sold at cost price, made without interest, and advances for purchase of grain to be sold at the applicants discretion ;

(*b.*)—Advances under the "Land Improvement Act ;"

(*c.*)—Advances to municipalities or other bodies under the "Local Public Works Loans Act."

15. The total sum advanced for the purchase of grain up to the 10th January last was Rs. 6,14,500. In North Behar and other places, advances are still being taken, and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes (see paragraph 7 and enclosure No. 6 of the tenth narrative) largely to promote the transport of private grain into Tirhoot by private dealers, by relaxing the rules for giving small advances for the purchase of grain. The same policy is being followed elsewhere. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that before the end of April next the total advances for the purchase of grain may amount to twenty lakhs (200,000*l.* at the very least) ; he has intimated to the Commissioners of divisions that the more money that can be safely and usefully spent on advances to petty dealers who will distribute grain for sale in the interior, the better Government will be pleased.

16. By the latest reports, the advances actually made for land improvements were comparatively small. But in Maunbhoom, Bancoorah, Nuddea, Monghyr, and some other districts the total sums applied for under the Act are already considerable. The assignments to meet these advances are as yet only twelve lakhs (as per paragraph 25 of circular No. 80, Appendix D. to the second narrative, and also paragraph 15 of the sixth narrative). But it is hoped that further advances will be largely taken both for land improvements, and also by zemindars for advances to their ryots. And the Lieutenant-Governor would estimate the possible outside expenditure under this head at thirty lakhs of rupees.

17. As yet only one or two municipalities have made proposals for loans, wherewith to undertake special relief works. Municipalities in Behar and Bengal are by no means rich bodies ; they have a very natural dislike to increasing taxation and undertaking burdens which they can possibly avoid. The Lieutenant-Governor is unwilling to put pressure on them ; and, as matters stand, he does expect that municipal or other local bodies will take very large loans, beyond a few thousand rupees in all, for special relief works during the present season. These small advances can be met from the assignments proposed in the next foregoing paragraph.

18. As has been explained in a foregoing paragraph (see paragraph 12 above), the Government has undertaken to contribute one-third of the cost of land improvements of general or public utility which may be undertaken during the current season. Most of these works will probably be tanks, reservoirs, and water channels, many of which will be of general use to the neighbour-

ing villagers and their cattle. So that the Government contribution will have to be paid in a large number of cases of private land improvements. As three lakhs out of the advances have been reckoned as absolute Government expenditure under paragraph 12 above, only nine lakhs of advances need be estimated for under the present heading. If, happily, landholders and others should come forward more freely for advances of this kind, the Lieutenant-Governor would very gladly indeed see the present estimate of thirty lakhs (300,000*l.*) exceeded.

19. The total expenditure according to the estimate now submitted, will therefore be—

	£
A.—Absolute expenditure of Government money, less by possible receipts for the sale of Government grain - - - -	4,350,000
B.—Expenditure on advances which will for the most part be recovered - - - - - - -	500,000
Total - - -	4,850,000

To allow for expenses not foreseen, we may say altogether 5,000,000*l.*

20. The Lieutenant-Governor desires to take the opportunity of the submission of this estimate, to invite the attention of the Government of India to the fact that the provincial funds are wholly unable to bear any considerable share of this immense outlay. The provincial funds were not intended, as it appears from the orders of March 1871, to bear any charges on account of "famine" or special disasters of that kind. Paragraph 18 of the Financial Secretary's letter No. 3003, dated 13th November (see Appendix C. to the second Narrative), directs that provincial and local public (relief) works should be in the first instance debited to provincial and local funds; and the same paragraph says that the portion of such expenditure which may be undertaken for the relief of distress will be transferred to "famine" charges, while that portion which represents value received by the different districts or local funds will be left at the debit of provincial or local funds, unless the aggregate of such debits be found to be more than the provincial finances can properly bear. Sir George Campbell would ask leave to submit that the provincial finances of Bengal cannot possibly bear the charge. He would hope that, when the time comes for making up the accounts of the famine expenditure, no larger sum may be charged against the provincial accounts than they can fairly be called upon to bear; and that the provincial balances may not be so far depleted as to prevent the Bengal Government from doing justice to the several provincial services, and to the many schemes which were in hand when the drought of 1873 unhappily intervened.

21. It should, perhaps, be added, that no very high estimate has been framed of the subscriptions which may come from England. If such subscriptions should be very large, the net cost to Government of the grain supplied to relief committees would be so far reduced; but on the other hand, there may remain at the end of the famine possible charges for orphanages and orphans such as have remained after other famines.

22. I am to add that, as regards the question how much of the expenditure is to be charged to the current financial year 1873–74, and how much to the ensuing year 1874–75, the Lieutenant-Governor is unable to offer an accurate estimate, as this will principally depend on the date on which the grain supplies are paid for. Since, however, it appears that the greater portion of these supplies are to be shipped and probably paid for in the present financial year, the Lieutenant-Governor would recommend that the money thus expended, plus all actual expenditure of the present year, should be charged as finally spent in the present year. Setting the part of the imported rice not paid for against the other expenses incurred, the Lieutenant-Governor would take 3,000,000*l.* as a fair estimate of the expenditure to be charged in 1873–74.

In 1874–75 much of the expenditure, but not the whole, will probably be recovered, including in the recoveries the whole of the cost of transporting and buying grain beyond the three millions to be charged in 1873–74.

Probably 1,350,000*l.* may be taken as the net expenditure of 1874–75.

Beyond 1874–75 we may hope that recoveries will balance any remaining expenditure.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Enclosure No. 3.

Resolution.

Scarcity and Relief Dept.

Calcutta, the 16th February 1874.

Read—

The district narratives of the Patna Division for the fortnight ending on the 7th February.

Patna	narrative received on the	10th	February.
Gya	,,	13th	,,
Shahabad	,,	12th	,,
Tirhoot	,, not received till	16th	,,
Sarun	,, received on the	14th	,,
Chumparun	,,	13th	,,

The last narrative for Tirhoot was received very late, and the Lieutenant-Governor had occasion to remark that the narratives for this large and important district, the condition of which was so critical, must be sent in punctually. Mr. Worsley explains that he was unable to write the report as he was engaged in carrying out Sir Richard Temple's orders. It does not appear, however, why the narrative was not prepared by Mr. Halliday while Mr. Worsley was away. Both these officers, no doubt, should have their hands full; but the narrative has to be written some time, and if proper arrangements are made beforehand for procuring punctual reports from sub-divisions, it is quite as easy to send in the narrative on the proper date as to send it in a week later. Sir George Campbell desires that timely arrangements may for the future be made.

DISTRICTS SOUTH OF THE GANGES.

2. In the Patna, Gya and Shahabad districts, the supplies of grain in the local markets is said to be sufficient. The price of common rice was above 11 seers per rupee in Barrh, Behar, and in part of Gya. In the parts of Shahabad, regarding which there was anxiety, the condition of the crops is said to have improved. The Patna and Shahabad reports speak of prices having in the main risen, and the prices-current of Saturday, the 7th February, did show some rise. But the results of the rain of the previous week may not then have been fully felt. Private trade and private imports into Patna are very brisk; 2,57,524 maunds of private grain were imported by rail into the Patna district during the fortnight; the Shahabad import figures have not been received.

3. The effect of the rain has clearly been very good on almost all the spring crops. Mr. Mangles speaks of its having done "little or no harm to the pulses" and "immense good to the "wheat, barley, cheena, and late gram." Mr. Palmer says the rainfall has been "of incalculable "benefit," and he adds that the spring crops "are excellent and equal to any average year." He only wishes that the breadth sown had been greater. Mr. Alexander says the recent rain "has done much material good to all growing crops, more especially to the wheat and barley." One very satisfactory symptom is reported from Shahabad, namely, that the village bankers are advancing money on the security of the rubbee crop; and as they are practised judges, the crop prospects may be taken as being good.

4. There is said to be no distress in Patna; the condition of the people in Gya is still not bad; in Shahabad the condition of the people is said to be unchanged, except in the Sasseram division where it has improved. In Gya the Magistrate has opened a large relief work in one corner of the Jehanabad sub-division where "tightness is felt," and in Jehanabad sub-division several new relief works have had to be opened in parts away from the canals. In the Patna district over 5,500 people were employed daily on road works, and 2,522 were employed in Shahabad. The number for Gya is not given.

The Magistrate who is well acquainted with his district and the sub-divisional officers are agreed in anticipating that there will be no actual famine in Gya. But the Lieutenant-Governor is not quite without anxiety for this district, where prices by the last returns were high, and internal means of carriage are not very abundant. A review of Mr. Palmer's three monthly special crop reports shows that he estimated that only about five-eighths of the usual rubbee area had been sown. Mr. Palmer's reports do not offer any estimate of the area under rubbee food-grains; the Patna report makes the rubbee food-crop to be one-third of the food area of the district. The proportion in Gya can hardly be so large, seeing that Gya has no inundated (dearah) lands. If this be so, and if the bhadoi and aughanee (early and late autumn) crops were as bad as was feared, then the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that too much confidence must not be placed on the results of the rubbee harvest. The rice crop has in parts been, as Mr. Palmer points out, better than was at first feared. But looking to all the circumstances and to the way in which Gya suffered during 1866, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that the district must be carefully watched. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Patna narrative, he desires that Mr. Mangles will, in discussing any question of supplying carts for the north of the Ganges, bring prominently to Sir Richard Temple's notice the needs of the Gya district, especially keeping in mind the object of leaving room for the carriage of the private grain trade to the Gya district.

5. The storage and transport of Government grain is going on sufficiently fast to the south of the Ganges. The question is, whether the railway will be able to carry up now enough grain to supply the wants of these districts as well as the very much larger requirements of North Behar. If not, probably South Behar may be supplied by private trade from the north, provided the local carriage is available. At Patna city and in Gya, preparations have been made for administering charitable relief, if unhappily it should be required; possibly there may be a large influx of paupers from other parts into Patna itself. In Shahabad the charitable relief arrangements of Bhaboaah, Chand, and that neighbourhood, must be more completely organised, so as to be ready whenever they are required.

6. It is satisfactory to find that advances for land improvements are being more freely taken in Gya. And the Lieutenant-Governor requests that an expression of his approval may be conveyed to Baboo Brother Sing, zemindar of the Patna district, who is reported to be providing relief work for his villages and helping his ryots with advances.

7. The following table shows that crimes against property are, except in Sarun, much more rife than in ordinary years. In Chumparun only, however, are violent crimes numerous, and there minor crimes are comparatively few:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Crimes against property during the month of January in the Patna Division.

	January 1874.				Total of all four crimes.		
	Dacoity.	Robbery.	Theft.	House-breaking.	1874.	1873.	1872.
Patna	0	1	143	156	300	167	208
Gya	2	2	110	349	463	247	221
Shahabad	Return not sent in shape required.						
Tirhoot	0	0	116	195	312	139	158
Sarun	2	2	50	269	323	293	299
Chumparun	6	0	26	43	75	59	52

NORTH GANGES DISTRICTS.

8. The districts of Tirhoot, Sarun, and Chumparun have been visited by Sir Richard Temple, and have engaged much of his attention during the last three weeks; and as he is on the spot giving orders, detailed instructions from the Lieutenant-Governor are not required. Sir George Campbell is quite sure that everything that is possible is being done to preserve the large tracts of these districts which are very critically situated. Now that Mr. Worsley is set apart for the relief duties of the three northern sub-divisions of Tirhoot, the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have it made clear what Mr. Halliday is doing; as yet, the Government has heard and known very little of what he, the Magistrate of the largest and most important distressed district, has done and is doing.

9. In parts of Tirhoot the supply of food in the local bazars is very short, and the price of the coarser grains has gone up greatly. In Sarun, and even in Chumparun, the bazaars are fairly supplied with grain. Sales to the public of grain stored by the Hutwa estates have been begun through the agency of local traders. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks it necessary to caution the Commissioner and the district officers against opening the grain stores and selling to the public (*i.e.*, through the local dealers) too early in the day and without extreme necessity. With reference to what Sir Richard Temple has said of the trade capacities and facilities of the Sarun district, and seeing how very moderate is the supply of grain yet stored by the Hutwa estate, and how moderate is the provision estimated by Sir Richard Temple for the whole Sarun district, we must be very cautious about opening our stores for general sales too early. The representations made by the Durbhanga traders to Mr. McDonnell, show that by opening the Government stores to the general public too soon we may much check private enterprise. Still in out-of-the-way parts of Tirhoot, where there is no private trade, the Government stores will probably, as the present narrative says, have soon to be opened. The Hindee proclamation mentioned by Mr. McDonnell is probably the notice that Government intended generally to sell its grain on works only, and not to the public. The publication of such a notice may have been perhaps a little untimely now that the Government has admitted that it may have to let the public have its grain through the local dealers in tracts where private trade is non-existent.

10. The rainfall has done much good in North Behar also, especially in Sarun and Chumparun and South Tirhoot. In northern and north-eastern Tirhoot, comparatively little relief is expected from the spring crop, which covers but a small area. In Sarun the rain has been "of immense benefit to the crops," which have improved so wonderfully that an outturn of eight annas all round, or even more, may possibly be obtained. In Tirhoot not more than a 5-anna or 6-anna crop all round is expected.

11. From Tirhoot it is reported that the people are growing more anxious; vagrancy, begging, and crime is increasing, child desertion has begun, and it is feared that distress will be felt in parts of the head-quarters and Tajpore sub-divisions, as well as in the three easterly tracts. In the specially-mentioned parts of the Durbhangah sub-division, distress prevails "in a more or less "intense form" among the lower castes, and the signs of want and suffering can be seen on the persons of the men and women who come upon the road works. Village-to-village visitation has not yet begun, but occasional visits to distressed villages (such as are instanced in Mr. Worsley's 18th paragraph) show that the women and children are, in places, suffering from want.

12. The reports from Sarun show that distress is being "sufficiently coped with by means of "relief works." In the north of Chumparun, through the Rumnugger tract, a village-to-village visitation has been made by Mr. Howe, C.S., and he finds that even the ryots will soon be without food, while the condition of the lowest classes is still more deplorable. By means of works and of charitable relief the work of succouring these people has already begun.

13. In the Tirhoot district 18,988 persons were employed on relief works, but of these more than 12,000 were on Court of Wards' and private works. The relief works provided by Government officers in Tirhoot are as yet very inadequate indeed. Mr. Worsley and the sub divisional officers appear to recognise this fact, but still the increase in the number of persons employed during the fortnight under review has been very small. The results achieved in Sarun show that people will come to work, if employment is provided; the need for overseers exists equally in Sarun; yet there the officers have got 70,000 people employed on useful works. The officers of Durbhangah, Mudhebunnee, and Seetamurhee must use and make the best of local agency, while the Government is collecting and sending trained overseers as fast as it can. The Lieutenant-Governor very much wishes the Tirhoot authorities to get rid of the creed that people cannot be relieved without Public Works Department overseers. Petty relief works must be entrusted to local agency. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Tirhoot narrative, the Lieutenant-Governor observes that discretion should not be left to Assistant Engineers as to the main question what relief works are to be undertaken; the civil officers must decide that question.

14. In the Sarun district, as has been said above, plenty of work is provided in all directions; and the success of the arrangements in this respect is very creditable to the foresight and organization of Mr. Drummond and his subordinates, Mr. Hodgkinson and Captain May; 70,000 people are employed; most of them are able to do a full day's work, and belong to laboring castes; four-tenths of the laborers are men, three-tenths women, and three-tenths children. The wages for an able-bodied man average under two annas a day; women and children are paid in proportion. In Chumparun only about 6,000 persons a week were employed on the works, but the number was rising rapidly; the people supplied themselves with food (maize) from neighbouring bazars.

15. The private trade in grain is brisk in Sarun, into which 1,11,700 maunds of grain (principally maize) were ascertained to have been imported during the fortnight, besides probably a good deal not ascertained. Some small private importations of grain are being made for Patna into Tirhoot. In the rest of North Behar private trade seems to be very dull.

Arrangements have been completed for carting through contractors—

2,00,000 maunds a week into North Tirhoot,			
50,000	ditto	ditto	Chumparun,
50,000	ditto	ditto	Sarun.

It has been reported by telegraph that the contractors have begun their work well, and the present narratives say that the contractors can be relied upon, and that in Tirhoot alone they have already collected 12,000 carts. The Government of India has sanctioned the tramway from Chumpta Ghât to Durbhangah, which will very greatly facilitate the transport of grain into Tirhoot when it is ready. Sir Richard Temple has given on the spot great care and attention to augmenting the transport power of North Behar.

16. Advances are being taken by zemindars in North Tirhoot for land improvements and for helping their ryots; and advances direct to substantial ryots are proposed from Sarun. The Lieutenant-Governor has vested several selected sub-divisional and other officers with powers of a Collector under the Land Improvement Act, and has directed that such powers are to be exercised in strict subordination to the Magistrate-Collector of the district. In this way the prompt disposal of applications under the Land Improvement Act will, it is hoped, be facilitated.

17. Sir Richard Temple has arranged with the Commissioner and Mr. Schalch a complete scheme for dividing Tirhoot and Chumparun into relief circles, and for posting a competent relief officer to each circle. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes there may be no delay in carrying out this scheme and in beginning village-to-village visitation. He notices Mr. Kean's statement that at Ramnugger the charitable relief officer expects to have 2,500 paupers on his hands at once. He has regretted to hear from the Commissioner of Patna that the wealthy concerns of Messrs. Hills and Company have withdrawn from the subscription offered in their name to the Planters' Association of Chumparun; a body who are taking a great and important part in relieving distress throughout the Chumparun district. He also gathers that while Mr. Stevens and the officers of the Durbhangah public works have done all that is possible, there is room for improved energy and expansiveness in the proceedings of the Durbhangah Raj establishment generally.

18. Sir George Campbell observes that the charitable relief arrangements in Sarun seem (paragraph 31 of Magistrate's report) to be somewhat behind-hand. He considers that, even if happily general famine should not be felt in Sarun, there must be many poor creatures unable to work, and who in so poor a district must suffer terribly in times of dearness and scarcity. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks there certainly should be relief arrangements to find and succour such people.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 728—S.R.

Copy, with copy of the reports, forwarded to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye, and to the Relief Commissioner of Rajshahye; to the Magistrate-Collectors of the six districts of the Patna Division; to the Central Relief Committee, and to Mr. E. C. Buckland, for submission to Sir Richard Temple.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 16th February 1874.

No. D, dated Bankipore, the 8th February 1874.

From A. C. Mangles, Esq., Collector of Patna, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I have the honor to submit the following narrative for the fortnight ending Saturday, the 7th instant.

A.—State of the Country.

2. The abundance of supply of all kinds of food-grains in the several markets of the district still continues, and I have no doubt that it will do so so long as the private importation is kept up

at its present rate by the dealers, and no extra inducements, besides the existing difference in rates, are held out to them to throw in larger quantities of grain than they usually do into the neighbouring districts.

3. The following are the prices of the several food-grains prevailing in the district:—

Patna.

	Seers.
Rice, best	11
„ common	13
Wheat	15
Barley	16½
Jowar	16
Maize	15
Gram	16

Barh.

Rice, best	10
„ common	10½
Barley	14
Wheat	12
Maize	13
Gram	15

Behar.

Rice	10½
Pulses	15
Gram	15
Wheat	12
Barley	16

While the price of common rice in the city of Patna has fallen by one seer as compared with last week those of wheat, barley, and maize have risen. I received last week a petition from the leading grain merchants of the Patna city complaining of the impediments thrown in their way at Loodhiana, in the Punjab, from whence they say no grain has been allowed to be despatched in large quantities for some weeks past. I have forwarded the petition to the Commissioner, with the view of his taking the necessary steps for removing the cause of complaint. These merchants had, at a conference held by Sir Richard Temple on the 26th ultimo, already brought their grievance to his notice and were promised redress.

The sub-divisional officer of Behar thus writes on the subject: "Rice was selling at 15 seers " only two weeks ago. This sudden rise is not owing to there being not a sufficient quantity of " it in the sub-division, but to an entirely different cause. When our golahs were stocked with " Government rice, the traders and zemindars were in dread of our selling the different kinds of " grain very cheaply; when it was notified to them that Government grain would not be sold, " and that they were intended for the coolies who worked on our roads, they understood their " position and saw how they could raise the price with impunity. At once they combined to raise " it to the high rates which prevailed in November. The rainfall during this and the last week " has quite improved the prospects of the crops, and it is hoped there will be a speedy falling " off."

4. Rain fell on the 31st ultimo, the 1st and 6th instant, amounting to ·61, and was genera. throughout the district.

5. Great anxiety was at first felt as to the probable effect of the rain on the crops as opinion differed about it; but I am glad to state that the result of a careful inquiry throughout the district has led me to believe that as it was not at any time heavy, and fell at intervals, unaccompanied by hail or wind, it has done little or no harm to the pulses in flower or in ear; whilst it has done an immense deal of good to wheat, barley and cheena, and also to grain of late sowing.

6. Though the masses of the people are hard up owing to the rise in the prices of food-grain, and some of them are said to have reduced their usual daily allowance, no case of actual misery or starvation was reported during the fortnight. The canal and local works, and the brisk demand for coolies at railway stations, serve to keep the laboring classes pretty fully employed.

7. No case of robbery was reported during the period under report. There were 36 cases of grain-theft, most of them of a very petty nature and from the fields.

I herewith annex the comparative statement of crimes called for by the Government letter No. 4801 of the 20th December last.

It is happily conspicuous for the absence of dacoity cases, while there was only one case of robbery which was prosecuted to conviction. The number of theft and petty burglary cases was certainly large as compared with the corresponding period of the last two years, but this must always be expected in a year of short harvest and high prices.

B.—Relief Works.

8. The latest returns of local funds works received from the Executive Engineer are those for the week ending the 31st ultimo. They show an average daily number of 6,576 laborers employed on them, while the number of non-laboring classes on some of the roads has fallen to 2, 3½, 5, and 6 per cent. It has risen to 28 and 30 on two of them, but I must say that I do not

consider these figures reliable. During the fortnight the Government, in its resolution dated the 24th ultimo, has assigned Rs. 30,000 for relief works to supplement the local fund grant of this district, but this sum having already been exhausted in meeting the several applications from the Executive Engineer for special assignments, I have asked the Commissioner to move the Government to make a further allotment of 50,000 maunds to this district; and in anticipation of the Government sanction, I have sanctioned the following special assignments asked for during the fortnight, some of which have already met with the Commissioner's approval.

	Rs.
Road No. 13 - - - - - -	2,000
" " 24 - - - - - -	5,000
" " 37 - - - - - -	3,000
" " 15 - - - - - -	5,000
" " 29 - - - - - -	3,000
" " 12 - - - - - -	4,000
" " 14 - - - - - -	1,500
" " 30 - - - - - -	3,000

The Executive Engineer has been repeatedly directed by me not to stop any work where there is any demand for labor because the local grant for it has been exhausted, but to go on in anticipation of the Government sanction.

C.—Transport of Food.

9. The subjoined statement will show the transport of food between the 18th and 31st January, as per latest returns received from the Railway Company.

	Rice.	Wheat, oat and barley.	Janera.	Other grains.
By rail - -	2,93,211	26,533	47,051	1,03,529
By river -	980	12	4,400	570
Total -	2,94,191	26,545	51,451	1,04,099

or a grand total of 4,76,286 maunds, whereof 2,18,762 were Government grain, leaving 2,57,524 maunds as private import.

10. The means of transport continues sufficient for the requirements of this district, and on this head I have nothing to add to what I wrote in paragraph 11 of my last narrative and the special report therein alluded to.

11. During the period under report I received two communications from Sir Richard Temple, one asking for the construction of 200 carts in the Patna district, for use in Tirhoot; but as the carts are to be of a particular shape, not in ordinary use in this district, I am afraid there will be some delay in getting the required number, as many of the local builders will not undertake the work on any terms, and those who do, demand very high prices; however, as the orders I received were peremptory, I am doing the best I can, and have advanced Rs. 2,000 to those contractors who have undertaken the work. The other was inquiring whether this district could conveniently supply 500 carts for Tirhoot, and to this I have replied to the effect that, taking the unusually large amount of private trade in this district and its consequent requirements, as well as the large demand on our resources from the Gya district, into consideration, I could only spare 300 carts for Tirhoot in case of necessity, provided that the prospects in my district remain as they are at present and nothing occur to render it necessary for me to apply for my full consigment of grain; and I further wrote: "Taking everything into consideration therefore, I am of opinion that if our prospects continue favorable we might, at a pinch, though it would be a great strain on us and a hindrance to private trade, raise 500 carts for use in other districts; but if Tirhoot is to have them all, we could render no assistance whatever to Gya, to which district I believe another lakh of maunds has still to be sent from the new consignment."

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

12. Almost all the golahs in the sudder sub-division, and some in the other sub-divisions, have been furnished with machans to secure the grain stored in them against damp and white ants. Up to the end of the fortnight I have received 51,048 maunds for the use of this district, whereof 44,061 maunds has reached its final destination as detailed in my statement No. 2 for the last week forwarded to Government on the 6th instant.

13. I have applied for a further assignment of 17,500 maunds, half in rice and half in mixed grain, whereof 5,000 maunds will be for Dinapore division, which had only received 5,000 maunds out of the first allotment, and 12,500 to Behar, in addition to a similar quantity already sent there. Of the above quantity above 2,500 maunds of mixed grain have already been consigned to Bankipore station for this district, and will be sent to Dinapore by carts on arrival.

E.—Advance to Private Party.

14. No advance for purchase of grain was made during the fortnight, but three applications for Rs. 10,000 each, under clause A, paragraph 4 of the Government circular No. 80, from leading zemindars of the Patna city, have been forwarded to the Commissioner for sanction. The applicants propose to buy food-grain at a distance and sell it to the poor people and small bunnias in the mofussil at cost price. Now that it is our object to throw in as much private grain as possible from the city to the Tirhoot markets, some such measures as the above seem to be urgently called for with the view of keeping this district as fully supplied as possible with its own necessaries.

15. I am glad to be able to bring to the notice of Government another instance of liberality on the part of a native gentleman of Patna, Syud Walaet Ali Khan, a leading zemindar and banker of the city, who has sent Rs. 8,000 from his own purse to import food-grain from a distance and to sell it to the poor at cost price. He has informed me that he has set aside altogether a sum of Rs. 15,000 for this laudable purpose. I have accordingly thanked him for his liberal conduct, and I trust that I may also be allowed to convey to him the thanks of Government and to Syud Abu Syied, whose munificence I brought to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor's notice in paragraph 17 of my last narrative.

16. During the fortnight advances for 35 village works amounting to Rs. 4,000 were sanctioned. The works which have already been commenced are situated in the south of the head-quarters, and the canoongo has been told off to see that the advance-holders act up to their agreements.

E.—Charitable Relief.

17. In the sudder sub-division fair progress has been made in providing sheds for the charitable relief centres selected for this district. The sub-divisional officers, fully confident of the favorable prospects of their divisions, and of there being no probability of famine, have not as yet taken active steps in this direction. I have, however, drawn their attention to the advisability of our being prepared for the worst, however distant its chances may be, and I hope they will attend to it.

18. I have also selected sites for digging tanks in the south and south-west of the sudder sub-division, where, if there is to be distress, it is likely that it will first show itself, to be taken in hand in case of necessity; and in that case I propose employing the sum of Rs. 2,000 placed at my disposal by Syud Mahomed Abu Syied for the purpose, supplementing it with an equal grant from Government as a beginning.

19. I am also sending a project for the Commissioner's sanction, whereby Rs. 49,828, the balance of the Wahabee fund available for the improvement of this district, will be expended on reclaiming a large filthy swamp in the heart of the Patna City called "Sheik Mathao Gurhi," which is supposed to have been the standing cause of the yearly epidemics of cholera, fever and small-pox, and improving it into a moderate-sized tank, and its environs into a garden for the city. The municipality has consented to pay Rs. 3,557 as the cost of obtaining the land, measuring about 44 beegahs. This work, irrespective of its being a real blessing to the city, will be the best relief work I can decide upon, and will keep thousands of laborers employed for months.

20. I have also much pleasure in bringing to the notice of Government the praiseworthy conduct of Baboo Brother Sing, a zemindar residing in the south-west corner of the sudder sub-division, who has commenced digging a tank in his native village, and thus proposes affording relief to some 300 or 400 of his ryots for some time to come.

No. 305 C, dated Gya, the 9th February 1874.

From A. V. Palmer, Esq., Collector of Gya, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to submit my report on scarcity and relief in the Gya district for the fortnight ending Saturday, 7th February.

A.—State of the Country.

2. The bazars still continue to be fairly supplied. In Aurungabad the supply for some three days almost ceased in consequence of the weather, it being difficult for pack-bullocks to travel whilst the surface of the ground was wet and greasy. The Deputy Magistrate reports that grains have since come in as usual.

3. The following table will show the ascertained importations during the past fortnight in the principal bazars:—

Local Bazars.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, 1st sort.	Rice, common.	Millet.	Maize.	Gram.
Gya	460	81	199	1,171	9	265	210
Jehanabad	125	70	55	120	100	70	80
Aurungabad	20	—	3	40	—	—	60
Daoodnuggur	150	36	310	225	150	78	150
Total	755	187	567	2,556	259	413	500

4. These figures, as I have previously remarked, must not be taken as conclusive evidence of the entire importations. The Jehanabad sub-divisional officer reports that there are more small stocks of food for home consumption with the well-to-do ryots than he previously thought. These small stocks are chiefly of rice.

5. It is with the greatest satisfaction that I have to report a good rainfall throughout the district.

Gya	2·2
Nowada	2·46
Aurungabad	1·59
Jehanabad	1·04

6. I annex in the margin, for easy reference the quantity of rain registered at each sub-divisional head-quarters.

7. This rainfall, though slightly injuring the barley and poppy in flower, has on the whole been of incalculable benefit.

8. It has given vitality to the grass; it has given strength to those rubbee crops which could not be supplied with water artificially; it has given a general moisture to the surface of the earth, which has enabled agriculturists to commence ploughing, and has given all the wells a rest. I cannot be too thankful for this rain. It would have done more good had it come a fortnight earlier, but, as I have said above, the good resulting from it is incalculable.

9. All my sub-divisional officers unite in one opinion as to the rubbee prospects. It is only to be regretted that a larger area of land has not been sown down in rubbee.

10. The crops are excellent, and equal to any average year.

11. The rain has now disappeared, and bright weather, with a keen west wind, has set in.

12. In fact, we could not be having more favorable weather than that with which we are now blessed.

13. The condition of the people remains good. I have no information of any classes, other than those who earn their livelihood by manual labor, having come to the relief works. Each sub-divisional officer has reported that no case of starvation has come to notice, and all superior police officers and excise darogas have been authorised to relieve any real cases of distress that may come to their knowledge, reporting at once to the sub-divisional officer, who will arrange for some light work being given to such persons in exchange for means of subsistence.

14. Grain thefts and robberies have not increased to any alarming extent. There has been during the past year a steady increase of crimes. A statement, which I have called for, and hope to be able to submit with this report, will show at a glance how this matter stands.

15. The sub-divisional officer of Jehanabad reports that to the north-east of his sub-division tightness is felt, and that there have been some cases of desertion or expulsion of women. It does not appear whether this latter is a direct consequence of the tightness; but I have deemed it right to authorise his opening a relief work in that vicinity (Jehanabad and Hoolosgunge road), which will give ample occupation for some months.

16. I have no reason to withdraw from the opinion I expressed in paragraph 19 of my last report, to the effect that I do not anticipate famine, and it is satisfactory to be able to state that my sub-divisional officers, whom I have since consulted, concur in the opinion I have expressed.

17. I believe that the Sudder sub-division is perhaps in the least prosperous state. Fortunately a large proportion of the lands are uncultivated waste, and the people sparse.

18. Towards the south of the district the rice crop has been by no means bad, and if the mowa flowers well there will be large quantities of food obtainable from that source for the more indigent classes.

B.—Relief Works.

19. I have already reported that all my proposed relief works are ready for operations as soon as relief is necessary. The statement, which I shall submit to the Department Public Works branch of the Bengal Secretariat two days hence, will show concisely the points on which information is required under this heading.

20. The Commissioner of Patna has allotted me 5,000 tools, for the delivery of which application has been made. These will, I anticipate, suffice for my requirement.

C.—Transport of Food.

21. I have already, in replying to the first head of the Government circular, given a statement showing the approximate account of private food importations, and in replying to head E. I shall report on advances to traders for purchase of food from outside.

22. The relaxation of the rule mentioned in paragraph 14 of Government Resolution dated 2nd instant, on last fortnightly reports, making it a condition of the advance that grain should be brought from outside, applies, I take it, to the north of the Ganges alone.

23. I annex a comparative statement, showing the private importations into the Sudder Bazar of Gya alone, as compared with previous fortnight:—

	This fortnight.	Last fortnight.
Wheat	460	463
Barley	81	77
Rice, first sort	199	57
Rice, second sort	1,171	1,392
Millet	9	40
Maize	265	199
Gram	261	190
Total	2,446	2,418

24. The Aurungabad sub-divisional officer reports 2,300 maunds to have been imported during the fortnight into his sub-division, and the Jehanabad officer 740 maunds.

25. Our local "means of transport" has shown itself to be sufficient for our requirements, and that we can transport from 2,500 to 3,000 maunds of food daily.

26. It will be seen by last fortnight's returns, and by the returns submitted on the 7th instant, that the entire assignment of one lakh of maunds was received, transported, and stored by the 31st January.

27. Captain Taylor, s. c., has just arrived, and he will have charge of the transport arrangements for the future.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

28. The major storage centres are the sub-divisional head-quarters, viz. Gya, Jehanabad, Aurungabad, and Nowada.

29. The minor storage centres for the present are as follows:—

	Mds.		Mds.
Gya - - -	28,820	Sherghotty. Bela - - - Utree.	2,006
Jehanabad - -	17,224	Gundhur. Urwul - - - Hoolosgunge.	13,876
Aurungabad - -	16,131	Ruffeegunge. War - - - Kootoomba.	964
Nowada - -	19,554	Ragowlee. Jukriborwan. Kadergunge - -	2,884

30. For easy reference, I record in red ink the quantity of grain stored at each.

31. Houses at all these places have been secured, and in most the machans on which the bags will be placed have been completed.

32. The wet weather prevented grain from being transported into the interior during the past week, and consignments not having been received at Bihta or Buktearpore railway, station (as anticipated from Government Notification No. 206-S.R.), also retarded operations. These will now be pushed on vigorously.

33. The returns submitted on 7th instant show the amount of food grain actually stored to be 1,00,673 maunds, and the amount received at railway stations, 1,07,116 maunds.

34. I have communicated with Mr. Hewitt regarding the proportions and localities at which I wish to have my further assignments of 50,000 maunds, and I am aware that that gentleman will do his best to meet my wishes.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

35. Two applications for the purchase o grain have been made at the sudder sub-division.

36. In one case, the security tendered was altogether insufficient, in the other the party withdrew his application on learning that he would have to import from outside the distressed districts.

37. At Jehanabad one application has been made by the zemindar of Erkee; but the result is not known, the sub-divisional officer having omitted to point out that the importation must be from without this division.

38. In Aurungabad Rs. 8,000 has already been advanced to traders under clause b, section 4, of the Government circular No. 80.

39. Parties are coming a little more freely for land improvement advances. The purposes for which advances under this head are applied for are only two—embankments and pucca wells.

40. In the Jehanabad sub-division eight applications have been filed, of which two have been disposed of and advances given, and six are under inquiry.

41. In the Aurungabad sub-division 67 applications have been made; of these 18 have been complied with and the money paid out.

42. I append a statement of transactions completed. *Vide* Appendix C.

F.—Charitable Relief.

43. No operation beyoud the starting of relief works have been commenced, nor are they required. Arrangements have been made for houses and establishments at each charitable relief centre fixed upon. This subject has already been disposed of in my No. 156 C of 15th January, and the Government orders received thereon.

No. 218, dated Camp Bhubbooa, the 10th February 1874.

From H. W. Alexander, Esq., Collector of Shahabad, to the Officating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to submit my fifth fortnightly report for this district.

A.—State of the Country.

(1.) There appears to be no scarcity of supply in the principal local marts of the head-quarters sub-division, and the same appears to be the case in regard to the bazars in the Sasseeram, Bhubbooa and Buxar sub-divisions. The recent rain may to a certain extent have temporarily affected the supplies in some of the smaller and more distant village marts.

(2.) The annexed table gives the kind and price of grain selling at the principal marts in the district. In comparing this return with that submitted with my last fortnightly narrative, it will be seen that prices have more or less risen throughout the district. In Arrah rice, barley, and maize have risen 1 seer. In Bindawlia there has been a slight increase in most grains. In Sahar the price of rice, gram, maize, peas has risen 1 to 1½ seers.

In Buxar there has been a slight increase in prices. In Doomraon there has been a fall in the price of rice and barley of ¼ seer, and a slight rise in regard to wheat and bajrah. In Rughunathpore rice has fallen, whilst wheat, gram, bajrah, and peas, have gone up in price.

In Sasseeram rice, wheat, and gram have risen one seer, peas have fallen one seer. In Chenari wheat has fallen ½ seer, rice risen 6 chittacks. In Nassrigunge rice has gone up 2 seers 8 chittacks, and wheat, peas, and gram one seer each. The sub-divisional officer reports that he has great doubts as to the accuracy of the rates sent from this last mart.

In the Bhubbooa sub-division, prices have risen generally for all grains. In Mohuniah itself rice has risen one seer, peas and gram 8 chittacks. In Doorgawti rice has risen and gram fallen 1 seer. In Chinepore rice, wheat, peas and gram have all risen one seer; in Hatta rice has risen 1 seer 4 chittacks, wheat fallen 8 chittacks, and peas fallen one seer.

3. I have nothing to add to my last report in regard to the stores of grain in the hands of zemindars and others.

There is little doubt that the majority of landholders have grain in store, but not to a very considerable extent, whilst it may be accepted as true that the Koormi proprietors in the Bhubbooa sub-division have large supplies of grain in store.

I do not believe that the traders are hoarding their grain, as the demand being great it is more profitable for them to sell than to store.

I am not disposed to think that petty cultivators have grain in stock excepting perhaps those who live in the villages in the dearah lands north of the railway; many of those, I am informed, have grain, although not in any large quantity.

4. As far as I have ascertained up to the present date, rain seems to have fallen throughout the district on the 31st January, and on the 1st, 4th, and 5th of February; in quantity it may be estimated at 1½ inches. This rain it is admitted on all hands has done much material good to all growing crops, more especially to the wheat and barley crops; it has done some harm to peas in flower, but it has generally been beneficial, and has enabled cultivators to plough their lands for the July rice sowings, for sugar cane and cheena; in every direction ploughs are now seen at work. The frost which I referred to in my last narrative has, it is said, injured one-eighth of the pea crop, and to a less extent damaged the masoor and gram crops in the Arrah sub-division.

In the Buxar sub-division these crops have suffered to a like extent; the above estimate is not in any way under-stated.

It seems to have done more damage in the Bhubbooa than in the Sasseram sub-division. The Deputy Collector at Bhubbooa estimates the crop destroyed to have been—

¼ of the peas.
⅛ of the masoor.
⅕ of the sugarcane.
⅓ of the rahar.

I am now and have been for the last week in this sub-division, and from what I have seen of these crops I should certainly say that the above estimate was over-stated.

In spite, however, of the above loss I am of opinion that the condition of the crops has generally improved since the date of my last narrative, and that prospects are considered fair, may be judged from the fact that grain is being freely advanced on the security of the rubbee crop.

The condition of the people remains unchanged; no known cases of misery and starvation have been brought to my notice, nor have any such come under my own observation whilst I have been marching in the district, since the date of my last narrative. The demand for labor is increasing, and will be satisfied as relief works are opened wherever they are considered necessary. There has been no increase in the number of grain thefts and robberies.

The monthly return called for in Circular No. is under preparation, and will be submitted at once.

In regard to the condition of any special tracts.

In the Arrah sub-division money has been placed to the credit of the Department Public Works for commencing work on the Arrah and Sahar Road, and thereby giving employment to the laboring poor in this direction.

In the Buxar sub-division money has been made over to the sub-divisional officer for commencing work which it is considered is required as a relief measure in the south-western portion of the Chousa pergunnah.

In regard to the Sasseram and Bhubhooa sub-division Mr. Eyre reports that "the condition " of Chand has improved, and the condition of south-western Sasseram, and south-east Bhubhooa, " and of Rohtas, has also improved." It seems however advisable notwithstanding, that relief works should be commenced in these parts. In Chand and the surrounding neighbourhood work will be started on the road leading from Halta viâ Chand to Duramli on the boundary between this district and Mirzapore, and on the road from Chand to Kudjura on the Grand Trunk Road.

In south-west Sasseram, and south-east Bhubhooa, the continuation of the main-western canal and the road from Chenari to Mulhipore will supply labor. For Rohtas instructions have been given to commence work on the road between Akberpore and Juddonathpore. These, as far as I have seen myself and have ascertained from others, are the particular portions of the district where at present relief in the way of work should be offered to the laboring poor and others who may seek to avail themselves of it.

B.—Relief Works.

I have mentioned in the preceding paragraph the relief works which it has been thought advisable to start and to arrange for the commencement; these are in addition to the relief works (including district road repairs) which are in progress, and in regard to which full particulars will be furnished in the statement due on Wednesday the 11th instant, as called for in Circular No.   , dated the 3rd December 1874.

Private importations by rail are given in Appendix B.* Grain still continues to be imported by private traders. I am glad to be able to report that the means of transport appear quite sufficient to meet the demands of Government and other importers; the grain privately imported finds its way into the interior of the district. In addition to this, in the Arragh sub-division, 1,175 maunds of grain have been imported by river from the districts of Sarun, Ghazipore, and Goruckpore; and in the Sasseram and Bhubbooa sub-division 2,200 maunds have been imported from other districts during the fortnight under report.

* Will follow.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

In my last narrative I gave full particulars in regard to the places selected for storing grain in the district. In the Arrah sub-division at two places, Mulloor and Saketa, the golahs are still unfinished, as buildings had to be constructed for the purpose, no existing ones capable of storing grain being found available. During the fortnight under report 902 maunds of grain have been received for this sub-division. This includes the weight of bags. This makes a total of 20,856 maunds (including weight of bags) as per railway bills received up to the end of the fortnight. I have actually stored in the central depôts as shown below 20,784 maunds.

	Mds.	S.	C.
Arrah Central Depôt - - - - - -	3,000	0	0
Oodwant Nuggur - - - - -	1,935	3	7
Gurhum - - - - - -	3,372	20	0
Peroo - - - - - - -	3,571	1	0
Powna - - - - - -	1,969	31	0
Ageeawn - - - - - -	2,421	36	0
Sahar - - - - - - -	2,742	25	0
Sundais - - - - - -	1,772	20	0
Total - -	20,784	16	0

Including weight of bags.

In the Buxar sub-division Mr. Armstrong reports:—"Up to date the grain received by me amounts to 17,083 maunds, from which I have 100 bags missing, to get from the Railway Company, which will bring my first consignment up to something like 18,000 maunds instead of 16,000. The amount shown on the margin has been actually stored at Saraya, Itari, and Saranja, making a total of 10,629; it would have been more had not the transport been almost stopped since last Saturday night by the weather."

Saraya - - -	5,414
Itari - - -	1,761
Sarenja - - -	8,452
Total - -	10,629

Of the central depôts in the Sasseram and Bhubbooa sub-divisions, as already reported in my previous narrative, Mr. Eyre reports that "in Sasseram, Telathoo, Chennary, Nobha, Nassri-" gunge, Kochus, Bunowl, the depôts are ready. Akberpore and Mudkopea, Dangain, and " Dinareh, are not yet constructed. Bhubbooa, Jehanabad, Ramgurb, Kudjora, Chand, Chyne-" pore are ready. Mohunia and Doorgawti are being built."

Up to the 5th current there had been received at Zummaniah and Doomraon 21,193-13-6 maunds of grains of all kinds. The distribution of this grain and its position on this date is noted below. I have been transferring in some few instances grain stored at depôts to other and more remote depôts not at the time of receipt prepared to receive and store it, but I subsequently got ready.

Total Amount delivered.	Name of Central Depôt.	Amount received.	Amount in Transit.	Balance at Delivery Station.
21,193 13 6	Sasseram - - -	5,236 23 0	1,850 25 0	
	Telathoo - - -	1,995 31 8		
	Nassrigunge - -	2,004 10 10		
	Chennary - -	204 12 8		
	Bhubhooa - -	3,113 3 4		
	Chynepore - -	1,662 19 0		
	Jehanabad - -	1,314 26 12		
	Chand - - -	376 2 . 8		
	Total - -	15,907 36 2	1,850 25 0	3,434 2 4

In all these there have been received at the delivery depôts for the

	Mds.
Arrah sub-division - - - - - -	20,856
Buxar ditto - - - - - -	17,083
Sasseram and Bhubhooa sub-divisions - - -	21,193
Total - -	59,132

And of this amount there have been stored in the central depôts of the—

Arrah sub-division	20,784	16	0
Buxar ditto	10,629	0	0
Sasseram and Bhubhooa sub-divisions	15,907	36	2
Total	47,321	12	2

In regard to the sufficiency of stocks for Government purposes, a special report has been submitted on this subject through the Commissioner in reply to circular No. 61—S.R., dated the 9th January 1874. I have therein mentioned that the further requirements for the district will be—

	Mds.
For the Arrah sub-division	17,500
„ Buxar „	14,000
„ Bhubbooa „	18,500
„ Sasseram „	22,000
Total	72,000

With this amount stored, I am of opinion that I shall be in a position to meet any probable emergencies that may arise. It is calculated that the whole of this further consignment of grain will be stored in the central depôts in the district by the end of April.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

(1.) For purchase and storage of grain no advances have been made during the period under report to zemindars or planters, and traders are unwilling to give security for such advances, so none have been made to them. Large quantities of grain are, however, being regularly imported by rail, which find their way into the interior of the district.

(2.) Advances to municipality for works, and description thereof.

An estimate has been prepared for a market place to be constructed in the municipality of Arrah, at a cost of Rs. 5,441, and an application will be at once forwarded for the loan of this amount and in addition a sum of Rs. 2,600 will be asked for, in order to introduce a system of latrines in the town.

Estimates for the improvement of the streets in the Sasseram city have been submitted. Estimates for the town of Chennary are in course of preparation, and will be submitted shortly No other municipalities have applied for loans.

(3.) Advances to private parties for land improvements.

In the Arrah sub-division during the fortnight under report, besides one advance of Rs. 105, which has been given for digging wells, seven applications have been made, aggregating a sum of Rs. 2,435; of these two have been rejected as inadmissible in every way, and in regard to the remaining five, enquires are being made as to whether the "status" of the applicants is sufficiently good to admit of the money asked for being advanced in each case.

In the Buxar sub-division in regard to the applications made by the zemindars of the estate named Sonpa (mentioned in my second fortnightly narrative), Mr. Armstrong now reports that he finds "that there are several mortgages in the Sonpa property, the maliks of which have " applied for a large advance for wells and aharas." No other advances of this nature have been applied for in this sub-division.

In regard to the Bhubbooa and Sasseram sub-divisions, Mr. Eyre reports: "An advance of " Rs. 100 has been given to Kadir Beebee, proprietress of Sissera, pergunnah Chynepore, for the purpose of digging a reservoir to collect the hill-torrents south of the village for irrigation of bhadoi, khureef, and rubbee crops. Many other applications have been received, and the usual and necessary testing of the security offered is now being made. I may here note that throughout the country the village embankments and drains are undergoing repair. This is especially the case in pergunnah Chynepore, Bhubbooa, where the repairs undertaken this year are of some extent and magnitude, the Maharajah of who is a proprietor in the pergunnah, alone estimating the value of the improvements to be made at Rs. 900.

CHARITABLE RELIEF.

No actual relief operations have commenced as yet; meetings have been and remain to be held in order to collect subscriptions for this purpose, the result of which will duly be reported an appeal for subscriptions is being circulated among the European residents of the district, and a Hindee translation is in course of circulation among the native gentlemen and others.

In reply to circular No. 9—S.R., dated a full report has been submitted, through the Commissioner, of the relief centres selected, together with a map showing their position with reference to existing roads, relief works in progress, and those approved of, but not actually commenced. In this report the subject of the machinery by which it is proposed that this charitable relief should be worked has been fully discussed. Tin tickets for distribution to the recipients of this charitable relief have been and are being made, and metal measures for weighing the grain to be distributed have been and will be sent to each relief centre.

No. 245F, dated Mozufferpore, the 12th February 1874.

From—C. F. WORSLEY, Esq., Covenanted Deputy Collector, on special duty, Tirhoot.
To—The Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit my Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in Tirhoot district for the fortnight ending Saturday, the 7th February 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. In Seetamarhee sub-division the bazars at Seetamarhee, Madhooban, and Shewhur are reported to have been sufficiently supplied with grain; but at markets in the interior, especially at Majorgunge, Julleh, Baraher, Byrama, and Madhowapore, the supply has been scarce. The highest prices prevail at Julleh, where common rice is selling at 9¼ seers, and "marua" and "makai" at only 11¼ seers per rupee.

3. In Durbhangah sub-division prices have risen, and all kinds of grain have become very scarce in the eastern and south-eastern tracts. The sub-divisional officer writes: "Draw a line on the map due north and south through Bahera thannah, and in all the bazars east of that line every sort of food-grain, where procurable, is now at famine prices. In Rowsera the prices are lower than elsewhere. The prices current in Durbhangah bazar are higher than in the interior. In the tracts east of the imaginary line I have specified, that is, in the greater portion of Baheyra and in all Singhiya thannah, the supply is very scarce." Mr. MacDonnell attributes the rise in prices at Durbhangah town to a combination among the bunyas and mahajuns, and explains it in the following words: "The chief mahajuns of the town waited on me a few days ago, and after a hypocritical laudation of our efforts, revealed the purpose of their visit which was to protest against my selling rice in Durbhangah (as at Baheyra and Singhiya) at 10 seers the rupee, and so ruining the market. I again explained to them the policy of Government, and next day I received and published a Hindee notification on the same point; the day after the rice had risen in the Durbhangah bazar 20 per cent."

4. In Madhoobani sub-division grain is getting scarce, especially in Madhoobani itself. Wheat and maize are now almost as dear as rice. The enormous rise in price of maize during the last ten days, *i.e.*, from 14 to 10 seers per rupee, is explained by the increased scarcity of this grain in Seetamarhee, from which sub-division the Madhoobani bazars have hitherto been mainly supplied. The sub-divisional officer fears that "we shall have to sell grain very soon," and does "not think that the present stocks can last much longer."

5. In Hajeepore sub-division there has been little or no change in the state of the markets. The small bunyas import grain from Patna in quantities sufficient for the daily and weekly demands of the people. Prices generally in this sub-division are more favorable than in other parts of the district.

6. In Tajpore sub-division there has been a slight fall in wheat and barley in the southern markets owing to the improved prospects of the deara crops; on the other hand the prices of Bhadia grains have risen.

The sub-divisional officer regards "the very slight difference that the recent rain has had on prices in the same way that he recently viewed the absence of effect of Government importations on prices, as indicating limited stocks in the country."

7. In the Sudder sub-division prices keep very high, but I have not heard of grain being anywhere unprocurable at the prices quoted.

8. The subjoined statement shows the kinds and prices of grain selling at some of the principal marts on 7th instant and 24th ultimo:—

Name of Marts.	Wheat.		Barley.		Common rice.		Lesser millets.		Maize or Indian corn.		Gram.	
	7th February 1874.	24th January 1874.	7th February 1874.	24th January 1874.	7th February 1874.	24th January 1874.	7th February 1874.	24th January 1874.	7th February 1874.	24th January 1874.	7th February 1874.	24th January 1874.
	Sr.	Sr.	Sr.	Sr.	Sr.	Sr.	Sr.	Sr.	Sr.	Sr.	Sr.	Sr.
Mozufferpore	12	11½	18	13⅓	10	10	—	—	12	12½	12	14
Seetamarhee	11¼	11¼	14	17	10½	11¼	12	16	12	14	14	16
Rosserah	12	13	—	18	12	12	14	16	—	—	13¾	14½
Bahera	12⅓	11¼	—	—	10	10¾	13¼	14¾	12½	13⅛	—	—
Madhubani	10	10	16	18	9¼	10	12	14	11	14	11	12
Madheypore	10¾	12¾	17¾	18¾	12½	13	14¾	16	16	15	13	13¼
Khijowlie	12	12	20	20	12	12	11½	15¼	13½	13¼	15¼	15½
Hajeepore	18	13½	15¾	19	11	11⅓	—	—	13¾	15¾	15¼	17¼
Tajpore	13	13	15	16	11	11	14	16	13½	14	15	15½

9. I have not much to report on the subject of stocks. The sub-divisional officer of Seetamarhee reports that certain zemindars (large holders of grain) are sending their supplies to markets for sale, and in some villages of pergunnah Besoutra he "learnt on the spot that ryots in 1 out of 10 houses have rice." He adds: "The villagers are careful to keep what rice and grain they have. No outsiders going to a village in the interior to buy rice get any. I think the Government-

imported rice should soon be sold." I am myself quite satisfied that there are very small stocks in the hands of the grain-dealers and ryots, and that the principal holders are zemindars. The common people, contrary to their usual practice in times of scarcity, acknowledge that the bunyas have very little grain. It is of course possible that they are exaggerating the deficiency of grain in the hope of inducing Government to import enough to bring down prices to their ordinary rates; but my own opinion is that such is not the case. I have lately passed through many villages in the south and south-east of Seetamarhee sub-division, and have spoken freely with the people. They say one and all that there is scarcely any grain stored, and their statements are certainly confirmed by the appearance of village granaries, which are invariably empty. The quantity of buried grain cannot, I think, be large; indeed, the space required for the storage of a few thousand maunds is so considerable, and the difficulty of concealing their existence is so great, that few persons are likely to have buried much inside their houses. To give some criterion of what large zemindars in the north may be supposed to hold in ordinary years, I may mention that when the Sheohur Raj, with a rental of Rs. 1,39,100 came under the Court of Wards in 1867, the stocks of grain owned by the late Rajah in all parts of his estate amounted to about 35,000 maunds.

10. In the other sub-divisions stocks are believed to be small. In Madhubani sub-division "mahants," it is said, "have a good deal of what there is, and they seem disposed to do nothing for the people."

11. During the fortnight rain has fallen throughout the district, the falls having been as follows:—

Seetamarhee	·80 to 1·10
Durbhangah	·69 to 1·20
Madhubani	·55
Hajeepore	·80
Tajpore	·30 to ·80
Mozufferpore	0·80

In all the sub-divisions except Durbhangah and Madhubani, the rubbee crops have been greatly benefited by the rain. In Hajeepore an average nine-anna crop is expected. In Tajpore a four-anna crop is expected over three-fourths of the Seraissa pergunnah, and a six-anna crop over the remaining one-fourth; and in Balagatch pergunnah there is good prospect of a ten or twelve-anna crop. In the former pergunnah there are about 105,000 acres under rubbee crops, in the latter only 13,000 acres, consequently the average outturn for the whole sub-division will not be more than five and a half annas. I am unable to say at present to what extent the previous estimates of rubbee outturn for the Seetamarhee and Sudder sub-divisions may now be increased. From Durbhangah it is reported that though "the rain will do much towards helping on the rubbee crop, it is evident now that from this crop no material aid can be expected," and the Madhubani officer fears that "the rain is too late for any crops but cheena and moong."

It would be unsafe I think to estimate the average outturn for the whole district at more than five to six annas.

12. Cheena, moong, and kowni have been sown more or less in all sub-divisions since the recent falls of rain. The largest sowings have been made in Seetamarhee, Madhubani, and Tajpore. The Durbhangah officer has not heard of such activity in this direction as he could have wished. These crops are very precarious and require rain within a month after they are sown. Strong west winds at this season would prove very injurious to them. From all I can learn, I am of opinion that a supply of six or eight weeks' food is the utmost that can be obtained from cheena and moong crops.

With regard to the condition of the people, the Seetamarhee officer thinks that they are now becoming alive to their danger, and are throwing off the apathy usually evinced. "The Brahmins," he says, "are much disquieted, and all classes feel very anxious about the future." "*Sub log bohut dhol giya*" (every one has become very shaky) is the usual reply made by zemindars and village headmen when questioned as to the state of the people. Frequently, while passing through a village in Seetamarhee, I have been surrounded by half the inhabitants and asked what will be done for them; and my own observations, so far as they have gone, quite confirm the sub-divisional officer's accounts. The people undoubtedly are gravely anxious.

14. Cases of child desertion are commencing in the neighbourhood of Darbhungah, and the number of beggars is fast increasing in the town. Three deserted infants have been brought to the sub-divisional officer, and several women have come to him with their children declaring that they could not support them, and begging to be relieved of their charge. Mr. Macdonnell, with the Collector's approval, has arranged temporarily with the Baptist Mission for the custody and maintenance of all orphans and deserted children.

15. The Madhubani officer reports: "The people of course are pinched by the unreasoning dearness of food, but I have not yet heard of any authenticated cases of actual starvation. There has been a very great increase of crime, and this is certainly owing to the famine. The people seem willing to go to jail as they are sure to be fed there. With the exception of perhaps a few villages near the Kumla and Balan both food and water must be getting very scarce.

16. The Hajeepore officer reports: "The condition of the people cannot be said to have altered materially; there are plenty of works for them, but difficulty in obtaining labor. The small maliks, men with a rental from Rs. 20 to Rs. 10, are suffering most from not getting rents and not being able from their position to labor. There is an increase of professional vagrancy. I can at present at least relieve all isolated cases from the dispensary, there not being enough to employ the machinery of a relief committee."

17. In Tajpore sub-division improved prospects are said to have "made the relations between " debtor and creditor smoother, and if grain is not to be had more readily in the bazars, it is to

"be had more easily from the village bunyas." Misery, however, is reported to be "daily "increasing," the worst tract being that to the north and north-west of Tajpore. The sub-divisional officer states that in the early part of the fortnight he found people collecting roots on the banks of the Tal Beryla "to eke out the balance of their bhadai crops."

18. I fear there is likely to be more distress in the Sudder sub-division than was at first anticipated. I do not apprehend that it will be general or widespread, but that here and there it may be very severe in certain villages. This apprehension is grounded partly on what I have heard lately from different sources, and partly on a report made by a Deputy Collector (Babu Ishree Pershad) whom I deputed to visit a village in which the police had heard of cases of distress. The village in question is named Chajan. It is about ten miles south-west of Mozufferpore and has a very large population. The Deputy Collector found several women and children there in a feeble and emaciated state, whom he relieved on the spot. He also made over a small sum of money to the village headman for their future support. The manager of the Danapur factory has been asked to suggest some work in the neighbourhood of Chajan, and to supervise its execution.

At Toorkee, fifteen miles north of Mozufferpore, there is also likely to be distress. The rahar crops in this quarter have been nearly all destroyed by hoar-frost, and there is not much in the way of rubbee crops. On my way to Seetamarhee, I saw many large fields there in which the rahar plants had been entirely stripped of leaves, and there was nothing but the bare stalks and shoots to be seen.

The Sudder sub-division is rather at a disadvantage in having no executive officer corresponding to the ordinary sub-divisional Magistrate. For my knowledge of the state of this sub-division, I have had to depend chiefly on reports of the police and such information as the Abkaree Deputy Collector has been able to collect. I have had few opportunities myself of visiting the interior.

19. Petty cases of theft are increasing, and there has been a large grain-theft on Sunkwarpore and Dearah, between Hajeepore and Patna. The case is at present under investigation.

20. *Special tract of Mahind and Kanhowley, No.* 1, *Seetamarhee Sub-division.*—In this tract all classes are said to be "much distressed." Several public and private works are being carried on which give employment to many persons, but still the sub-divisional officer writes that "much more work is needed." A large scheme of relief works for Madhubani sub-division has now been prepared, and the Executive Engineer, Northern district, has been directed to give his immediate attention to the wants of Seetamarhee sub-division.

21. *Special tract of Singhya, No.* 1, *Durbhangah Sub-division.*—The following is the sub-divisional officer's report on this tract: "Did I not think that it might inconvenience you in drawing up your report, I would have included all the portion of my sub-division east of the imaginary line drawn through Bahera thannah as one special tract. I shall, however, follow your division."

"In Singhya the condition of the people gives ground for much anxiety. You are already aware how nearly complete the failure of the rice crop has been there, and how insignificant is the rubbee cultivation. In my last tour through the thannah, I had interviews with some of the important landholders, and the reports they gave me confirmed in every respect what I had heard from other quarters, that the people were approaching that limit beyond which they could not procure food; they were obliged to search for food to eke out a daily meal. They are mostly cultivators, and doubtless have managed to get along hitherto on the very small produce of last rice crop; it must be nearly if not wholly consumed now. Judging from what I had seen and heard, and from high prices (9 seers) prevalent in the bazar, I thought the time has come to open our rice-stores. Having made the necessary arrangements I opened sales on the 26th January, and the increased number of labourers who came on our relief works showed how necessary was the step I took. I have already communicated with you on the necessity of scattering our relief works more thickly over the country. I have also written to Lieutenant Wright on the point. He is quite ready to act on my suggestion if he had only overseers. This is a most pressing want, and one which I am wholly powerless to supply."

The sub-divisional officers have already been authorised to excavate old tanks wherever employment is required. This work can be carried on, I think, without professional overseers, but such men are urgently needed for our large road works. The Executive Engineer is endeavouring to get fit men, but the difficulty of finding them is very great.

22. *Special tract of Bahera, No.* 2, *Durbhangah Sub-division.*—The Sub-divisional officer writes:—"In the country about the village of Bahera and eastwards towards Bhaugulpore, there is a large population of Musahars, Dosads, and other low caste people, who subsist generally on labour. Their occupation being gone when the rice was harvested, and the harvest having given them nothing to go on with, they about a month ago sunk into distress, and the pressure of want first made its appearance among the women and children.

All through the Bahera thannah the rice crop has been a very great failure, and with the exception of the southern portions of the thannah there is but little hope of rubbee. The result is that now all through the thannah, distress prevails in a more or less intensified form; among the lowest castes it amounts at the present time to actual want; among the better classes to privation, increasing in severity day by day. The steps that I have taken hitherto to assist them are offering labour and selling the labourers rice at 10 seers.

It is quite impossible for me to give you the actual facts of all or any of the cases of misery with which, during the last fortnight, I have become acquainted. My time is far too fully occupied to permit of my instituting such inquiries, nor do I think it to be the intention of Government that now, when things are coming to a crisis, I should intermit my efforts to alleviate misery in order to investigate its cause. Suffice it to say, that among the labourers on the Durbhangah-Bahera road, you will see women, children, and old men presenting manifest signs of extreme want."

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

23. Under orders issued by the Commissioner on 29th ultimo, eight new tank works have been opened in the Seetamarhee sub-division. The total number of public works now being carried on is 19, and of private works 54, exclusive of works under the Court of Wards. The number of labourers daily employed is as follows:—

Public works	2,254
Private works	5,124
Court of Wards' works	2,500
Total	9,878

In the Durbhungah sub-division the figures are given as follow:—

Bahera-Durbhungah road	2,000
Hather-Singhiya road	479
Court of Wards' works	3,105
Durbhungah municipality work	113
Total	5,697

In Madhubani sub-division the figures are as follow:—

Motipore road	404
Beniputtee road	44
Mirzapore road	31
Two private tank works	1,670
Total	2,149
Total for three distressed sub-divisions	17,724

In the remaining sub-divisions there are 1,264 persons daily employed on district works and 229 on Gunduck works. The grand total for the whole district is 19,217.

24. Want of time and the importance of getting this report ready for despatch by this day's post (13th instant) have compelled me to submit the above information in a general shape instead of in detail.

25. In Durbhungah sub-division there are other works than those mentioned, which are under the supervision of planters, and for which returns have not been received.

26. The Assistant Engineer of the northern district has just submitted, through the sub-divisional officer of Madhubani, a scheme of relief works for that sub-division. The scheme provides for 17 road-works at an estimated cost of 5 lakhs of rupees. Pending sanction of the Commissioner, to whom reference will be at once made, I have directed the Executive Engineer to immediately commence one large work (Madhubani and Itwara road, 10 miles long, and estimated to cost Rs. 16,000), and have authorized him to take in hand such other roads as he may think fit. The sub-divisional officer considers the proposed works as the "most likely ones " to afford relief and be of real use afterwards."

C.—TRANSPORT OF GRAIN.

27. Some traders in Seetamarhee and Sheohur are importing grain from Patna, but not to any great extent. The managers of Doomra and Kamtoul Factories in Seetamarhee sub-division have received 1,500 and 1,600 maunds of grain respectively, imported with Government advances.

In Durbhungah sub-division private importations are at a stand-still; in Madhubani they have never been very large since November, and are now next to nothing; in Hajeepore small quantities of grain are being daily imported; in Tajpore some 1,500 maunds have been imported by private persons *viâ* Chumpta Ghât during the fortnight, besides quantities of 2,000 and 1,000 maunds brought in by the managers of Khan Mirzapore and Hursingpore Factories.

The amount of grain imported into Mozufferpore town during the fortnight is 17,000 maunds. Of this quantity only 4,000 maunds are rice, the rest being gram, oorid, makai, wheat, barley, and paddy (1,000 maunds). Every kind of grain in the town has become cheaper by ½ seer this week.

Hitherto the means of transport have been generally sufficient.

Contracts have been concluded with two associations of planters for the conveyance of 12 lakhs of maunds to the store-houses in Durbhungah sub-division by 15th June, and for the delivery at Durbhungah of 8 lakhs maunds destined for Madhubani sub-division. The carts secured already are said to be over 12,000.

For the conveyance of grain to Seetamarhee sub-division (probably 8 lakhs of maunds) we are negotiating contracts with two other associations of planters.

28. I suggested to Sir Richard Temple at Seetamarhee, that a good portion of the grain assigned to the northern sub-divisions, say one-fourth, should be stored in the first instance at Poosah, as it might be found hereafter that some tracts were worse than we had anticipated, and there was no other depôt so commodious, and at the same time so conveniently situated for the purpose of a reserve centre. Sir Richard strongly approved of the suggestion, but I am not aware whether any official orders have been passed on the subject.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

29. The amount of grain already stored is as follows:—

	Mds.
Seetamarhee sub-division	47,793
Durbhungah "	32,400
Madhubani "	36,065
Tajpore "	17,575
Hajeepore "	—
Mozufferpore "	33,841
Total	167,674

In Durbhungah sub-division 50 maunds of grain have been already issued.

30. In my next narrative I hope to give a complete list of all the new sites selected for golahs; at present the Durbhungah officer's arrangements are the most forward. He has selected twenty sites in all, and golahs capable of holding 1,200,000 maunds are expected to be ready by 15th instant.

E.—ADVANCES.

31. During the fortnight Rs. 8,100 have been advanced to private persons at 6 per cent. for purchase of grain, and Rs. 2,400 for land improvements. Two large landholders in Seetamarhee sub-division have applied for advances of Rs. 10,000 and 3,000 respectively to lend to their ryots, and the applications have been sanctioned.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

32. The sub-divisional officer of Seetamarhee is actively carrying out the scheme for employing women and others in twine-twisting, spinning, &c., and pending the appointment of superintendents of relief circles, he has been authorised to place small funds in the hands of planters and police officers for the relief of destitute persons in special cases.

In this sub-division, as well as in that of Durbhungah, the necessary circles have been fixed and orders have been given for the construction of mat bungalows where there is no other accommodation available for the superintendents. Baboo Ishree Pershad, Deputy Collector, has been deputed temporarily to Jhunjharpore in Mudhoobani sub-division to organize relief measures.

No. 681F, dated Sarun, the 11th February 1874.

Memo. by—J. S. DRUMMOND, ESQ., Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Sarun.

FORWARDED to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department, Calcutta, for information, with reference to his circular No. 80 of the 17th November 1873.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in Sarun District for the fortnight ending 7th February 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Abundance or scarcity of supply in the Bazar.—1. There is no actual scarcity of supply in the bazars except in the north and north-west of the Hutwah estate, where sales from the Raj stores have been commenced on a moderate scale; but prices are also high in the Pursa thannah and in portions of the Mashrakh and Chupra thannahs in the Sudder sub-division, as well as in the Sewan and Barowli thannahs of the Sewan sub-division.

2. The private importations in the Sudder sub-division during the fortnight were—to Revelgunge, 1,11,700 maunds, of which 56,100 were maize, 10,500 rice, and the rest, other grains; to Dooreegunge 4,601 maunds, mostly rice, and at Maharajgunge 1,790 maunds; while the imports at the Gunduck ghâts were—from Chumparun 357 maunds, and from Tirhoot 699 maunds. The exports of grain to Chumparun and Tirhoot were 3,829 and 2,436 maunds respectively.

3. Of the Sewan sub-division, the following is Mr. Wright's account:—

"The bazars still continue fully supplied. Importation is yet going on, and reports state that there is no likelihood of its stopping. Private importations of grain during the fortnight at the three stations—Darowli, Siswan, and Ghutni—amounted to 12,781¼ maunds. This quantity was made up of 5,320¼ maunds Indian-corn, 1,909 maunds rice, 1,105 maunds paddy, 1036 maunds peas, 910 maunds wheat, 900 maunds gram, 821 maunds urid, 530 maunds barley and peas mixed, and 250 maunds mixed barley and gram. The above grain was imported principally from Azimgurh and Goruckpore; a small quantity, 400 maunds of rice came from Bhaugulpore, and 250 maunds of makai from Patna. The above does not of course include importations made by the Hutwah Raj, an account of which will no doubt be furnished by Mr. Hodgkinson."

4. Mr. Hodgkinson writes regarding the Hutwah estate as follows:—

"During the past fortnight importations on a small scale has gone on from Revelgunge and Goruckpore; but the grain imported is almost exclusively *makai* for immediate consumption, and no stock is being laid in to meet the coming emergency. The grain dealers are saving up their funds to buy largely of the new grain, which will be reaped in March and April; and this they will store till prices rise very high. When this grain is gathered in prices will fall considerably, and the dealers by putting off their purchases till then will obtain a much larger margin for profit than if they laid in stocks now by importation. Prices have not altered materially since last report.

		Hutwah.	Meergunge.
Indian-corn	-	24 seers kutcha. = 14⅖ pucka.	24 seers kutcha. ——
Common rice	-	19½ seers kutcha. = 11¼ pucka.	20 seers kutcha. = 12 pucka.

The food-supply in Bhorey and Dhoboul tuppahs has begun to run short, and sales from our stores have been commenced on a moderate scale. The sales are made for the present exclusively to bunneahs who do not import grain but invariably obtain what they sell by purchases in the neighbourhood. The following rates and conditions were laid down:—

Rates.

Rice	-	11	seers pucca,	or	18⅓	seers kutcha.
Makai	-	14⅖	„	„ or	24	„ „
Gram, &c.	-	13	„	„ or	21⅔	„ „

Conditions.

(1.) Sales at the fixed rates are to be made to *bonâ fide* bunneahs only, living and trading in the distressed localities.

(2.) Sales of amounts exceeding 10 maunds pucca should only be made after the officer selling the grain has satisfied himself that the purchaser intends to bring the grain into consumption at once, and that he is not buying it for export or for storage.

(3.) Cash should be received at the time of sale.

(4.) No interference is for the present to be exercised in the rates at which the bunneahs sell, but the rates will be carefully watched, and means will afterwards be taken, if necessary, to prevent excessive profits being reaped by them.

Beyond writing that the scheme was working well, Mr. Browne has submitted no detailed report. A supplement shall be sent to this narrative as soon as the details I have asked him to send me come to hand. The grain first sold came into the local *ghâts* at once, and was in great demand. Very little other rice is procurable in this neighbourhood. Sales will be commenced during the ensuing fortnight in tuppahs Dungoree and Afrad, which lie to the north of Hutwah, towards the Goruckpore frontier. This is a rice country, with no bazar, and the tehsildars report "that the labouring classes who are largely employed on tank-digging begin to "find difficulty in changing their pice for food. In all other parts the food-supply available "has been sufficient."

5. *The kind and price of grain.*—The kind and price of grain at the principal marts and at different thannahs and outposts are given below:—

	Coarse rice, per rupee.	Indian-corn, per rupee.	Barley, per rupee.	Wheat, per rupee.	Gram, per rupee.
1. Chupra - -	12¾	15¼	18	13¾	16
2. Gurkha - -	11	15	—	—	15
3. Mirzapore - -	12	16	—	14	—
4. Goldengunge - -	12¾	15¾	—	14	16
5. Revilgunge - -	12¼	15¾	19½	15	16⅓
6. Manjhi - -	12	16½	—	13	—
7. Bussuntpore - -	13	15	—	13	14
8. Moharajgunge -	12	15½	18	13½	15
9. Dighwarah - -	10¾	11	—	11	14
10. Sonepore - -	11	14	—	14	16
11. Pursa - -	11	15	—	13	15
12. Amnour - -	11	—	—	14⅓	17
13. Mushruck - -	12	16½	18	14	15
14. Baniapore - -	10⅛	16	—	13	14
15. Sewan - -	11	14	17	12	14
16. Barerhia - -	12⅓	15⅓	16⅓	13	14⅝
17. Darowli - -	11 2/11	14⅜	15⅜	13 5/16	14⅝
18. Mergunge - -	11 5/16	14¾	16⅓	12⅓	13⅝
19. Bhorey - -	12	15	—	16	—
20. Barowli - -	10⅓	14	16	11	13
21. Kuttya Bazar -	12⅓	13¾	16¼	13¾	13¾
22. Simariya - -	11 2/11	14⅜	—	—	—
23. Gopalgunge - -	11 2/11	15⅝	17 13/16	11 2/11	13
24. Raghoonathpore -	11	14⅓	14⅝	13	14⅓
25. Guthni - -	11 2/11	15⅓	15⅓	13⅝	14⅝
26. Siswan - -	11¾	14¾	16⅓	13	14⅝

6. *Stock of food in the hands of the people.*—There is nothing to add to what has already been reported under this head.

7. *Rainfall.*—The rainfall during the fortnight has been ·87 here, ·77 at Sewan, and ·88 at Hutwah. Here it only fell on the night of the 31st January and on the 1st and 2nd instant; but in the Sewan sub-division, rain also fell on the 5th and 6th; and Mr. Hudson, writing from the Bussuntpore thannah, mentions that it rained there too on the 4th, 5th, and 6th.

8. *State of the Crops.*—The recent rain has been of immense benefit to the crops, which have improved so wonderfully that an outturn of 8 annas all round, or even more, may possibly now be obtained, while sowings for cheena are also being largely undertaken. This may make all the

difference between famine and no famine, but it would be imprudent to relax any precautions in the way of storage of grain on this account. On unirrigated lands, however, without more rain the cheena crop cannot come to anything. Nearly 3,000 beegahs of poppy lands have also been made available for cheena in the districts. The prospects of the crops are best in the Darowli and Dighwara thannahs, and worst in the Bussuntpore, Mashrakh, Barowli, and Barragaon thannahs. Several of the planters have kindly favored me with estimates of the probable yield of the crops in their neighbourhood. At Arwah factory, in the northern portion of the Chuprah thannah, three-fourths of an average crop, or 9 annas, are hoped for; while similarly Mr. Llewhellin, of the Ramcollah factory, in the south-eastern portion of the Mashrakh thannah, writes:—

"The prospects of the crops are very much improved since the rain, and I should say there will be a 9-anna crop—at the very least a full 8-anna one—in my neighbourhood." In the north-eastern portion of the Sewan thannah, Mr. Smith of Togapore factory estimates the crops at 8 annas. On the other hand, Mr. Reid of Sadowa factory, in the Barowli thannah, only expects a 4-anna crop; and in the northern portion of the Mashrakh thannah, Mr. A. Murray of Barowli factory gives only the following as the estimate: Peas 5 annas, barley 6 annas, wheat 6 annas, massoor 2 annas, gram 4 annas, and rahar 3 annas; while at Rajapatty factory, also further north in the same thannah, the gentleman in charge of the factory writes that though with another fall of rain the yield will possibly be from 8 to 10 annas, if no more rain falls a crop of from 4 to 6 annas is all that can possibly be expected, and that, "owing to the present state of scarcity in the country, it will not, however, counterbalance the loss of the rice and other crops." The Mashrakh thannah has an extensive rice-growing area, as also has the Bussuntpore thannah to the west of it. The damage by frost is now believed to have been exaggerated in many parts of the district. The canoongo after inquiry now reports the damage in the Dighwara thannah to be—rahar and cotton 4 annas, peas 2 annas, castor oil, burrah, and mussoor 3 annas.

9. The following is Mr. Wright's report of the Sewan sub-division:—

"There has been a great improvement in the state of the crops on the ground, and hopes are now entertained that the rubbee crops will yield on an average fully an 8-anna outturn, if not more."

The Sub-Deputy Collector writes as follows of the crops in the western part of the Sewan thannah:—

"The rubbee crops in general in this tract are seen very good and excellent. Large tracts of land are seen very good and excellent. Large tracts of land are seen covered with good barley and wheat crops. Peas crop is seen to be sown in small area, but where it was sown it is excellent, with the exception of a few fields that were not irrigated. Rahar crop is also seen very good; plants are full-sized and having numerous branches. In some fields they are already full of beans, and in others full of flowers. The effect of cold is not at all visible in this tract, except in some fields at Sewan and Husunpoora."

Of the crops in the Darowli thannah he writes: "The state of the crops between Darowli and Guthni is very good. About four-fifths of barley and wheat plants have given out the stalks,* and the stalks in some fields are seen half nourished. All the remaining barley and wheat shall now within a week give out the stalks. Rahar crop is still more successful. The plants are now full of beans, and in about a fourth of the crop the grain in beans are fully nourished. The crop has already commenced to relieve the poor to some extent. The injury by cold in this tract is seen very little."

* The Sub-Deputy Collector evidently means that ears have begun to form.

In the tract between Guthni and Chilmarwa he says that the rahar crop has suffered a good deal, but still an 8-anna crop may be expected.

Of the crops in the Barragaon thannah he reports as follows:—

"The prospect of the pea crop seems altogether changed. The plants that looked miserable before are now seen in full growth and blossom and bearing a good number of beans. In some very successful fields the crop having reached maturity, is being harvested. Barley and wheat crops are also seen very good and excellent. The stalks almost in all fields being now out, are progressing towards nourishment. More than half of the rahar crop is already full of beans, and somewhere it has reached maturity too. The remaining part being in full blossom is in course of bearing fruit. People have been seen very busily employed in preparing paddy-fields, and the plantation of sugarcane is very widely carried on. In suitable fields cheena is also being sown."

Of the country to the north of Myrwah in pergunnah Chowbarrah and of pergunnah Pachlakh, Mr. Rattray writes as follows:—

"Wheat and barley promise an outturn of 2 to 4 annas within the tract of country mentioned above, and will not, so far as I can judge, give more than a 6-anna crop at the best. Rahar, peas, and other pulses, especially in the vicinity about Semaria, have been nearly all destroyed by frost. The average outturn anticipated may be put down at 4 annas. The sugarcane crop has been a 4 to 8-anna crop, the latter having been the outturn in the eastern parts of pergunnah Pachlakh where it is extensively cultivated."

The above, it must be remembered, was written by Mr. Rattray before the rains of the 31st and subsequent dates. Since then I have seen Mr. MacDonald of Pertabpore factory, whose lands lie in the vicinity visited by Mr. Rattray, and he told me that now the rubbee is expected to give an 8-anna outturn.

Writing of the north of pergunnah Barey and the southern portion of pergunnah Sipah and western portion of pergunnah Dangsi, Mr. Rattray says of the crops as follows:—

"Barley and wheat look backward to the west of Barharaiya, but promise better in the neighbourhood of Maujhi. With the heavy rain we have had during the week, the outturn which I anticipated at about 6 to 8 annas, will probably be 12 annas. Rahar and peas look stunted and poor, especially to the east of Barharaiya, and the outturn will not probably be more than 6 to 8 annas. Injury by frost has been slight. The sugarcane crop is said to be much the same as it was last year, but there are not many fields under cultivation in this part of the country. The crop looks dry and stunted. Much good has been done by the heavy rain there has been during the week and owing to this favourable circumstance the rubbee will probably be a 12-anna crop."

Mr. D. N. Reid of Sadowa has been kind enough to furnish me with the following information regarding the crops in the vicinity of his factories:—

"Early in the morning of the 2nd instant there was a thunderstorm accompanied with 2-10ths of an inch of rain. Again last night (the night of the 5th instant) we had slight passing showers from the west; all this has greatly benefited the crops that are at present in the ground, although the rain was not sufficient to admit of the cheena germinating freely and benefiting to any extent. The agriculturists, however, have commenced sowing the low lying paddy-fields and cheena in the empty poppy-fields. The rubbee crop here is a poor one, as most of it is unirrigated; where the rubbee has been irrigated, the yield will be good. My estimate of the rubbee outturn in this neighbourhood is a 4-anna or 4-16th one.

The rahar, although slightly touched up by the frost last month, is promising, and will yield well."

10. Mr. Hodgkinson writes as follows:—

"The cloudy weather led to fears of blight; but the bright sunshine and west wind of the last two days has completely dissipated those fears, and the rain may be said to have been an unmixed good, both in bringing forward the standing crops and in affording an opportunity for sowing of sugarcane, cheena, and dhan."

11. And the general court of wards' manager reports thus:—

"Scarcely any harm has been done during the last fortnight by frost or west wind; on the contrary, the rains that fell during this period have changed the condition of the country from worse to better, and have done much good to the rubbee crops, though it is reported that a very small portion of the rubbee was spoilt by the hails that come on with the last rains at Lawa, pergunnah Bal, in the ilaka of Bassuntpore police station. No doubt the importations from the up-country have greatly kept up the supply of food in the district; and had not the common grains been exported into the district of Chumparun, the price of the grain should have been lowered."

12. *Condition of the People.*—The condition of the people has not materially been altered during the past fortnight, but as fresh works are opened, the numbers on the relief works increase enormously, plainly indicating that there is everywhere much need of employment amongst the poorer classes of the people as a means of livelihood. Additional relief works are nevertheless only opened where an increased demand for labor is believed to exist. Mr. Grant, the late Superintendent of the Salt Department, writing of a relief work in the south of the Bassuntpore thannah, states:—

"Some of the people on the tank are in bad condition, and employing them on it has probably saved their lives."

13. The sub-divisional officer of Sewan reports as follows:—

"Distress amongst the people in this division is not worse than it was when I submitted my last report. Owing to the high rates in the bazars the poor are pinched for food; but so long as they can obtain employment on relief works, which are being provided for them throughout the division, there is little likelihood of any cases of actual want or death from starvation occurring. The prospects also are much more cheering since the rain of the 31st ultimo and subsequent dates, and prices of food-grains in the bazars have fallen slightly, and I have no doubt that they will go down still lower as the prospects of the rubbee crops become more certain." The Sub-Deputy Collector writes as follows under this head of the people in thannah Darowli:—

"As to the condition of the people, I have the pleasure to inform you that it is not bad at present; sugar has been and is the chief means of subsistence of the poor agriculturists. Relief works also are now going on in several places; for example, tanks are being dug at Admapore and Chitour; fuel, &c., are also being collected for burning kilns at Patar. Besides these many wells are being dug in different villages from advances made by Government. After all, agriculturists have now begun to prepare their fields and employ laborers."

In writing of the country to the north of the Darowli and north-west of the Sewan thannahs, the Sub-Deputy Collector says: "Laborers are seen digging and ploughing fields, and sugar plantation is very busily carried on. People are very much relieved by the fall of rain, which has given them hope for present as well as future goodness. The rain having fallen, the apprehension of the threatened calamity must decrease by degrees. During the present state of things there can be no apprehension of starvation during the next four or five months. I have heard agriculturists saying that the drops of rain have not been of water but of grain. The rain has doubled the yield of the crops hoped before its fall."

Of the Barowli thannah, the Sub-Deputy Collector says: "The condition of the people is not so bad; the common suffer on account of high price and live upon a reduced scale of food; but extreme distress is nowhere heard in the distance I have travelled. Laborers are getting employment on relief works. An old tank is being cleared at Thawey, and the road from Meergunge to Barowli is being repaired. Work has commenced on the old tank at Rattun Serai, and besides this the agriculturists have now commenced to employ labourers in their fields. Labourers have now, I think, sufficient employment."

The following is what Mr. Rattray says of the condition of the people about northern Choubara and pergunnah Pachlakh:—

"There is distress to some extent among the laboring classes, but grain is still to be had, though at almost prohibitive prices to the poor. The manufacture of molasses, which gives employment to many, is at present almost the sole means of support to the poor in every village.

Wells and tanks are being dug within the Hutwah jurisdiction in the northern part of pergunnah Pachlakh, also about Simeria, and advances made on account of indigo will enable many to tide over the present scarcity. Advances have also been made on behalf of Government for wells by Mr. MacDonald of the Pertabpore indigo factory, who has also men at work on roads.

Of the people in the country on the north of pergunnah Barey, south of pergunnah Sipah, and west of Dangsi, Mr. Rattray writes: "Distress prevails so far that the poorer classes are glad to obtain work. The manufacture of molasses gives employment to many at present, and will be a help for the next two months, till the prospects of the rubbee are more definitely known. There is some work in hand on the roads under the Public Works Department. There are also four tanks being excavated as relief works, one at Maujhi, a large one, giving employment to 250 people daily, at the expense of the zemindar of Maujhi; nor is there any serious distress to be apprehended amongst the many who in this part of the country are engaged in the cultivation of indigo."

Mr. D. N. Reid of Sadowa says of the people in his neighbourhood: "Distress is great amongst the poor of the laboring classes. There are over 2,000 of them at work daily on the roads under my superintendence."

Mr. Reid mentioned to me the other day when we met that he has commenced selling rice to the laborers at the works under him, and that he is giving it to them at the rate of 12 pucca seers per rupee. This may account for so many flocking to his works.

I would also add to what has been said by Mr. Rattray, that the opium advances given last month must have been of great assistance to the people. Mr. Tytler, the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of Sewan, advanced, I believe, a lakh and thirty thousand rupees to the opium cultivators last month; and in another six weeks the opium weighments will commence, when some five or six lakhs of rupees more will be paid out.

14. Mr. Hodgkinson has made no remarks under this head.

15. The general wards' manager reports that the number of higher classes of people who now resort to labor is daily increasing.

16. *Known cases of misery and starvation.*—Isolated cases of distress are reported from time to time, but no cases of starvation have occurred.

17. Mr. Wright reports as follows:—

"No such cases have come to light. Under this head Mr. Rattray says that neither through the police nor from personal inquiries in the villages has he heard of a single case of death from starvation, and that although prices are much above the usual means of the laboring classes, general distress is not apparent."

21. *Condition of any special tracts.*—The worst tracts continue to be the parts of the north-west of the Hutwah estate, the Bassuntpore and Pursa thannahs, and portion of the Mashrakh thannah. It is believed, however, that the distress is being sufficiently coped with by means of the relief work provided.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

22. *Progress of relief works, &c.*—The annexed statements show the relief works in progress in the district, and the number employed thereon. The number on the works, as entered in these returns, has increased enormously during the fortnight under review, the total number at present employed being 68,146, and the mean daily number 51,204. Some of the planters' returns also had not been received.

23. Much inconvenience in the plan of relief operations has been caused by the delay in starting the proposed irrigation and drainage schemes along the Gunduck and in the south-eastern corner of the district which are under the Irrigation Department, and it is hoped that the commencement of these works may now be no longer delayed.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

24. *Approximate account of private food-supplies.*—The available information regarding the influx of private food-supplies has been given in paragraph 1. Regarding the Hutwah grain supplies, it appears from Mr. Hodgkinson's last weekly grain return that of the 1,20,000 maunds engaged for the Raj, 35,582 maunds had been received into the district, of which 30,748 maunds had arrived at final destination, and 4,834 maunds were in transit from points of receipt.

25. Concerning the storage of grain on the other wards' estates, the general manager reports as follows:—

"I have to add no more to my former remarks on this head than that I have already got a loan of Rs. 60,000 from the Government for purchasing and storing grains to advance to the ryots; and as the time of harvesting the rubbee crops is approaching nigh, and the last rains have made the prospects better, I am not satisfied with the rates now offered by Chooni Lall, who is willing to make a contract to supply the grains, and I am trying to secure cheaper rates, if possible; if however I fail therein, I may enter into a contract with him."

The manager has been directed not to delay in making his arrangements.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

26. *Places of storage and amount of grain received.*—The accompanying statement shows the storage places, the distribution thereat of the grain allotted, and the amount of grain received at the different storage places up to the end of the fortnight. The total amount of grain

received is 1,33,524 maunds, and the amount finally stored is 1,09,376 maunds. It is hoped that there may be no difficulty in ensuring the arrival of 5,000 maunds of grain daily at the Arrah Railway Station.

27. *Construction of golahs and arrangements for custody of grain.*—The subjoined statement shows the storage arrangements made at the different places of storage; and the following extra establishment for the custody of the grain has been proposed and is being entertained as from time to time needed.

Names of places where Golahs have been or are being constructed at Government expense.

	Rs.	As.	P.
1. Pursa	60	0	0
2. Maujhi	114	12	0
3. Bassuntpore	100	0	0
4. Paigumberpore	100	11	0
5. Sewan	242	11	6
6. Barowli	107	11	0
7. Gopalgunge	100	0	0

Names of places where existing Government or private houses are being made use of for storage of grain.

1. Chupra	Bunwaree Lall's Serai.
2. Buniapore	Abkaree godown at Paigumberpore.
3. Bassuntpore	House of Ramgoolam Singh, &c.
4. Maharajgunge	House of Mathoora Kalwar.
5. Amnour	House of Rajendar Pershad and the Abkaree godown.
6. Mirzapore	House of Goona Doobey.
7. Dighwara	House of Ramanongra Singh, &c.
8. Mashrakh	House of Baboo Debi Pershad, zemindar, and Government bungalow at Sarungpore.
9. Pursa	Indigo factory belonging to Moulvie Abdool Hai.
10. Sewan	Opium godowns.
11. Darowli	Government serai and house of Behari Sahu.
12. Rughoonathpore	Indigo factory at Hurpore, in charge of Moulvie Golam Abas.
13. Barowli	Thannah buildings.
14. Baragaon	House of Lachuman Koondoo.
15. Gopalgunge	Abkaree distillery.

Establishment proposed for the custody, &c., of the Grain.

1 Mohurir, at	Rs. 8 per month.
1 Duffadar, at	„ 6 „ „
4 Burkundauzes, each at	„ 5 „ „
Oil and other contingencies	„ 1 „ „

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

28. *Advances for purchase of grain and for land improvement.*—Rs. 13,175 have been advanced during the fortnight for purchase of grain for sale, and Rs. 6,281 to zemindars for grain or money advances to their ryots, making up the total as yet advanced on these accounts to Rs. 1,45,625 and Rs. 6,281 respectively; and for land improvement Rs. 13,142* have been advanced, bringing up the total on this account to Rs. 30,203.

* Including Rs. 5,625 for relief works on the estate of a lunatic ward.

29. With reference to the orders of Government in the resolution on the last narrative, sanctioning the employment of extra officers to facilitate the making of these advances, it is observed that one extra officer empowered to make such advances of his own authority would be of far greater assistance than two extra subordinate officers, who could only be employed in making inquiries as to the propriety of making the advances. What is wanted is more officers who can deal with applications on the spot.

30. Mr. Hudson has recently sent up 88 applications from ryots for advances on good security for their subsistence, and it is proposed to take the orders of Sir Richard Temple on these.

F.—Charitable Relief.

31. Subscriptions are still in course of collection, but there appears no immediate occasion for organized charitable relief, the demand as yet not being beyond the scope of private charity.

No. 847F., dated Motihari, the 9th February 1874.

From—H. Kean, Esq., Collector of Chumparun,

To—The Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I have the honour to submit the fortnightly narrative of scarcity and relief for this district for the fortnight ending Saturday, the 7th February 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

1. Rice is scarce in the smaller bazars, though procurable in the larger marts. Makai (maize) is readily obtained in most places, and is being imported into the district from Goruckpore.

2.—*Rainfall and State of the Crops.*—During the fortnight under review, there has been a most timely fall of rain. This occurred on the night of the 31st January, and again on the 1st, 2nd, and 6th February, and was general throughout the district. It has been not only of great benefit to the rubbee and poppy crops (increasing the probable outturn of the former from ⅛ to ¼ in favourable localities, that is, south of the Bettiah sub-division, and in thannahs Adapur, Dhaka, Gobindgunge, and Motihari in the Sudder sub-division, or in the country lying between a line drawn from Ratwal to Bulthur and one drawn from above Kesseria to Pipra, and drawn through Seeraha to the Tirhoot boundary), but has enabled the cultivators to sow "cheena," "moong," "early rice," and other spring-crops. The prices of food-grains have also, in consequence, somewhat fallen, and the people are perhaps on the whole looking forward to the coming crisis with more confidence. These favourable symptoms do not, however, apply to the north-west portions of the district, that is, Ramnuggur and that neighbourhood. In this tract very little rubbee had been sown, and that little had been dried up. This portion of the district, moreover, being almost entirely a rice-growing tract, very little land is devoted to the rubbee or to the spring-crops.

Condition of the People.—As intimated in my last fortnightly narrative, I deputed Mr. Howe to make special inquiries into the condition of the people in this portion of the district, and the following is a brief resumé of the information received from him. From time to time Mr. Howe has visited every portion of Ramnuggur, and the accounts of what he has himself seen and heard fully bear out the information which I have hitherto received of the condition of this tract and of its prospects. He is of opinion that the people are in great distress, their condition being "scarcely distinguishable from that of a famine-stricken population." In a short time even the cultivating classes will have no food left, while the privations endured by the lower classes will render many of them incapable of work, and they will have to receive charitable relief; in fact, as reported in a previous fortnightly narrative, the people of this tract at least are on the "eve of a terrible famine." As previously reported, Mr. Howe has personally superintended the preparation of lists of persons unable to work and without means for every village. These lists have been tested in every possible way, Mr. Howe having himself visited a large proportion of the village, and thus checked the returns. In this way very accurate information has been obtained as to the actual condition of the people, and immediate relief afforded where necessary. An outbreak of small-pox is reported at Harnatour, and a native doctor has been deputed there. Rice is now selling in these tracts at famine prices, that is, at 9, 8, and in some places 7 seers for the rupee, and Mr. Howe has therefore been authorised to open out local depôts on the relief works, and generally to carry out the rules laid down in appendix A, circulated with circular No. 80 of the 17th November 1873. As European agency is necessary to carry out these rules efficiently, they have for the present been introduced only at Harnatour and Shikarpore, Mr. Howe's head quarters being at the former place (for the present) and Colonel Boulderson's at the latter, (marked Singapore in the map). The Executive Engineer has, however, been requested to depute an Assistant Engineer to Ramnuggur to assist the above-named officers, and, generally, to take charge of relief works. This latter measure is necessary, as the country referred to is rough and wild, and it is found in practice to be no easy matter to make a road through it, or even to repair an existing road where it has become a mere tract over paddy-fields or across bleak jungly plains. Moreover, it will of course be necessary to extend our relief works, for, although up to the present time as many works as are necessary have been opened, more will be required, and several projects are in view, hence the necessity for professional assistance. With regard to the rest of the district, the accounts from thannahs Kesseria and Madhubun, regarding the state of the "rubbee," are not so favourable, and I have therefore deputed Mr. Weekes, C.S., who has lately joined, to make detailed inquiries in those thannahs; and should it be found necessary to increase the number and extent of relief works and to organize charitable relief measures, Mr. Weekes will (if necessary) open a charitable relief sub-divisional committee with his head-quarters at Myhesi or Madhubun, and if more extended action becomes necessary, will establish a sub-committee (under his supervision) at Kesseria. The condition of the north-east portions of the district is much the same as last reported; but as distress is increasing, more works have been opened out, which will be mentioned in heading B. Grain-thefts and robberies are increasing, especially in the Bettiah sub-division, where three or four cases of robbery have occurred, and the perpetrators are under trial.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

The following new works have been sanctioned:—Ghorashan to Tilhura, No. 29; in the north-east of the district; Dhaka to Pudumkeer No. 24; Pudumkeer to Tirhoot boundary and Seeraha to Pudumkeer No. 26; Bara to Rajpore No. 32; Bara to Mudhubani No. 31 (south-east portion); Gobindgunge to Burhurwa No. 30 (south-west); and the following tanks (1) Sorryapore No. 33 (Peepra), (2) Kullyanpore No. 34, (3) Peeprabazeed (north of Dhaka) No. 35; also a road from Soogang to Bettiah No. 27. In the Ramnuggur tract a road from Shikarpore to Bulthur is in contemplation, and another across the north-east portion of that part of the country. These and other projects in view will be started on the arrival of the Assistant Engineer, who, as stated above, will be deputed there. The scheme in the north-east portion of the district for connecting and clearing out a number of old tanks, and thus forming them into a series of reservoirs for irrigation purposes, has been finally declared by the Assistant Engineer (Mr. Eckstein) impracticable, that is, as an irrigation scheme; but the digging out and deepening many of these tanks will be of much benefit, and will afford a large amount of work, extended over a considerable area. This work has been sanctioned (the villagers being unwilling in most cases to incur the expense) and the work commenced. The works on the Gunduck embankments have been commenced in three different places; about 39,000 persons were employed during the last week, and 28,000 the week before on the portion between Doomuria and Bugaha. The Executive Engineer in charge anticipates that the number will shortly rise to 1,500 or 2,000 daily. They are at present living on "makai," which is readily procurable, and which is also being imported from Goruckpore. The labourers, it is said, prefer this grain to rice. The Executive Engineer has been requested to make an experiment of the Burmah rice and report results. A large quantity of grain for these works has just arrived by boat at Gobindgunge, and been made over to the Executive Engineer.

C.—TRANSPORT OF GRAIN.

This has been going on briskly during the fortnight under the contract system already reported, viz., Mr. Lethbridge contracting to bring up 20,000 maunds to Moteehari and Gobindgunge weekly (10,000 to each place), and Mr. Kelly bringing up 20,000 more, 5,000 being sent by boat. The latter mode of transport having been found to be very dilatory has been finally abandoned, and the transport arrangements have also been modified as follows :—

With the sanction of Sir R. Temple (who has lately passed through the district), from the 15th February Mr. Lethbridge will convey 50,000 maunds per week to Gobindgunge and Moteehari. (Mr. Kelly's contract being cancelled from that date.) This amount of grain to be punctually conveyed up to the 1st June.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

Grain has been, as stated above, steadily poured into the district during the fortnight. The following is the amount of grain stored :—

	Maunds.
Ramnuggur Sub-Division :—	
Ramnuggur	24,000
Chamardaha	1,926
Harnatour	3,800
Chauki	1,960
Shikarpore	4,800
Bettiah	13,692
Peepragurh	8,976
Ratwal	1,940
Choonaha	292
Bugaha	3,896
Bhourah	504
Lahurya	2,310
Lowriah	2,800
or about	71,000

In the Sudder Division the following has been stored :—

Seegowlee	10,000
Ramgurwa	8,000
Dhaka	2,154
Tirkowlia	5,000
Ghorasham	6,000
Rajpore	5,000
Adapore	1,000
Kutkenwa	1,000
Motihari	11,986

Besides this about 24,000 maunds have been stored for the Gunduck embankment, and at least that quantity has been just received (the exact quantity is not as yet known); more is in the river.

As the total allotment for this district has been greatly increased under Sir R. Temple's authority (the total quantity being now assigned at 9,75,000 maunds), the storage room will have to be proportionately increased, and this will be done.

E.—ADVANCE TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

The following sums were advanced during the fortnight under this head :—

		Rs.
I.	For storage and purchase of grain (Circular No. 80 of 17th November)	Nil.
II.	For assistance to ryots (Government Circular No. 4020 of 29th December 1873)	2,000
III.	For kutcha and digging out old tanks	4,511

The total amounts expended up to date under the three heads are—

	Rs.
No. I.	60,000
" II.	2,000
" III.	4,789

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

The following steps have been taken under this head :—

A district committee has been formed, consisting of all the officials at head-quarters, all the European residents in the Sudder division, some of the more influential native residents in Sudder division, with power to add to their number. A list of these gentlemen has been submitted to the Commissioner.

A sub-divisional committee has been formed at Bettiah, consisting of the gentlemen marginally named, and the sub-division parcelled out among the members.

C. A. Samuells, Esq.	J. Macleod, Esq.
T. M. Gibbon, Esq.	W. B. Bourke, Esq.
W. B. Hudson, Esq.	S. Christein, Esq.
A. E. Macdonell, Esq.	Rajah of Bettiah.

with power to add to their number.

A sub-divisional committee has also, under Sir Richard Temple's instructions, been formed at Ramnuggur,* with sub-committees under it at Harnatour, Bugaha, and Bulthur (Bhoura), and temporary bungalows have been directed to be constructed at those places, (including Ramnuggur). A sub-committee will also be formed for thannahs Adapore and Dhaka, with head-quarters at Kutkenwa, a temporary bungalow being constructed at that place. Another sub-committee will also be formed for thannahs Kesseria and Madhubun, with its head-quarters at Madhubun, and Mr. Weekes has been deputed to take preliminary steps towards its formation. The following sums have been raised for the District Committee :—

* Ramnuggur Committee.	Sri Antour Misser.
Mr. W. Howe.	Sri Gyadin Misser.
Colonel Boulderson.	Dhora Chowdry.
Rajah of Ramnuggur.	Parasi Chowdry.

with power to add to their number.

The Rajah of Bettiah having most liberally subscribed Rs. 20,000 (10,000 for the Sudder division, 10,000 for the Bettiah sub-division), a sum of Rs. 8,500 has also been promised.

Subscriptions have also been raised by sub-divisional committees at Bettiah and Ramnuggur (exact amount not reported as yet), and they have been directed to commence operations. Mr. Howe calculates that he will have 2,500 persons on his hands at starting per day ; establishments at the places selected at head-quarters of sub-committees have been sanctioned. Under this head I may mention that an arrangement has been made under Sir Richard Temple's instructions, by which an immediate advance of 5,000 maunds of grain will be made through Mr. Howe to the cultivating classes (assamees) in the Ramnuggur estate, who are urgently in need of food-supplies, the Rajah having executed a deed or "ekrarnamah," binding himself to refund to Government the value of the grain advanced. He has also promised to import some grain on his own account for the use of his ryots. Further, under Sir Richard Temple's authority, the police in Ramnuggur has been strengthened, a first class thannah having been directed to be formed at Ramnuggur, with outposts at Harnatour, Chamardeeba, Chauki, and Rampoora, and a native doctor has been sent to Harnatour.

DISTRICT.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, best sort.	Rice, common.	Murwa and Checna.	Maize or Indian-corn.	Gram.	Salt.
Motihari - -	11¾	18	9½	11¾	15½	14½	12½	7
Bettiah - -	13	17	9¼	12	—	14	14	7¼
Madhubun - -	10	—	10	11½	15	15	14	7
Gobindgunge -	11	17	9	11½	17	15	14½	7
Kisseria - -	10	—	9	11	—	17	14	8
Ghorashan - -	11¼	16¼	10	11¼	—	15	16¼	6 14
Dhaka - -	11	15	8	10	—	15	13	7½
Bugaha - -	11	—	8	10	—	13	12	5½
Ramnuggur -	11	18	8¼	10	—	12	12	7

H. KEAN,
Collector.

Enclosure No. 4.

No. 415, dated Calcutta, the 9th February 1874.

From—A. P. HOWELL, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce,

To—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

IN reply to your Letter No. 322, received on the 7th instant, I am directed to state, as it appears clear that tank-works are in some places the only works upon which the people in want of employment can usefully be employed, and as the urgency of the case prevents recourse being had to legislation for the purpose of distributing the cost of such works upon those who would receive benefit from them, the only course open to Government seems to be that indicated in the 6th paragraph of the letter under acknowledgment, and the Governor-General in Council gives the Lieutenant-Governor full discretion to act accordingly.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 11th February 1874.

READ—

Letter No. 322, dated the 29th January last, from this Government to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce, regarding the provision of adequate relief works in the distressed tracts.

Reply to the above from the Government of India, No. 415, dated the 9th February 1874.

In a reference made to the Government of India, this Government pointed out the necessity that exists for undertaking tank-works, and other such works for relief purposes, and asked for a settlement of the question as to whether public money could be expended on works situated on, and which would more or less improve, private permanently-settled estates. It was stated that there were many zemindars who had done, and were doing, much for their estates, but that there were several estates where nothing had been done, and with regard to which no measures could be taken without recourse being had to legislation. It was suggested that when proper public works cannot be found, either the Government or the relief committees should undertake works which are not public works in the ordinary acceptation of the term in order to provide employment for the people. It was suggested that the Government should confine itself to such works as appeared most beneficial to the people, the best bargain being made with the landholders in each case.

2. The Government of India now approve of the views as above expressed, and desire that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will use his discretion in the matter.

3. The first point to be considered is from what source the money required is to come. It is clear that the amount cannot be given from the District Road Fund. Special grants will therefore have to be made for the purpose. The following grants are accordingly made to the districts named below:—

	Rs.
For Tirhoot	1,00,000
„ Sarun	50,000
„ Chumparun	50,000
„ Monghyr	30,000
„ Bhaugulpore	40,000
„ Purneah	30,000
„ Dinagepore	60,000
„ Maldah	20,000
„ Rungpore	30,000
Total	4,10,000

It is not necessary to expend anything on wealthy wards' estates which have sufficient funds of their own.

4. In ordinary cases, one-third of the cost of such works may be borne from the Government grant under previous orders; but the Commissioner may, in the case of special tracts, sanction half cost being so borne on the estates of petty or impoverished landholders. In special individual cases, the Commissioner may also sanction even a larger proportion than half being borne by the Government, and where it is necessary to clear tanks, to facilitate traffic on roads, and such purposes, and the zemindar is unable to assist, Government may bear the whole cost. This course may also be followed in such cases where works are emergently necessary to save life. Every effort must, however, be used to arrange that the zemindars on whose estates the works lie should bear their fair share of the burden.

5. Great care must be taken to secure a record that the works, aided in the above manner by public money, shall be for the use of the public, and shall remain so for ever.

6. Petty works estimated to cost not more than say Rs. 200 should be undertaken by relief committees under Part II., Rule 3, clause *e* of the "Instructions for Relief Committees." In cases which cannot be thus dealt with the expenditure must be met from the present grants, which will, if need arises, be increased hereafter.

Order.—Ordered that a copy of the above Resolution, and of the correspondence quoted therein, be forwarded to Commissioners of the Patna, Bhaugulpore, Rajshahye, Burdwan, and Presidency Divisions; to each Magistrate-Collector, Deputy Commissioner in the distressed districts named in paragraph 3, and to the Relief Commissioner, Rajshahye, for information and guidance, with the intimation that special attention should be paid to paragraph 6 of this office letter, No. 322, of the 29th January 1874, to the Government of India.

Ordered also, that a copy as above be sent to the Public Works Department of this Government, the Financial Department of this office, to the Accountant-General, and the Deputy Comptroller-General for Scarcity and Relief.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 617.—S.R.

Copy as above forwarded to

Calcutta, the 11th February 1874.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Enclosure No. 5.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 16th February 1874.

READ—

The narratives of the districts of the Bhaugulpore Division for the fortnight ending on the 8th February—

Monghyr report received on the 11th February.
Bhaugulpore ditto ditto 11th „
Purneah ditto ditto 10th „
Sonthal Pergunnahs' report received on the 11th February.

RESOLUTION.—All the narratives have been despatched with fair punctuality. The Monghyr narrative is a very good one, and gives a satisfactory account of what is done and designed. The Bhaugulpore narrative is good, but the Lieutenant-Governor had hoped to see larger results. The Purneah narrative is somewhat meagre and unsatisfactory, the Sonthal Pergunnahs narrative very much so.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

The supply of grain in the bazars of Soopole and Mudheypoorah appears to have fallen short; at the smaller village markets of Jamooee, too, rice is not to be had. Prices are, however, said to be somewhat easier* after the recent rain. Neither the Purneah nor the Sonthal Pergunnahs narrative speak of any shortness in the supplies of those districts, though the previous narrative had given bad accounts from Kusbah, Kudbah Amour, and from Rajmehal. In Soopole, and in one part of Purneah, prices are very high.

2. The rainfall of the fortnight has clearly done very great good. The magistrate of Monghyr says it has not only raised the expectations of the rubbee crop (but he still does not expect a full crop), but it has also given much hope of fodder for cattle, and the opportunity to all ryots of sowing Indian-corn, cheena (small millet), and moong (pulse). The Magistrate of Bhaugulpore writes: "The rain generally has fallen lightly, and the good effects are satisfactory to a great degree. The people are ploughing as fast as they can, and are getting in more *cheena*, *chikna*, and *moong*, a grain which will come to maturity in a short time." He adds: "As far as I can hear or ascertain, the outturn of rubbee ought to be a full average crop." From Purneah it is reported that—"the late rains have been most beneficial to the rubbee crops; the country is looking quite green, and it is expected that from gram and other pulses a full crop will be gathered. Wheat, too, looks well, but it has not germinated to the same extent as the pulses." The Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Pergunnahs says that the rain has benefited what rubbee there is, and there is in Gedda a good deal of rahar looking well. It seems to be generally expected that, if the season continues favourable, a good early crop of cheena (small millet) will come in during the next six weeks and will give much relief to the poor, and in the Monghyr district Indian-corn is being sown in the hopes that a showery spring will ripen it.

3. the condition of the labouring classes in Monghyr is said to be getting "worse and worse;" but so far as the accounts given in the narrative go, it would seem that it is only the lame, halt, and blind, and outcast races like the Mussahirs, who are as yet feeling actual distress. Seeing how many Mussahirs there are in the district, the Lieutenant-Governor is very glad indeed that their forlorn condition has received early attention from Mr. Lockwood and his officers, and especially that the more helpless and needy are being sought out and relieved. In North Bhaugulpore the condition of the people is said to be "giving anxiety," and from parts there is reported "severe suffering." There are, however, it would seem, no strong indications of severe distress, though the ryots much want temporary help' to enable them to tide over the month of March.

4. The comparative statements of crimes against property for the month of January, give the following results:—

	Crimes occurring in the month of January 1874.				Total of all crimes under the foregoing headings for the month of January.		
	Dacoity.	Robbery.	Theft.	House-breaking.	1874.	1873.	1872.
Monghyr - -	2	0	38	52	92	70	75
Bhaugulpore -	0	2	48	80	80	45	88
Purneah - -	8	0	59	12	79	53	55

The prevalence of dacoities in Purneah is lamentable; that district has long been in a very bad state in this respect; but on the whole the increase in petty crimes against property is not so very great as might have been expected.

B. RELIEF WORKS.

5. The account given by Mr. Lockwood of the many relief works undertaken by zemindars in Jamooee is most satisfactory, and shows what can be done by persuasion. The proposal for the

* The last published price-current (*Calcutta Gazette*) of the 11th instant did not show any general fall in prices.

"immense tank" at Khero Pranpore has not reached Government, and should not be delayed. The number of persons on relief works in Monghyr has come down to 2,548, besides about 3,400 on the Khurrukpore irrigation work. The condition of the labourers is said to be "good" except at Buktiarpore, where grain is very dear and the Government stores have been opened. In Bhaugulpore the number of relief labourers has fallen to 3,335 per diem; in the north of the district their condition is said to be bad. As food is very dear in Soopole and Mudheypoorah and there are but scanty spring crops, it seems strange that the number of labourers should have been reduced by one-half in Soopole. In Purneah, too, the number of relief labourers, 1,058 per diem, is strangely low. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes Mr. Taylor and Mr. Kemble will satisfy themselves very fully that proper facilities are given and wages are regularly paid by trustworthy men, and that weakly men are not turned off the works by contractors or petty subordinates. The Lieutenant-Governor has caused a separate letter to be sent to Purneah, drawing attention to an entry in the statement which shows that labourers are paid irregularly. In some other districts abuses of this kind have been detected and corrected, and Sir George Campbell hopes that there are no such defects in the management of the Bhaugulpore and Purneah relief works. He is glad to see that the manager of the Kurrukpore works has arranged for receiving and employing persons who cannot do a full day's work. In the Sonthal Pergunnahs there appears to be as yet little demand for relief work.

C.—PRIVATE TRADE IN GRAIN.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor is much satisfied with Mr. Lockwood's account of the steps he has taken to leave room for private trade in grain, and to contract Government operations with that view; but he hopes that the estimate now offered of the available cart power of the Monghyr district (only 150 carts daily for a short lead), means that much private trade is doing. A rich district, with 1,800,000 people and 330,000 houses, might be expected to possess very many carts everywhere, except in the hilly country or in large towns. The private grain importations into Bhaugulpore seem to have been small; but the Lieutenant-Governor notes with satisfaction that the wheat consigned to Howrah during the fortnight was only 6,641 maunds. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to learn that the private grain trade into and about the Purneah district appears still to be brisk, for he had feared lest occasional impressment of carriage might have checked private operations in that district. The Sonthal Pergunnahs appear still to be exporting maize from the north and rice from the south of the district.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

7. The Monghyr assignment of 150,000 maunds has been all received and all stored, and no more will be sent until it is asked for. It is satisfactory to receive Mr. Lockwood's favourable report of the very small damage done by the recent rain to grain in transit. In Bhaugulpore only 73,000 maunds were stored out of 205,000 maunds received into the district; it seems that the transport arrangements are halting somewhat on the north of the Ganges, and the Lieutenant-Governor has caused a separate letter to be addressed to the Commissioner and Magistrate on the subject. He fears that the Magistrate, in his very proper concern for Government interests, has offered too low rates for carriage. Mr. Taylor is quite right in thinking that Government officers of adjoining districts should not bid against one another, and run up prices to exorbitant rates. But in a time of special need and special pressure, very full rates of hire must be given to draw out the full carrying power of the district, and Mr. Taylor must offer rates more nearly up to the Tirhoot standard, or as high if necessary. By one means or another, the means of transporting grain to Soopole must be increased. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks this absolutely necessary, and trusts that no effort and no cost will be spared to effect it. In Purneah 128,000 maunds had been finally stored up to the 6th February; but it is not clear how only 13,000 maunds are in transit, if 4,000 maunds a day are despatched from Caragola on long leads such as Mr. Kemble describes to the north of the district. The Purneah authorities must remember that the Government looks to them largely to help the very afflicted district of Dinagepore, by carrying from one to one and a half lakhs of maunds a month from Caragola to the Dinagepore border.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

8. The Lieutenant-Governor appreciates the difficulties felt by Mr. Lockwood in disposing promptly of the applications for advances for land improvements, but he looks to the energy and zeal of the Monghyr officers to overcome those difficulties as rapidly as possible. Powers of a Collector under Act XXVI of 1871 have recently been given to selected sub-divisional officers and others, and thus the work of disposing of application for tuccavee advances will, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes, be lightened. A further credit for advances for purchase of grain has already been given to the Bhaugulpore division, and under no circumstances are these operations to be delayed for allotments. All the advances that the rules allow may be given in anticipation of allotments. It is satisfactory to learn both from Purneah and Monghyr, that traders in grain are getting over their fear of Government competition.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

9. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to find that relief committees are actually at work in Monghyr and are relieving, daily—

250 destitute people at Monghyr.
300 ditto ditto Luckeeserai.
200 ditto ditto Shaikpoorah.
100 ditto ditto Buktearpore.
A large number of destitute people at Jamooee.

Mr. Lockwood speaks of these persons as being "indigent," "very emaciated," "half-starved," and says that many of the Luckeeserai paupers "must have shortly died of starvation if not relieved." Sir George Campbell fears that in parts of Bhaugulpore and Purneah there must also be need for early and careful charitable relief. In Modhubunnee, to the immediate west of Soopole, such need has been recognised and met; and the Magistrate of Bhaugulpore must be good enough to put the Charitable Relief Committees in the north of his district into immediate active operation; as Mr. Taylor is now in that part of the district he will doubtless not leave Soopole before this is done. In Purneah, as yet no action seems to have been taken beyond appointing committees, building sheds, and collecting funds; in Kudbah and Kusbah Amour, at any rate, charitable relief committees must be put into active operation each under a competent Chairman who will himself actively engage in the work.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. Bernard,

Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 700—S.R.

Copy, with copies of the district reports, forwarded to the Commissioners of Bhaugulpore, Patna, Rajshahye, and Relief Commissioner Dinagepore; the Magistrate-Collectors of Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, Sonthal Pergunnahs, Central Relief Committee, and Mr. C. E. Buckland, for submission to Sir Richard Temple.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. Bernard,

Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta,
The 16th February 1874.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief of the District of Monghyr for the Fortnight ending 7th February, 1874.

A.—State of the Country.

Although the principal bazars in the district are well supplied, it has been brought to my notice that grain is not procurable at the petty marts between Gungta and the Jumui station, and that it is only procurable at the market held once a week at Bucktearpur, in the extreme north of the district. Regarding the first-mentioned place, Babu Umbica Churn Sen, who has taken an advance to purchase grain, has agreed to supply those that require it at cost price, and I have sent a notice, inviting petty traders at Khagaria and Bucktearpur to take an advance for purchasing grain at the nearest large bazar, in order to sell it in the country around Bucktearpur. With the above exceptions, I believe that grain is easily procurable throughout the district by those who have money to pay for it.

There has been a slight tendency to a fall in prices consequent on the recent rain, and as the merchants and petty traders are generally ready to transport grain to any place where they can sell it at a profit, I have no reason to fear a lack of supply in the bazars except in exceptional instances.

I annex a statement marked A, which will show the kinds and prices of grain selling in the district.

Regarding the amount and kind of grain in the hands of zemindars and others, I have no reason to alter the opinion expressed in former narratives, that those who form the better classes have sufficient to carry them on until the next harvest, whilst the lower and despised labouring classes, who depend on the crops being good, have little or nothing.

Since my last report 1¼ inches of rain has fallen at Monghyr. The rainfall was general throughout the district, but it was most plentiful in those parts where it was most wanted. At Sheikpura the country was flooded for some hours, and a mountain stream, which was almost dry on Monday, was nearly impassable when I recrossed it the following day.

There is a divided opinion regarding the rain. Many persons say that it has done harm, and one zemindar went so far as to declare that the rubbee crop was destroyed. Whether these opinions are given wilfully or from ignorance, it is not worth while to inquire; but there is no doubt that the rain, which was not sufficiently heavy to do any harm, has not only raised the expectations of the rubbee crop twenty-five per cent., but it has given much hope of fodder for cattle, and the opportunity to all ryots of sowing Indian-corn, cheena, and moong. The opium crop has probably increased in value by a million sterling, and the other crops in a like proportion. Mr. Campbell at Jumui considers that the rain will double the outturn, but I think that it came too late to raise the general rubbee crop above a ten-anna one. Directly the ground was sufficiently moist, Mr. Campbell obtained a *carte blanche* from the Maharajah, Sir Joymungul Singh, who has immense estates in the sub-division, to direct the sowing of Indian-corn around the impoverished Mushir villages, and on Saturday last Mr. Campbell showed me several villages where sowing was going on under his direction, and in some instances the plants had already sprung up above the ground. There is a divided opinion whether the crop will come to perfection without irrigation, but, as Mr. Campbell pointed out, the land sown is not too extensive to prevent the people watering it, if necessary, by hand, even where there are no wells. On the dearahs the ryots are busy sowing cheena on the lands where the kulai crop has been reaped, and all over the district portions of land are being sown with Indian-corn and other bhadoi crops. The Indian Zadkiels rule the ryots' actions to a very considerable extent; but as their predictions last year entirely failed, I have taken advantage of the want of confidence in them, to advise immediate sowings on the general expectation that the past two dry years will be followed by an unusually wet one, and that occasional showers during the next two months will probably bring the bhadoi now sown to perfection. The rubbee harvest has begun, and the mussoor and peas are being cut in a few places, but the harvest will not become general for some time yet.

Whether the outturn of the extensive rubbee in this district will bring down the high prices or not will depend on the demand for grain in other districts.

Regarding the condition of the people, the upper classes and the ryots who have land remain well-fed and strong, and no signs of distress has yet appeared among them. The condition of the low and despised labouring classes, particularly in the rice pergunnahs, is getting worse and worse, and relief cannot be too soon afforded to those who are unable to work. The number of afflicted people, who, had they lived in Europe, would be shut up in hospitals and workhouses, but who in India are to be found in every bazar and village, and subsist on the charity of their neighbours, is immense. Even in years of plenty these persons only get sufficient to keep them alive, and when the price of grain is high, and charity is necessarily stinted, unless relieved by Government, they must starve to death by inches. The fortitude of these people is extraordinary, and the only way to find them out and relieve them is to hunt them up in their villages. Anyone on examining a map of the country around Jumui will find the word "Mushiree," which indicates a hamlet inhabited by the tribe of Mushirs, very frequent. This despised race are, as I have before remarked, bondsmen to the neighbouring ryots. They are employed to cultivate and reap the fields when their aid is necessary, and left to starve when their services are not wanted. They depend on the crop being a good one to put by small stores of grain until the next harvest, and they supplement their grain with jungle roots and the flesh of their filthy swine. Where the crop has failed—and they are most numerous where it has failed—these people are now becoming very badly off. Mr. Campbell took me to a village called Katwara, within two miles of Jumui on Saturday last, and showed me some 40 people, who could not, I believe, have survived another week without the relief which Mr. Campbell has afforded. Previous to my arrival most of the adults had left the village and joined the Government works, or the irrigation works at Khurrukpore; some, I was told, having old men and women dependent on them, had emigrated to the Mauritius, and there were several cripples in the last stage of disease and destitution. The ticcadar who inhabited the village appeared to take the matter very calmly, as though he classed the Mushirs in the same category as their pigs. Besides affording immediate relief to these people, Mr. Campbell has had the surrounding land sown with Indian-corn, which, failing rain, may be watered by hand from the neighbouring rivers. The condition of this place is worse than any of the many villages which I have visited, but in nearly every village may be found objects for charity more or less numerous. An immense amount of relief to the able-bodied has been afforded by the Government and the irrigation works at Khurrukpore, and I annex copy of a letter lately received from the Assistant Manager in charge at Khurrukpore, which mentions how the number of labourers is increasing. Every effort is being made to spread out the number of relief works through the distressed tracts, and the zemindars have, at a recent meeting convened by Mr. Campbell at Jumui, and attended by the Commissioner and myself, engaged to commence works at an estimated cost of Rs. 15,000 immediately. I left the Commissioner at Jumui, intent upon removing some difficulties between the joint proprietors, the Maharajah Sir Joymungul Sing and Babu Ram Narain Sing. If he succeeds, irrigation works on a very extensive scale will be commenced at once on the southern parts of the Jumui subdivision. I have found the zemindars, although somewhat apathetic, generally willing to assist, if their personal ease is not interfered with; and besides Rs. 6,000 already advanced for tank digging to zemindars in the distressed pergunnahs, I have had other applications for more than Rs. 20,000. These applications, however, cannot be disposed of at once. The local investigation, examination of records, and other forms, take up time, however anxious we may be to advance the money. I have already made many local investigations myself, and, as recommended by Government, promised the zemindars that there shall be no third party to the transaction. From what I have seen in the matter hitherto, I believe that when the procedure is generally known, a large amount of money in small sums will be applied for. There is a slight difficulty as regards interest. The orthodox Mussalman will neither give nor receive interest, and it was not until I had the savings bank rule about interest relaxed, that any Mussalman deposited money in the bank.

I must not omit here to mention the names of the zemindars, Shah Abdul Hossen, Mahomed Ally Khan, and Ally Khan Sahib of Hossenabad; the two former are each digging out large tanks in pergunnah Umrithu; the latter gentleman is about to take large advances for cleaning out three immense tanks on various parts of his estates. I have visited these tanks in company with the zemindars, and the proposal to dig them out was received with acclamation by the villagers; with the exception of a few wells, nearly dry at this season of the year, there is no water within several miles. I propose returning to Jumui on Wednesday, and looking up the zemindars of pergunnah Besthazaree, which is in equally bad state as Umrithu. The proposed road from Secundra to Luckeseri, running straight through this distressed tract and which is now being commenced, will afford much relief.

I hope the late rules regarding emigration to Burmah will also afford relief to the district, and induce the people to doubt the truth of their proverb, "better a seat of thorns at home than Solomon's throne in a foreign land." If due care is taken in the matter, I believe that large bodies of able-bodied men may be induced to emigrate, notwithstanding an almost universal opinion to the contrary. The subject of emigration as a safety valve for the surplus population has not received so much attention as it demands. The chief difficulty in the way is that the persons who would make the best emigrants are generally serfs, or rather bondsmen, and their masters won't let them go. In company with the Maharajah, Sir Joy Mungul Singh, I addressed a large crowd of people at Jumui on Saturday, and the crowd was invited to let us know what they thought about emigration. A man who acted as spokesman stepped forward and said he would go to-morrow, if a little account of Rs. 3, borrowed many years ago, and held *in terrorem* over him whenever he showed any disposition to leave his village, could be settled. His case, he said, was but one instance among a thousand similar ones.

A serious point of consideration, however, is that the would-be emigrant is almost sure to have one or two old people dependent on him: these should be provided for. I have written to Dr. Payne on the subject, and shall give him all the assistance in my power. I asked the ticcadar in village Katowaria, mentioned above, if he would allow his able-bodied Mushirs to emigrate. He replied certainly not; but if I could devise any scheme to get rid of the old people and cripples he would be most grateful.

I annex a statement marked B, showing the number of thefts and robberies during the past fortnight.

B.—Relief Works.

Besides the Government relief works already commenced, the projected road between Secundra and Luckeseri, running through the most distressed parts of the district has been pegged out during the fortnight, and order to commence the earth-work at once has been passed. I shall pay the works a visit during the week. The Shah Sahib's tank at Barrara, mentioned in my last report, to be dug out at a cost of Rs. 3,000, has been commenced. I happened to be passing that way last week, and paid the place a visit; directly I arrived a violent altercation commenced between the Shah Sahib's men and the labourers. The former declared that the labourers did nothing, and the latter that the overseer did not pay them properly. I did my best to put matters straight, and reported exactly what I saw and heard to the Shah Sahib, who, I am sure, will see that the money is properly spent; but I have no doubt that if any one, professional or non-professional, who chooses to work is admitted and paid a day's wages for his work, whatever it may be, the zemindar will not gain much in a pecuniary light, although a third of the cost is written off by Government. Other tanks, for which advances have been taken, have been commenced, and are affording more or less relief to the surrounding villages. A list of the various works put in hand by the zemindars in Jumui sub-division is being prepared by Mr. Campbell; the total estimate will probably amount to nearly half a lakh of rupees. These works will be visited by me and other officers as often as possible in order to see how they are getting on.

I may mention here that I am sending up a proposal for digging out an immense tank where water is much needed, in the Government estate Khero Praussur, Pergunnah Nurhutt, in Umrithu. I have no doubt that the proposal will be approved by the Commissioner, as the estate adjoins the worst part of the district. The expense will be defrayed from accumulated funds for the improvement of Government estates. I shall keep this work in my own hands, and see that it is properly done and paid for.

C.—Transport of Food.

I have reason to believe that the food supplies coming into the district are equal to the demand, and that the rivers, roads, and railway, are freely used by merchants according as they promise profit by importation. A gentleman who took an advance of Rs. 1,000 for the purchase of grain, has just come in to ask me how he shall act, seeing that grain is selling at a certain ghât on the Ganges near his house cheaper than he can possibly obtain it from Calcutta, and the merchants are using so many of the carts which I employed in storing the first lakh of maunds, that I find considerable deficit in transporting the subsequent 50,000 maunds allotted to the district. I have however told the merchants that I have no intention of interfering with them, and indeed that I will give up some of my carts if they require them, as I can keep my grain in the central golas for the present. I find, on personally going into the question, that the cartage power of the district has been much exaggerated by zemindars, nazirs, and inspectors, who are apt to frame their reports as occasion requires, and the wishes of their superiors appear to dictate. I find that thousands of carts said to be available have dwindled to hundreds, although there appears to be truth in the report that everyone who has a few rupees and a pair of bullocks is making a cart to carry Government grain. I do not believe I could procure more than a continual daily supply of 100 carts, carrying 1,500 maunds, between Luckeseri and Shiekpura, or more than 50 carts carrying 750 maunds daily between Gogree and Bucktearpur. This scarcity of available carts is accounted for by the fact that so many are used by the zemindars and merchants. I am, however, particularly careful that every valid inducement is held out to people to bring their carts when I require them, and I have had numerous applications from cartmen to be kept continually in Government employ.

There has been no block anywhere so far as my grain is concerned. I have kept the Monghyr golah, capable of holding 10,000 maunds, empty; in case of difficulty of transport elsewhere, I am now filling it again to afford breathing time to Luckeseri, and in order to have a fresh supply for Bucktearpur. The only damage done by the rain was to Government grain on carts; a few bags at Luckeseri got wet; but I had an extensive khalian, or threshing-floor, swept out by a crowd who had assembled to see the paupers fed, and the damp rice was emptied out in my presence, dried, and re-bagged in a very short space of time. I shall soon have all the grain allotted to this district stored, and shall not apply for more until I see necessity for doing so.

D.

Grain is now stored in twenty-four golahs, as mentioned in former reports. These places have been selected and grain stored in quantities varying according to the state of the surrounding country: 158,993 maunds have been received for the district and stored; 82,386 maunds have been received at Luckeseri; of this all but 14,000 maunds stored there has been sent to Sheikpura. I have told my agent to empty the Luckeseri golah as soon as possible, and with the assistance I am giving him, I think he will be able to do so during the week. I shall not ask for any more grain in that part of the country until I see necessity for doing so. At Jumui all the grain received has already been stored. The Maharajah has built a golah which can be expanded to almost any extent. I visited it with the Maharajah on Saturday, and found everything satisfactory. At the recommendation of the Commissioner, I have enlarged the golah at Bucktearpur on the north of the district towards Soopool, and am emptying the Khagaria and Gogri golahs in order to fill it. The latter places can be replenished when necessary from Monghyr. Directly the rubbi harvest is cut, and relief centres are in full play, I shall be able to form a more definite opinion regarding the requirements of the district.

E.

The advances made for the purchase and storage of grain have been considerable, and can be increased to almost any amount, if necessary. I have, however mentioned, that rice can hardly now be imported from Calcutta at a profit, and I am anxious to see the effect of the rubbi harvest on the price of grain before pressing further advances. Application for a loan of Rs. 5,000 has been made to the Commissioner by the Monghyr Municipality, and the Jamalpore Municipality is prepared to follow this example, if necessary.

I have also mentioned above that advances for land improvements, chiefly for digging tanks and embankments, are coming in fast. I think there are few zemindars in the district who would not gladly take an advance, If I only had the time to explain the matter to each individually.

Local investigations and the other matters of procedure, however, take up a considerable amount of time, although it is difficult to suggest anything simpler than the law as it now stands.

F.

Charitable relief has commenced at Monghyr. Subscriptions amounting Rs. 1,000 in ready money and a monthly subscription of over Rs. 500 per mensem, has been given. Relief was commenced on Sunday last in Monghyr, when about 250 persons, passed by the committee, received grain at the centre erected at some distance from the town. At Jumui also Rs. 1,240 was collected at a meeting convened by Mr. Campbell and attended by the Commissioner and myself; and at Beguserai nearly an equal amount has been subscribed.

I have, however, been obliged to put several centres in distressed tracts into active operation, as the condition of the people was found to be such that they must die of starvation unless relieved.

A meeting attended by every available officer was convened by the Commissioner at Jumui on Saturday last, and the new rules regarding relief were regularly gone into, and arrangements made for setting the approved machinery at once into operation.

The following centres, however, have been opened and are being managed by committees, who, although keeping regular accounts, have not submitted them punctually :—

Monghyr.—About 250 indigent persons passed by the Civil Surgeon, Mr. Dear, Colonel Murray, Baboo Gonga Persad, and other members of the Committee.

Luckeseri.—The committee have passed about 300 persons, many of whom must have shortly died of starvation, if not relieved.

Sheikpura.—About 200 persons in a very emaciated condition have been passed, and are being fed daily.

Jumui.—This relief centre is being started under Mr. Campbell; a large number, including the Katowria villagers before mentioned, will be fed here.

Bucktearpur.—Under Mr. More, Mr. Christian, and native members, about 100 half-starved persons are being fed.

Orain pergunnah Surujgarah.—This centre was set in motion under my directions by Moulvie Abdul Jubber, Deputy Magistrate. He found forty-two persons who would shortly have died of starvation had they not been relieved. This village is within five miles of the Patna road relief work. The zemindar, Meer Inayet Hossein, is about to take a loan of Rs. 300 for digging out a tank at the village.

As I have previously remarked, great efforts are being made to set the relief going according to the rules approved by Government.

C.—Progress Report of Relief Works actually open during the Fortnight ending 7th February 1874.

Name of Road and Number.	Progress in marking out Relief Work.	Progress in opening Relief Work.	Number of Laborers on.	Supply of Food thereat.	Condition of Labourers.	Mode of Payment.	Rate of Wages.	Arrangement for Tools.	Disbursement during the fortnight.		
									Rs.	A.	P.
Monghyr Sub-Division.											
Patna Road	16 miles marked out	All who present themselves get work.	578	From the nearest bazaars	Tolerably good	Advance given every day and measurements made every week.	Rs. 1-9 per 1,000, and daily wages at 1 anna 6 pie to men, 1 anna to women, and 6 pie to children.	Mostly supplied by Government.	811	0	9
Bhaugulpore Road	More than 5 miles marked out.	Ditto	155	Ditto	Good	Ditto	Ditto	Three-fourths bring their own tools.	199	9	8
Baktearpore to Bhootea	About 2¼ miles	Ditto, save beldars	93	Ditto	Workpeople seem to suffer a great deal for want of sufficient stock of grains in the neighbouring bazaar; order given for sale of rice.	Daily Labourers paid daily. Piece-work paid for every week. Explanation on the latter point has been called for.	Ditto	About one-sixth do do.			
Balkur to Rosra	About 2¼ miles	Ditto	120	Ditto	Good	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	502	11	11
Burriarpur Road	Petty repairs only								50	13	8
Kujrah Road	Ditto	Ditto		Daily coolies are employed to keep the road in good order.					8	1	8
Begooserai Sub-Division.											
Tirhoot Road	About 12 miles marked out.	All who seek for work get it.	752	From the neigbouring bazaar.	Good	Twice a week in cash	Rs. 1-9 per 1,000, and daily wages at 1 anna 6 pie to men, 1 anna to women, and 6 pie to children.	More than one-fourth bring their own tools.	658	8	9
Jumui Sub-Division.											
Gyriak Road	4 miles marked out		25	Work stopped. Orders since given to commence work on the second section of the road.					116	14	0
Shaikpura to Secundra	More than 12 miles marked out.	All who seek for work get it.	65	From the nearest bazaars	Good	Daily advance given and measurement made every week.	Rs. 1-14 per 1,000	More than one-fourth bring their own tools.	364	7	6
Secundra to Jumui	12 miles marked out	All who come get work	350	From the adjacent bazaars	Not reported.				16	9	9
Chakis to Simultollah	Work stopped								65	7	0
Gungta to Mullehpoor	9 miles	Ditto	410	Ditto	Ditto.			Ditto.			
Jamui to Luckeserai	No earthwork is required.	Bridge work in progress.									
Jamui to Mullehpoor	Report not received.										
			2,548				Total amount paid in wages		2,799	12	5
							Brick manufacture and Tirhoot Road, &c.		756	9	0
							Establishment, &c.		271	11	6
							Tools and Plant		157	14	6
							Bridge-work, masonry &c.		220	7	8
							General contingencies		115	11	9
							Petty repairs		46	4	0
								Grand Total	4,369	6	5

N.B.—On the 7th, the last day of the week or fortnight, there were 11 Brahmins, 14 Rajpoots, and 6 Baniahs on the works. It is supposed that the Rajpoots of this country are in some measure used to agriculture, and can therefore be reckoned among the agricultural classes. Besides the above there were some Dhobies, Weavers, and other castes who do not always resort to this sort of work unless hard pressed.

RAM RUTTON MAZUMDAR,
Assistant Engineer in Executive Charge, Monghyr District.

NOTE BY THE MAGISTRATE.

The rain appears to have kept many workmen away. When I was at Jamui on Saturday, the contractor told me there were 1,100 men working on the Gungta road, 300 on the Jamui and Mullehpoor road, and 500 on the Jamui and Secundra road. The works will soon be deserted by the workmen, who will find employment in cutting the rubbee harvest.

E. LOCKWOOD, *Magistrate.*

No. 169—S.R., dated Bhaugulpore, the 9th February 1874.

From—V. T. Taylor, Esq., Collector of Bhaugulpore,
To—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to submit my sixth fortnightly narrative called for in Circular No. 80 of the 17th November last.

A.—State of the Country.

2. *Soopole.*—"Complaints are heard on all sides regarding the increasing difficulty of purchasing grain in the various bazars throughout the sub-division, and the prices are now closely approaching the limit at which, under existing orders, we should open our stores for issue to the laborers employed on relief works. In fact at Bungaon, in the vicinity of which the road towards Monghyr is now in progress, rice is already selling at 10 seers per rupee." At Soopole itself, rice is selling at 11 seers, and at Bheemnuggur to the extreme north at 13 seers, though at Pertabgunge it is selling at 10½ seers. *Murwa* is selling at 12 seers in Bungaon, and 13 seers at Soopole and Pertabgunge, while at Bheemnuggur at 16 seers.

3. Since the rain of the past fortnight *murwa* is decidely more plentiful than it was before, and it may still be unnecessary to open out Government stores; but I leave for Soopole for thorough inspection of the people and villages, to see to all the relief sub-committees immediately this narrative is despatched, and will on the spot pass all necessary orders.

4. *Mudehpoorah.*—The sub-divisional officer reports rice is unobtainable in the bazars at Mudehpoorah; in Kissengunge it is selling at 10 to 12 seers per rupee. There are no large stores of grain in the country of which any correct information can be obtained, though if mahajuns and zemindars holding such as are *known* to exist would open out their stocks, there would be a sufficiency for same time to come.

5. At head-quarters there are beyond question ample stores and trade action, but no one takes the trouble to send grain to the north of the district. Prices are now as follows:—rice (old) 10 to 11¼ seers; Indian-corn 14½; wheat 12 seers 10 chittacks, and gram 16½ seers.

6. *Banka.*—The prices in this sub-division have risen during the fortnight, the rise being about ½ to 1½ seers of rice, ½ to 2 seers of Indian-corn, 1 to 5 seers of koorthee, and 1 to 1½ seer of wheat. These rises are attributed by the sub-divisional officer partly to extensive exports being carried on to Monghyr, and partly to retention by holders with view of subsequent profit; but the sub-divisional officer remarks notwithstanding "that food articles are available everywhere, and there is no distress."

7. The following table shows approximately, as far as can be ascertained, the difference in prices of some of the food-grains *now* and at the corresponding period of 8

	Rice, 1st sort.		Rice, common.		Murwa.		Indian-corn.		Wheat.	
	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.
	Srs. C.	Srs. C.	Srs. C.	Srs. C.	Srs. C.	Srs. C.	Srs. C.	Srs. C.	Srs. C.	Srs. C.
Sooplo	—	10 8	—	11 0	—	13 0	—	—	—	10 0
Mudehpoorah	—	7 0	—	8 0	—	12 8	—	—	—	9 0
Kissengunge in Mudehpoorah	—	10 0	13 0	12 0	—	17 0	—	—	—	11 0
Head-quarters	18 4	9 7	13 14	12 10	—	—	16 6	14 8	10 1	12 10
Banka	—	11 0	15 0	13 0	—	—	17 0	15 0	—	12 8

8. *Rainfall, if any.*—There has been most beneficial rain since the last narrative was despatched measured as under, at—

	Head-quarters.	Banka.	Soopole.	Mudehpoorah.	Sonebursa.
27th January	—	·7	—	—	—
31st „	·25	·42	—	—	—
1st February	·87	·80	·10	·54	·41
2nd „	·13	·26	·49		·24
5th „	·06	·27	—	·46	—
6th „	·38	·7	·83		·44
Total	1·69	1·89	1·42	1·00	1·09

The weather is now splendid with a west wind, and everything that could be desired for the crops. The rain was very general throughout the district. The rain over a small tract near Sonebursa, in a south-easterly direction, through Phoolout, 12 miles north of the Ganges, was accompanied by very high wind and vivid lightning, but no damage has been ascertained to have resulted to the crops. The rain generally has fallen lightly, and the good effects are satisfactory to a great degree. The people are ploughing as fast as they can, and getting in more "cheena," a small seed called "chikna," and "moong," a grain that will come to maturity in a short time. Some of the early-sown "cheena" has begun to ripen; the wheat is coming into full ear, and making a great start; the cultivators generally have plenty of occupation, and from March their prospects will greatly improve. As far as I can hear and ascertain the outturn of the rubbee ought now to be a full average crop, and I trust it will be so. The rain from Mudehpoorah is reported as "very beneficial," and "has allowed of ryots ploughing for the rice crops which they expect to be able to sow in the south of the sub-division in a few days." With the rice they will sow "moong.

9. The condition of the laboring classes is giving anxiety; but I shall be able on reaching Soopole to satisfy myself as to actual facts. The reports are not good, but they are not quite intelligible; for, if the people are as badly off as they are represented to be, they would go to the works more freely than they do. There has been a general falling off in attendance on the relief works throughout the north, ascribed partly to the workers declining to follow the works, but leaving them as soon as the piece in the immediate neighbourhood of their village had been completed; partly to opening out of tanks by private individuals without applying for any advances, but with their own money, on which the workmen are paid in grain; and partly to the works undertaken by the Court of Wards; but notwithstanding the fact that the workmen at one of the Court of Ward's tanks near Bhaptiahi are paid in grain, not more than 400 persons are attracted to it, whereas one would have expected if distress were very bad, large numbers would flock to it. Mr. Smith reports, moreover, that cases of distress had been reported "in a village only three miles from a large tank in progress, amongst some Jolahas and Musahirs, who cannot possibly have any prejudice on the score of their caste as to joining the works with their whole families." I am not as yet aware of the private works undertaken referred to, but I shall see them all in a few days.

10. The Mudehpoorah officer says the whole of the western portion of his sub-division is suffering severely, and ryots are begging assistance for the present month of Phalgoon only, after which they will have their own grain from the crops now on the ground. I am going myself over this part, and shall report specially to the Commissioner after personal observation. The relief committees will be fully organized in this part of the country.

11. In Banka there is no distress as yet nor any heard of in the head-quarter sub-division, and even in the town of Bhaugulpore there does not as yet appear to be a beggar more than usual, and the blind, lame, and faqueers generally are fed gratuitously by several of the inhabitants according to their usual practice. As long as this is done it is unnecessary for other relief to be organized for them. The municipality will look after the poorer labouring classes as soon as they are in need of assistance. The general condition of the people south of the Ganges is still satisfactory.

12. The statement of thefts, &c., for the month of January is annexed.

B.—Relief Works.

13. The statement given below shows what is being done on this head.

Name of Road and Number on Map.	Progress in Marking Out Relief Work.	Progress in Opening Relief Work.	Number of Labourers.	Supply of Food thereat.	Condition of Labourers.	Mode of Payment.	Rate of Wages.	Arrangements for Tools.	Disbursement up to as far as known.		
									Rs.	A.	P.
Soopole Pursurma to Bhootia No. 19 (N.)	All done	9 miles in eight different places.	1,315 coolies daily on average, consisting of 70 per cent. ordinary labouring and 30 per. cent. non-labouring classes.	All draw their supplies from bazar.	Turning to worse, murwah and rice are both becoming severe, but the rain that fell in this part of the country on the 30th ultimo and 6th instant will tend to reduce the prices of articles of food, and it is expected that there will be a change for the better. The falling in of the number of labourers is partly owing to some of them having resorted to works undertaken by zemindar and some to ploughing their own lands.	Daily	Men, As. 1-6 Women, A. 1 Children, A. 0-6	Those who are actually poor and have no tools are supplied from stores, others bring their own tools.	1,645	0	0
Singheesur to Nathpore, No. 10 (N.)	Not necessary	In one place	536 coolies daily on average, all belonging to labouring class.	Half of the workpeople bring their food from home and the rest from bazar.	Condition of the labouring class is said to be bad.	Ditto	Mate at As. 2, and rest as above.	Nooniahs have their tools and the rest are supplied from Government stores.	621	0	0
Singheesur to Soopole, Nos. 16 and 17 (N.)	Ditto	Ditto	204 coolies daily on average, all belonging to labouring class.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	237	0	0
Milkee Road, No. 5 (N.)	Finished	In five places	620 coolies daily on average, consisting of 70 per cent. labouring and 30 per cent. non-labouring class, 15 Rajpoots only.	Supplied from bazar.	Growing bad every day. Rice selling at 10 seers per rupee, green oats and their leaves have become the chief food.	Task work	Rs. 1-12 to Rs. 2 per 1,000 cubic feet.	Ditto	612	0	0
Mudehpoorah 1st section, No. 1 (N.)	Not necessary	One mile in one place.	119 coolies daily on average.	Ditto	Ditto	Daily	Men, As. 1-6 Women, A. 1 Children, A. 0-6	Supplied from Government store.	101	0	0
Mudehpoorah 2nd section	Ditto	In four different places.	213 coolies daily on average, all belonging to labouring class.	Partly from bazar and partly from home.	Coarse rice is sold at 10 seers and murwah at 11 seers per rupee.	Ditto	Ditto	Those who are actually poor are supplied with tools, and others bring their own tools.	215	0	0
Mudehporre to Sookhasun			47 coolies daily on average.	No information.		Ditto	Ditto		30	9	6
Soopole to Peepra, No. 15 (N.)	Not commenced.										
Pertabgunge to Beerpoor, No. 11 (N.)											
Bungaon to Phoohat, No. 21 (N.)											
Nareinpoor to Nurkurtia and Soneburas, No. 4 (N.)			114 coolies daily on average.	No further information received.							
Bowsee Road, No. 1 (S.)	Not necessary		59 coolies daily on average, all labouring class.	From bazar	Owing to the present rain some people are cultivating their lands, but others who have not any food at their houses go to the work.	Contract work	Rs. 2 per 100 cubic feet metalling.	Beldars bring their own tools, and the rest are supplied from Government stores.	99	0	0
Banka to Kutooria, No. 26 (S.)	Not commenced.										
Kutooria to Seemultullah, No. 27 (S.)	Complete	In nine places	204 coolies daily on average consisting of 4 per cent. non-labouring and the rest labouring class.	Ditto	As the number of workpeople is not increasing rapidly it appears that the condition of the people is not bad as yet.	Task work	Men, As. 1-6 Women, A. 1 Children, A. 0-6	Ditto	272	0	0
Kutooria to Chundun, No. 28 (S.)	Not commenced.										
Pointee to Barahat, No. 16 (S.)											
Bhaugulpore to Umerpore, No. 3 (S.)											
Umurpore to Banka, No. 4 (S.)											
Bhaugulpore to Ghoorghat, No. 18 (S.)											
Sultangunge to Urjusgunge, No. 19 (S.)											
Mudhai to Pootia, No. 12 (S.)											
Ghoga to Moheeanwan, No. 13 (S.)											

14. The above statement shows a considerable falling off, most notably on the Soopole to Bhootea road, on which almost 3,500 men were working daily at one time.

C.—Transport of Grain.

15. From the Bhaugulpore railway station, from the 25th January to 7th February, the exportation has been 14,963 maunds against imports of 6,926 maunds. The exportations are as usual headed by wheat (6,641) maunds for Howrah, then Indian-corn 3,976, rice 2,127, and Indian-corn 1,452 maunds, nearly all up, for distressed districts, Dinapore, Lukheeserai, Monghyr, Burhia, Patna, Jamalpore, and Jumooi. The imports are as usual headed by wheat, 3,912 maunds from Loodhiana, Saharanpore, Meerut, Delhi, &c.; 806 maunds of grain from Delhi; and rice 652 maunds from Howrah and Chandernagore.

16. The returns from the other stations, Colgong, Ghoga, Pointee, and Sooltangunge, are only up to 24th January, and show next to nothing except Colgong, and the return apparently includes Government grain, so is not of much use.

17. There is no private importation to report from Soopole or Mudehpoorah. The Court of Wards are importing for Naridigur still. The Banka sub-divisional officer reports imports to a small extent from Godda, and "considerable" exportation to Monghyr. From Soopole it is said exportations have stopped.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

18. Up to date about 205,000 maunds of grain of all kinds have been received into this district either at Bhaugulpore or Sultangune, and of this, with the exception of a little over 6,000 maunds of disputed grain, nearly the whole has been sent across the Ganges; about 73,395 maunds have been stored; it *may* be a little less, as the Mudehpoorah officer was instructed, if he had carts available at Mudehpoorah, and the grain had not arrived from the Phoolout Ghât, to send off part of his own rice already stored to Soopole, and it is just possible he has done this, though I do not gather from his remarks that he has actually; any how, about 29,372 maunds have been safely stored at Soopole. Matters as regards this transport will soon be satisfactory I hope; but from information just received I am a little anxious. Mr. Smith writes: "The Tirhoot people (not " stating to whom he refers) are offering very high rates for carts, and have offered Messrs. Duff " and Meiselback (residents in Soopole sub-division) contracts for the cartage of rice for Allapoor, " the pergunnah adjoining Naridigur. I hear they are paying to contractors as high as one pice " per maund per mile." If we are to enter into a competition for carts, the carriage will be ruinous, and of course higher rates than we pay (which are really ample) will cause many desertions, which cannot be afforded with the *comparatively* few carts we have been able to procure for our large requirements. If it comes to this, I shall be obliged to raise my rates.

19. Two new store golahs will now be entered on the map, one at Putterghat, south-west of Mudehpoorah, and one at Chandpeeper between Soopole and Dugmurrah on the Nepal frontier, to be marked M and N respectively. Chandpeeper will be for the Tirhoot rice only.

E.—Advances to Private Parties.

20. No fresh advances have been given during the fortnight; four applications have been received, and the matter referred to the Commissioner for orders, the allottment being exhausted. Both Soopole and Mudehpoorah officers report the probability of several more applications at an early date, and a further allotment will be necessary.

21. The Deputy Collector of Soopole writes he is inquiring into several applications for advances for tank-digging, but he has not as yet sent up any, and I can deal with them on the spot myself, or send those necessary to the Commissioner. Many persons, however, are reported to be excavating tanks without asking for advances; this if true is very satisfactory. I shall be able to ascertain the mode of payment to those employed; if they get better paid either in money or in grain than on the Government works so much the better.

22. The Bhaugulpore municipality have applied for a loan of Rs. 5,000, to be held available for the moment it may be necessary to start relief. Projects are under preparation as to the works those to be relieved are to be employed upon, but no relief is at present necessary.

23. Mr. J. Hennessy has applied for a loan of Rs. 5,000 to advance to his ryots. This loan has been sanctioned by the Commissioner, and the money will be paid as soon as Mr. Hennessy signs the necessary undertaking.

F.—Charitable Relief.

24. The district committee meets to-morrow to discuss matters. The sub-divisional officers of Mudehpoorah and Soopole hold their meetings in a day or two. All the sub-divisional relief committees have been nominated excepting one small one in Soopole, three in Mudehpoorah, and the few in the head-quarter sub-division which were not immediately necessary. Matters will be fully discussed, but of course actual plans cannot be finally arranged until the relief rules are finally sanctioned and supplied.

No. 911F, dated Purneah, the 8th February, 1874.

From—W. Kemble, Esq., Magistrate and Collector of Purneah.
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I have the honour to submit my narrative for the fortnight ending February 7th.

A.

The late rains* have been most beneficial to the rubbee crops. In the neighbourhood of Arrareah and Kishengunge the country is again looking quite green, and it is expected that from gram and other pulses a full crop will be gathered. Wheat, too, looks well, but it has not germinated to the same extent as the pulses.

Cheena and kanni in large quantities everywhere, and early rice in Kishengunge and in the south has begun to be sown. Notwithstanding the rain and the greatly improved rubbee prospects prices at the beginning of last week suddenly fell. At Kishengunge common rice is now selling at 10 seers, gram at 11, and wheat at 10½, and near Arrareah on Friday at the Gouramoni Hât I found rice of a very inferior quality selling at 9 seers, kurthi at 11 seers, keshari at 13 seers, kanni for seed was selling at 8 seers.

There was very little rice taken away unsold when the market was over, but kanni was plentiful.

This last-named crop as well as cheena is reaped 90 days after the sowing; the first crop ought to come in next month, and is expected to give great relief to the people.

Mr. Rattray, the sub-divisional officer at Arrareah, and many others expect that distress will only last during the next month and a half, and that after the rubbee harvest prices will fall. I hope that this opinion is correct; the same persons however maintain that the mahajuns have large stores unsold. I think that in this they are mistaken. In some pergunnahs the villagers have stores, as I find that from the north of the Sripore pergunnah and from pergunnah Futtehpore Singhia grain is coming into Kusba, and that people from all the villages south and east of that place are bringing their supplies there. Kusba also supplies the retail shop-keepers in the town of Purneah, and from what I see and hear I think that the Kusba imports cannot much exceed its exports. If the mahajuns had grain, and prices are likely to fall soon, they would not hoard their stores. In Purneah city I see grain brought up from Calcutta by rail and cart being sold almost from the very carts as they arrive in front of the large mahajuns' shops. Two of the town mahajuns came to me yesterday for an advance to buy grain; I asked why they had not applied before, and they said that they had heard that Government was going to sell at 16 seers and they were afraid that they would lose money by importing. This does not look as if they were hoarding.

During the fortnight reports of distress have been received from all quarters and not confined to the limited areas of Kudba and Kusba Amour. There has evidently been a great drain upon the comparatively good crops on the Koosi and in the northern pergunnahs, and the poorer classes all over the district have begun to feel the scarcity.

There have not yet been any what I can call proved cases of death by starvation. I left Mr. Rattray at Arrareah, however, making inquiries into the deaths of some lepers, which look like the result of starvation.

From the south Mr. Shillingford has just reported "that the rubbee crop promises to be a full one, and the prospects of the early rice sowings are good," and that he anticipates nothing more than "a little scarcity next month before the cheena is cut."

The prices about Bulrampore and Kudba appear to vary very much, the Deputy Collector reporting them at 8, 9, 10, and sometimes 11 seers.

Neither in Bulrampore nor Kusba Amour however has there been any rubbee worth mentioning.

The condition of the people I can see myself is daily becoming worse; women are seen picking herbs from the fields and unripe fruit from the trees. The number of beggars however is yet very small.

The number of grain-thefts reported this fortnight is 19, and the value of property stolen Rs. 220.

The comparative statement of dacoities, &c., is annexed. The Arrareah return was manifestly incorrect and has been excluded. Dacoities have largely increased this month, I am sorry to say; they are mostly undetected; but I trust that the arrival of the new District Superintendent with two new Inspectors will have a good result. The Inspectors were much wanted.

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*1·57 Purneah.
1·46 Arrareah.
0·82 Kishengunge.

PURNEAH DISTRICT.

Progress Report of Famine Relief Works for the week ending Saturday, 31st January 1874.

NAME OF ROAD.	Progress in marking out relief Works.	Progress in opening Works.	Number of labourers thereon.	Supply of Food thereat.	Condition of labourers and general feature of the Country.	Mode of Payment.	Rate of Wages.	Arrangement of Tools.	Disbursement during the Week.
									Rs. A. P.
No. 2.—Road from Matteari to Kalliagunge.	65 miles marked out, levelled, and surveyed.	Nil.	. . .	. . . . . .	No distress in this part of the district.	—	—	—	—
No. 4.—Kishengunge to Neckmard .	15 miles marked out, levelled, and surveyed.	One party started at works, but stopped by order of the Magistrate.	. . .	. . . . . .	No distress in this part of the district.	—	—	—	—
No. 5.—Toorkally to Dengrah Ghaut .	45 miles marked out, levelled, and surveyed.	Three parties started	1,513	Labourers get supplies from market with difficulty. Orders issued to commence sale of Government grain.	Condition of labourers good.	By cashier twice a week.	Rs. 1-12 and 1-14 per 1,000 c. ft. of earthwork.	All working with their own tools up to the present.	100 10 0
No. 6.—Dengrah Ghaut to Bhopla . .	6 miles marked out, levelled, and surveyed.	One party started .	499	Labourers get supplies from market with difficulty. Orders issued to commence sale of Government grain.	Condition of labourers good.	By Sub-Overseer as often as possible.	Rs. 1-12 and 1-14 per 1,000 c. ft. of earthwork.	Some Government tools, and rest belong to labourers.	49 12 6
No. 7.—Raigunge to Bulrampore . .	18 miles marked out, levelled, and surveyed.	One party started .	1,069	Food very scarce in market. Sale of rice from Government golahs commenced at 10 seers per rupee.	Condition of labourers good.	By Sub-Overseer as often as possible.	Rs. 1-12 and 1-14 per 1,000 c. ft. Day labour — A. P. Man . . 1 6 Woman . . 1 0 Child . . 0 6	Some Government tools, and rest belong to labourers.	77 11 3
No. 8.—Maldah Road . . .	Surveying and levelling commenced.								
No. 16.—Road from Purneah to Kudba .	21 miles laid out .	. . . .	2,380	Procurable from local market .	Condition of labourers good.	By Overseer twice a week.	Rs. 1-12 and 1-14 per 1,000 c. ft. earthwork. Day labour — A. P. Man . . 1 6 Woman . . 1 0 Child . . 0 6	Nearly all labourers bring their own tools.	88 9 6
No. 22.—Kishengunge to Bheriadangi .	. . . .	One party started .	1,036	Procurable from local market . .	Condition of labourers good.	By Overseer twice a week.	Rs. 1-12 and 1-14 per 1,000 c. ft. earthwork. Day labour— A. P. Man . . 1 6 Woman . . 1 0 Child . . 0 6	Nearly all labour bring their own tools.	30 0 0
No. 23.—Kishengunge to Bahadoorgunge	. . . .	One party started .	149	Procurable from local market . .	Condition of labourers good.	By Overseer twice a week.	Rs. 1-12 and 1-14 per 1,000 c. ft. earthwork. Day labour— A. P. Man . . 1 6 Woman . . 1 0 Child . . 0 6	Nearly all labourers bring their own tools.	15 0 0
No. 35.—Saifgunge to Mohendarpore .	. . . .	One party started .	520	Procurable from local market . .	Condition of labourers good.	By Overseer twice a week.	Rs. 1-12 and 1-14 per 1,000 c. ft. earthwork. Day labour— A. P. Man . . 1 6 Woman . . 1 0 Child . . 0 6	Nearly all labourers bring their own tools.	43 12 3
No. 15.—Purneah to Monihary . .	. . .	One party started .	220	Procurable from local market . .	Condition of labourers good.	This work is being done by Mr. Shillingford.			
			7,406						405 7 6

The accompanying table shows the progress on each road on which work has been opened by the District Engineer. Grain at 10 seers the rupee has begun to be sold on the Bulrampore and Barsoe road (No. 7), and orders have been issued to commence sales at roads Nos. 5 and 6 at once. To these last-named roads I intend to proceed to-morrow to meet the District Engineer. The total number of labourers has risen to 7,406, or average daily of 1,058, being more than 200 over the number reported last fortnight. 65 per cent. of these labourers are village girhasts. The number of women and children employed, 1,183 and 412, have increased largely. This does not include the people employed on village roads. The returns have been called for from the persons to whom the work is entrusted. Of the persons who have undertaken these works in Kishengunge, Ahmed Hossein and Asruf Ali are zemindars, Doolar Jha is a putnidar, Kali Bhagut a well-to-do ryot.

At Arrareah Mr. Rattray reports that the villagers, among whom beldars are more numerous than in other parts of the district, want work. I have given over to him the repairs of some of the ordinary district roads, and directed him to put in order the cart tracks leading up to Koorsakatta, a grain depôt on the northern emigration road, upon which work has been ordered to be commenced. It is probable that we shall have to draft men from the more distressed parts of the district up to this work.

At a road cess meeting held last week, it was resolved to make over some district road repairs as shown below to planters who kindly undertook to supervise the work and send in returns :—

Road No. 19, Gondwara to Sowraguddi } To Mr. Cave.
" " 21, Koori to Sohoria }
" " $\frac{36}{8}$, Chaklah to Koori, to Mr. J. Shillingford.

The road Mutiari to Jelalghur was made over to Mr. Rattray, and Rs. 400 were given to Baboo Rojonee Nath Chatterjea, Deputy Collector, to start village roads between Kudba and Saifgunge. Rs. 200 were also given to Mr. C. Shillingford for the repair of the road between the large mart of Haflagunge and Mokam Bhownipore on the Ganges, a road much used by petty grain traders during this time of scarcity. The Purneah Municipality have also ordered the excavation of some tanks to be commenced, but up to date there has been no great demand for labour* in the town. Mr. McQueen, the Sub-Manager of the Dhurrumpore Estate, reports that the poorer class of ryots will always get assistance and obtain work from the larger cultivators, and that the beldars only will come for work on the roads. These men will, for the present, be employed on the repairs of the district roads. The villagers on almost all the roads have brought their own tools, and at Arrareah Mr. Rattray has arranged that those who have none can buy them from a neighbouring blacksmith, a small deduction being made from their wages for their cost. The plan works well, and will be extended, as I hear the work-people at Bulrampore have expressed a wish to have a similar arrangement made with them.

P.S.—I forgot to note above that Rs. 80 and Rs. 50-1 have been advanced respectively to Khurshed Ali and Bokai Shaikh, headmen of Belgachi and Kanharia, and Rs. 90-1 to Mr. F. Cruise, for the making of village roads through the country lately visited by Mr. Wyer and myself, and where the deaths were reported.

C.

Naulakhan Das at Purneah is importing; when I last passed through the town he had just brought up 500 maunds from Calcutta, and was sending down carts to meet a fresh consignment expected from Sahibgunge. Shere Singh at Raneegunge has brought up 2,000 maunds from Calcutta, and is purchasing on the Koosi.

At Kissengunge large supplies are received from Julpigori; all over the district I find carts either going or returning from Caragola, but it is difficult to get the cartmen to work continuously They all say they like to go home and rest their cattle for a few days after one or two trips. I believe that we are working on equal terms with private traders; we both find it difficult to get the amount of carriage required just as we want it. I was also glad to find during my last tour that the rates of cart-hire fixed were well known; carters stopped and asked me whether such and such rates which they had heard were correct. I almost invariably found that they were right, and that they had been paid. The ferry has been improved at Caragola; bridges built over some small streams.

The late rains have interfered with the transport of fodder, but 1,200 cart-loads were reported as ready for despatch from Arrareah last week.

D.

Weekly return No. 2, for the week ending Friday, 6th February, shows that 141,738 maunds of grain had been carted away from Caragola, of which 128,238 maunds had reached its final destination. It must be remembered that we have hitherto been carting up to the most distant points, and that when the Kishengunge allotment has been completed we shall work our carts much faster. The rain has hindered operations very much, not only by preventing rice being loaded, but also on account of all the bullocks being wanted for ploughing. I would rather see them employed in the latter than the former work.

I have directed that accommodation shall be found at Sirsee, near the Lower Koosi Road, and in the north of the Dhurrumpore Estate, for 3,000 maunds, as it seems that nearly all the surplus stock in this neighbourhood has been exported, and that difficulty will be found to supply the labourers with food unless we lay in a store. The building of golahs has progressed satisfactorily, and is in advance of our requirements except at Caragola, where special orders to provide for the custody of a far larger quantity than we had anticipated had lately been received.

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* Thirty men only employed.

E.

I have made advances as noted below :—

Foodoo Lall, Rs. 2,000. This is a very enterprising man; he has been to Cuttack himself, and has brought up one consignment in a satisfactory manner. I have advanced him Rs. 2,000 more.

Ram Persad Thakoor, Rs. 125-1. This man had Rs. 500, and required a further advance for cost of transport.

	Rs.
Ram Suk Das	2,000
Tara Chand	2,000

These are two well-known traders, who had not taken advances before, as they were afraid of Government competition.

Gopal Bepari, Rs. 50. A petty trader to whom I advanced, under Commissioner's order No. 426—S.R., dated 27th January 1874, for retail operations in the villages.

The advances which I have made to zemindars to help their ryots are as follows :—

	Rs.
Yad Hosein	300
Syud Hafiz Ali	200
Syud Amjud Ali	150
Gobind Lall Das	500-1

I have also promised a loan of Rs. 1,500 to Mirza Mahomed Hosein; he will take the money to-morrow. This, I am sure, will be well spent, as the Mirza can be trusted and his estates lie in a bad part of Kusba Amour.

Meer Mahomed Kazim, to whom I advanced some little cheena seed (45 maunds) reports that he has sown this and other seed of his own on 4,000 beegahs of land, which he irrigated by bunding up the River Purwan.

He has also made a road from Pirwaha Saifgunge to Kusumba, on the Nepal frontier, at his own expense. I hope to see more of this work and report further next fortnight. The Deputy Collector, Rojonee Nath Chatterjea, has been directed to make some advances (Rs. 50) to some ryots in Kudba for digging tanks, but has not reported that the order has been carried out.

F.—RELIEF OPERATIONS.

A meeting was held at Purneah on the 28th January before the receipt of the rules about relief committees. As a beginning, only Rs. 1,000 were subscribed as donations, and monthly subscriptions to the amount of Rs. 31 were promised.

A relief committee was appointed, which held a meeting on 1st February. A copy of the proceedings was sent to the Commissioner.

The sub-divisions were arranged as follows :—

Kishengunge and Arrareah, under sub-divisional officers.	Conterminous with their magisterial jurisdictions.
Kudba, under Baboo Rojoni Nauth Chatterjee, Deputy Collector.	Kudba and Mumhari thannah and half of Bulrampore thannah.
Kusba Amour, under Baboo Srinauth Bhodra, Deputy Collector.	Kusba Amour thannah and half of Bulrampore.
Sudder, under Mr. Wyer, Joint-Magistrate.	Thannahs Sudder Gondwarah and Dhamdaha.

Instructions were sent to the sub-divisions. Mr. Wyer at head-quarters was requested to arrange with Dr. Picachy for sheds at once. Sub-divisional committees were directed to meet at once, and to send in a report of their proceedings and requirements to the district committee on or before Wednesday, the 11th.

Up to date I hear Mr. Craven at Kishengunge has raised Rs. 1,430 by donations. Mr. Rattray reports that he is getting monthly subscriptions from each village, which amount to Rs. 83 at present. I am going to attend his meeting at Arrareah to-morrow, and shall go on from there to Kusba Amour. I have received no detailed report from the last-named place, but some time ago I know a small subscription amounting to Rs. 111 had been collected.

Baboo Rojani Nath Chatterjea has held a meeting of his branch committee at Barsoe, where Rs. 50 were subscribed.

Mr. Wyer held a meeting of his sub-committee on the 6th, nominated additional members, and arranged for the building of sheds and store-houses; drew up rules for a working committee, and made arrangements for providing work, such as husking dhan, spinning, &c., for women and others. Arrangements for distributing relief in the city were made.

After the next meeting of the district committee I hope to report more definite arrangements. I have sent money to Arrareah and the Sudder committees to begin operations, and arranged with the other committees to draw funds when wanted.

Since writing the above I have heard that Baboo Rojoni Nauth Chatterjea has been active in instructing branch committees and collecting funds in Kudba.

No. 9Ct., dated Camp Godda, the 9th February 1874.

From—J. BOXWELL, ESQ., Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Pergunnahs.
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honour to submit a narrative for the fortnight ending 8th instant.

A.

1. I have not heard of any failure of supply in any market during the past fortnight. The Rajmehal return has not come in, but I am travelling, and it is most likely on the road.

2. In Deogurh prices are either the same or slightly lower. I found rice selling 14 seers to the rupee at Norie, and 12 seers at 8 miles north at Hansdiha. This latter place gets its supplies chiefly from Norie, which may account for the difference. Export of *janera* continues. I passed 15 carts one day, and 12 another, all for Bhaugulpore.

B.

1. I cannot give figures this week. Both I and the District Engineer have been travelling. We met to-day. Without figures I can give general information. Our three most important relief works are three roads in the north. The first is from Godda to Barahât, intended to join Godda to Pierpointee railway station, running through Maniharee Pergunnah.

2. The line has been chosen. The centre line has been partly pegged out; work can be opened within this week.

3. The second is from Bareo to join the first road at Pratuppoor. The line has been chosen, and the centre line partly pegged out. Work can be opened within ten days. The third is from Barhait to Sahibgunge *viâ* Baria.

1st. The line has been chosen, and pegged out, and it was reported on the 4th instant that work would open next day.

2nd. These three roads run through the middle of our worst country. They will open communications with the loop line at four points, by the help of the Bareo and Barhait feeder roads.

3rd. There is no great demand for work yet, and we are not trying to force it.

C.

1. Mr. Wilmot has supplied me with a table of grain traffics on the chord line. The return is from 11th to 17th January 1874.

Rice outward up	- -	1,738 maunds.
Other food-grains	- -	67 „
Total	-	1,805

Inward and down all blank.

2. The *janera* crop, as I have reported, was bad in the west and good in the east. Hence the chord line exports *dhân*, and the Bhaugulpore road janera. I shall give loop line results next time.

3. We have had heavy rain all over the district as far as I can tell. I have not had the latest returns from Doomka nor any from Rajmehal. There was rain all Saturday night, January 31st, and Sunday at Norie; and again at Hansdiha on Thursday, the 5th, there was very heavy rain all day. On Friday horses were over the fetlocks in paddy khets that were as hard as bricks a week before. The people are hard at work everywhere ploughing. They look well and as far as I can learn are hopeful about holding out till their new crops come in.

4. The rubbee is, as I have said, scanty everywhere, but it will be immensely helped by this rain; wheat is looking well in Godda, and there is a good deal of rahur doing fairly.

5. There are no known cases of misery or starvation. I have no grain-thefts or robberies to report.

I have nothing to say about any special tract. No distress has been reported from the north of Rajmehal and Godda. The District Engineer has just come through the parts called the worst, and has nothing particular to report.

D.

I have no further information to give on this or any other head.

E.

Inquiries are in progress regarding the advances applied for by ryots reported last fortnight. No new applications have been made.

F.

There are no charitable operations.

G.

I have not my figures.

Enclosure No. 6.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 16th February 1874.

READ—

The District Narratives of the distressed districts in the Rajshahye Division, for the week ending 7th February 1874.

1. The rain has done good everywhere throughout this division. It was particularly heavy in Rungpore and Bograh. Although its effect was to raise prices for a few days in some of the

smaller markets by preventing the cultivators from bringing their stocks for sale, this result was only temporary, and generally it is reported that the anxieties of the people have been much lightened by this most seasonable fall. Here and there it may have done a little damage to crops in flower, but it has benefited the cold weather crops as a whole, has done immense good to the spring rice, has filled the tanks which were failing from drought, and above all, has enabled the ploughings for the summer and autumn crops to be every extensively begun.

2. Supplies are still sufficient in all the districts except in isolated tracts, and prices have not shown any further upward tendency as yet. Indeed, in that part of Maldah where last fortnight they had risen to eight seers a rupee, they have now again fallen to 10 or thereabouts.

3. Taking the districts one by one, it appears that in *Moorshedabad* exportation is still going on from the Rampore Haut and Jungipore sub-divisions; while on the other hand, grain is imported into other parts of the district. Liberal subscriptions have been made for charitable relief, and assistance is being given to a few indigent persons here and there. There is no very general flocking to relief works; about 2,900 persons in all being at work on roads. The district report is on the whole satisfactory, active efforts being evidently made to meet possible needs. It is only necessary to note that people seeking labour should not be turned away from relief works because they are not residents of the district. The Commissioner has already been told that, if necessary, some Government grain may be stored in this district. He must keep watch and take steps to have this done in any out-of-the-way places that may require it, before the rains interrupt communications.

4. In *Rajshahye* only about 400 persons daily are on the relief works, while supplies are good and private imports increasing. No charitable relief has been found necessary as yet, though the organization is ready to be used if required. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that we need not be under much anxiety about this district. The Magistrate's report shows, as regards transport arrangements, that about 2,000 maunds of rice a day have gone forward from Godagari; but the Lieutenant-Governor does not understand why nothing has been despatched from Nowgong. Nothing also is said of receipts and despatches at Rampore Beauleah and Dhapari. The transport returns of this district must be much more clearly drawn up; the receipts and despatches for (1) the district itself, (2) for the railway works, and (3) for Dinagepore, being carefully distinguished, and *every* point of receipt being shown whether reserved for railway grain or not. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the district officer may be able to arrange at once for very much larger despatches by each of the routes lying through Rajshahye to Dinagepore. Hitherto progress has been extremely slow on the whole, and every effort must be made to expand the transport arrangements in a manner adequate to the great needs of Dinagepore.

5. The *Maldah* report is a very good one and creditable to Mr. Alexander, who seems to have all his district arrangements well advanced and well in hand. The north-west corner of this district has already been recognized as the tract most requiring attention, and the Magistrate has defined on a sketch map the distressed portions of the district. Other parts are fairly well off. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to see that the Magistrate has himself gone to the north-west, and hopes that the advance of Rs. 50,000 lately given to the Chunchul estate, as well as the other advances made, will be fully utilised, and sufficient work be provided by the estate and Government to meet the demand. The charitable relief arrangements should be completed at once. Already there are demands upon charitable funds. The Magistrate's plea for liberal treatment as regards the allotment of charitable funds will be forwarded to the Central Committee for consideration.

6. A very important part of the duty falling upon the district officer of Maldah is in connection with the transport of grain to Dinagepore. An effort will be made to give Mr. Alexander another officer for head-quarters, as it is most important that he should be able to look after those matters himself. It is stated that the local carriage is inadequate to carry off the grain at the rates at which it is now arriving, especially by the Rajmehal and Sahebgunge routes. The Commissioner and Mr. Robinson will be asked to give their most urgent attention to this question. Large depôts should certainly be formed on the north of the Ganges. They will be used freely hereafter. But no effort must be spared to carry off the grain to the interior, both by all the local carriage that can be got and by carriage procured from the districts to which the supplies are consigned. Dinagepore must do what it can to help up its own supplies. Orders have been given for the use of one-maund bags as much as possible in future, which will enable the local officers to employ pack-bullocks. The Commissioner or Mr. Robinson must arrange that some officer shall at once on the spot go thoroughly into the question whether the Sahebgunge route is really preferable to that by Rajmehal, or whether both should be used simultaneously. Mr. Molony will also note and inquire into what Mr. Alexander says about plenty of good-sized boats being available at Godagari, and the Lieutenant-Governor much hopes that more may be sent forward from that point than has hitherto been the case. Very special and early report is expected on the questions embraced in this paragraph.

7. The *Dinagepore* report has been dealt with in separate orders No. 638—S.R., dated 12th instant. The condition of a large tract in this district is very critical. The Lieutenant-Governor has allotted 1,000,000 maunds of grain to Dinagepore, and all the energies of the district officers must be concentrated on getting this up as fast as possible and on providing adequate relief works for the population.

8. The *Rungpore* district officer's report seems intelligent though brief. The Relief Commissioner has recently reported the results of his visit to this district, and the tract likely to be distressed has been now tolerably accurately ascertained. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to be able to hope that Rungpore generally will not suffer very severely. But an adequate supply of rice will be provided, for the distribution of which it appears that local means will suffice. Some

mistakes had been made in the conduct of relief operations which Mr. Robinson has taken steps to rectify, and the Lieutenant-Governor will only beg Mr. Glazier to concentrate his best attention on the specially distressed parts, and to see that adequate relief is given in a prompt and sufficient way. The orders recently issued permitting advances to substantial jotedars who will aid their under-tenants, should do much to facilitate arrangements in this district of small but well-to-do under-tenants.

9. The *Bogra* report is not very precise, but the result seems on the whole satisfactory. The bad tracts are known, and relief is being afforded on a scale equal to the necessity of the case.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Moorshedabad district for the fortnight ending Saturday, the 7th February 1874.

(A.)—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Abundance or Scarcity of Supply in the Bazar.

The supply of food-grains in the bazars and hâts of the Sudder sub-division, although not very abundant, is sufficient, except in the Gokum police station jurisdiction from which reports of scarcity have been received. The recent rain is said to have somewhat affected the supply in many places by rendering transport on village paths and roads difficult for bullocks and carts, and indirectly by the ryots being wisely engaged in breaking up the ground for the next crops. Grain has not been readily brought into the markets and hâts for sale. In the Rampore Hât and the Lalbag sub-divisions the supply is reported to be abundant. The sub-divisional officer of Jangipore reports that the stock of rice, specially in the Chapghati and Mongulpore bazars in Sooty is much less than last year, and that merchants are importing from Gooshkara and other stations *vià* Pakour.

Kind and Price of Grain selling at one or more specified Principal Marts.

The average price of common rice, taking 12 of the principal markets, is reported to be 12⅓ seers per rupee. Prices in the mofussil fluctuate very much, as the stock in the hands of the petty dealers is generally small, and depends greatly on the weather and other causes which affect the ryots who bring in the rice to the dealers for sale. The range of prices is from 11 to 14 seers per rupee for coarse rice, and from 9 to 13 for rice of the best quality ordinarily in use. The highest prices appear to prevail in thannahs Bhorutpore, Assampore and Shahanuggur, and the lowest in Saktipore, Nowada, and Doomegram.

Any information obtained regarding the Amount and Kind of Grain believed to be in Stock in the Hands of Zemindars, Traders, Ryots, and others.

The stock of food-grains in the hands of zemindars, mohajuns, and others in the Sudder sub-division, is reported to be about 2 lacs and 60 to 70 thousand maunds; if this and the estimate given in the last narrative could be depended on it would show that the supply was very well kept up. The sub-divisional officer of Lalbag is still of opinion that people have large stocks of grain. The sub-divisional officer of Rampore Hât reports that people are selling and using what they thrash now, and that it is very difficult to estimate the amount of stock. Exportation still seems to take place from the Rampore Hât and Jungypore sub-divisions. From the former sub-division, 18,849 maunds of food-grains were exported by the railway alone, and only 441 maunds imported for the week ending the 24th January. From the Moooraroee station, sub-division Jungypore, there were sent off for the north-west districts in the month of November last 5,499 maunds, in December 19,734 maunds, and in the first fortnight of January 11,171 maunds of rice, and this export seems to be still steadily continued. The exportation in boats *vià* Roghonathgunge and Notungunge appears to have ceased.

Rainfall, if any, and state of the Crops.

Special reports of rainfall have been sent during the fortnight. Rain fell on the 24th, 25th, 30th, and 31st January, and on the 1st, 2nd, and 5th of this month at the head-quarters. Within the last fortnight the following amount of rain is reported to have fallen in the various parts of the district:

Head-quarters	3·28
Lalbagh sub-division	2·82
Rampore Hât	3·13
Jungypore	1·70

The Magistrate-Collector is of opinion that the rain of the 24th was heavier at Bharatpore than at Moorshedabad and Berhampore on the night of the 31st, as the Magistrate has already reported there was a severe hail-storm in a portion of the Bharatpore thannah which caused damage to the cold-weather crops especially to linseed and gram. Near Ramnuggur large boats were blown high and dry and keel up, and the hail-stones were of such a size as to destroy many birds and fish. The late rubbee crops and such spring crops as were in the ground, as well as mulberry, indigo, and all sorts of vegetables, have been benefited very much by the rain, and the ryots have been enabled to plough their land. The rain will also to some extent remove the scarcity of water in many places, and both in this respect and by making the grass spring up, will improve the condition of the cattle, which are the mainstay of the agricultural classes of the district. At the same time the rain has done some injury to the rubbee crops and oil-seed crops, which are now approaching maturity. It may also slightly injure the mustard crop, gathered but not yet stored. The cultivation of the boro crop will be very much aided by this rain, and thus a good deal of employment will be afforded to the cultivating classes. Ploughing is being actively carried on in most parts of the district.

Condition of the People, and actual Facts as to any known Cases of Misery.

Reports have been received stating that some old and infirm persons are suffering from want. Supplies of money from the relief fund have been sent out for giving relief in cases where persons are unable to work, and are actually in want of food. The condition of the labouring classes has improved, in so far as the rain has given them employment in the fields. There is a good deal of exaggeration in the accounts of the distress under which the people are said to be labouring. In one case the police reported great desire for work on the part of the labouring class of people in the Peertolah outpost. The Executive Engineer was communicated with on the subject, and it was found that a relief work existed at a distance of about two miles from the outpost of which only 20 men on an average took advantage. The Magistrate-Collector whilst at Bhorotpore cites in his diary of the 2nd instant the following instance:—

"In the course of conversation with some of the people of the village, I was informed that men had gone to work on the Kandhi and Synthia road, but had left the work because the ground was too hard. This does not look much like distress of a severe kind. There has, I think, been a good deal of exaggeration as to the condition of the people at and about Bharotpore."

Again, in another case, an application was presented to the magistrate by certain persons of Kalupun praying for help. From their appearance they did not at all seem labouring under distress. The sub-divisional officer of Jungypore reports that maskalai bread has come into more general use on account of the general rise in the price for rice.

Grain-thefts or Robberies.

Eight cases of grain-thefts have been reported during the fortnight in the head-quarters sub-division, but none of them are very heavy. There has been one case of theft of paddy under section 457 Indian Penal Code and some petty grain-thefts reported in the Lalbag sub-division. In the Rampore Hât sub-division five cases of grain-thefts have been reported. A statement of dacoities, &c., is annexed.

Condition of any Special Tracts.

The police of *Gokum* has submitted a list of 60 persons, women and children, who are in want of food. Relief is being sent to them. The sub-divisional officer of Rampore Hât reports that the labouring class of people residing in Khurgram, Pulsa, and Nulhatty are in want of labour. Relief works will soon be started in that portion of the country. The police have reported that 72 persons, most of whom are helpless widows are in great distress in the Khurgram and Nulhasty stations. Coarse rice is stated to be selling at 14 seers per rupee in the latter station, and as I am inclined to be sceptical about the alleged distress, further inquiries will be instituted. Funds have been supplied to the sub-divisional officer for relief purposes, and he has sent out the sums of Rs. 30 and 10 to the sub-inspectors of Khurgram and Nulhatty respectively. There is likely to be a little distress in thannah Mirzapore, and in the north-west of Sooty, where the population almost entirely depend on the late rice harvest. In order to obviate this, the sub-divisional officer has recommended the establishment of grain depôts at Mirzapore and at Bohotali thannah, Sooty.

(B.)—RELIEF WORKS.

Panchgram road.—About 350 men have been employed daily on this work. They can get food without difficulty; the men are in good condition, are paid regularly in cash at the rate of 0-2-9 per 100 cubic feet; kodalies are supplied to them.

Kandhi road.—About 60 coolies are employed daily on this work, food easily obtainable; the men are in good condition, are paid regularly in cash at the rate of 0-2-6 per 100 cubic feet. This work is just on the boundary of the Beerbhoom district. Men of that district seek employment on our works. The overseer in charge of the work has been directed not to encourage them, but at the same time to give all that are in distress work.

Madhaghat road and Nulhatty road.—From 80 to 90 coolies are employed daily on this work; food easily obtainable, men are in good condition and paid regularly in cash at the rate of 0-2-6 per 100 cubic feet; they provide their own tools, a few are given to those who have none. There does not appear to be any great want of labour near Azimgunj.

Jungypore and Kanora road.—From 40 to 50 coolies are employed daily on this work; food easily obtainable, men in good condition, and paid in cash at the rate of 0-2-3 per 100 cubic feet. They provide their own tools.

Dewanserai to Jeagunj road.—About 50 coolies are employed daily on this work; food easily obtainable, men in good condition, paid in cash at the rate of 0-2-6 per 100 cubic feet; they provide their own tools.

Joroor and Nowadah road.—The number of labourers employed on this work rose to 950 on the 28th January. Since then heavy rain fell making the country so wet and muddy, that there has been a total cessation of work for four days. It is also expected that in consequence of the rain there will be work for the ryots on their fields. The demand for labour here will, however, probably rise considerably. The men can easily obtain food, are in good condition, and paid regularly at the rate of 0-2-6 per 100 cubic feet; they supply their own tools. This road passes through the parts of Mirzapore thannah where some distress is felt.

Dewanserai and Khamra road.—About 30 men are employed daily on this work, food easily obtainable; men in good condition and paid at the rate of 0-2-6 per 100 cubic feet; they supply their own tools.

Jellinghee road.—About 20 coolies are employed daily on this road, there does not appear to be a demand for labour; food easily obtainable, men in good condition; paid in cash at the rate of 0-2-3 per 100 cubic feet.

Old Calcutta road.—About 50 coolies are employed daily on this road, food easily obtainable, men in good condition; paid in cash at the rate of 0-2-3 per 100 cubic feet; the men bring their own tools.

Kishnaghur road.—About 50 coolies are employed daily on this road, food easily obtainable. men in good condition, paid in cash at the rate of 0-2-3 per 100 cubic feet; they bring their own tools.

Sukteepore and Ramnuggur road.—From 700 to 800 men have been employed daily on this road by Mr. Malcolm. In consequence of the heavy rain there was no work from the 1st to the 4th instant. Rice can be obtained easily at from 12 to 13 seers per rupee; the men are in good condition, paid in cash at 2-6 per 100 cubic feet; they provide their own tools. While the Magistrate-Collector was at Ramnuggur, Mr. Malcolm informed him that the inhabitants of the Nuddea district had been, and were applying to him for employment on the roads which are being repaired in this district, and that Mr. Malcolm was compelled to refuse their applications as there was not sufficient work for the residents of the Moorshedabad district who have superior claims. The Magistrate-Collector of Nuddea was addressed on the subject, suggesting that relief works should be opened in that part of the district where, owing to the failure of the rice crop, and to the prevailing high prices of food, there is already some distress, and so great a demand for labour that it is now difficult, and will shortly be still more difficult, to give employment to all who seek for it in this district. It was suggested that it would be well if the repairs of the Kishnaghur road were carried on in the direction of Kishnaghur. The Magistrate-Collector of Nuddea has written to say that he has given orders for the commencement of work in the neighbourhood above alluded to.

Bohotali and Rajgaon road.—About 120 coolies have been employed daily on this road; the men are in good condition, paid regularly by a canoongo; they supply their own tools.

Barromassia and Jellinghee road.—About 108 coolies have been employed daily on this road by Mr. Lang; food is easily obtainable, men in good condition; cash payments made, the coolies provide their own tools.

Gowas and Azimgunge road.—From 20 to 30 coolies have been employed daily by Mr. Macdonald, food is easily obtainable, cash payments made, the men supply their own tools.

Furreedpore road.—Mr. Dixon reports that he has no relief works going on, and that they are not at present necessary in that part of the country.

Mirzapore and Monigram road.—This work is under a Sub-deputy Collector; on the 6th instant 41 labourers were at work.

In the Lalbag sub-division, in addition to the repairs on roads, 108 extra coolies are being employed by the municipality on relief works, *viz.*, road-making and tank-excavating. They are paid at the rate of Rs. 2 per 1,000 cubic feet. The deepening of tanks at Amaipara has been begun. The municipality supplies most of the coolies with tools.

The branch road cess committee of Rampore Hât has sanctioned the improving of the village roads of Rampore Hât, the repairing of the road from Pulsa to Nowagram, and making of a road from Nulhatty to Khanpore, and the works will be started as soon as funds are supplied. The excavation of two tanks at Nobogram, thannah Kullyangunge, has been sanctioned, and work has already been commenced on one of these. Four tanks on the Nushipore estate, as well as one at Gowas, have been sanctioned. The tank at Dewanserai has been commenced, and five others have been started in villages belonging to the Maharanee of Cossimbazar. The Rajah of Nattore has promised to employ labourers in digging and improving tanks. Baboo Gopi Mohan Mazumdar of Islampore, has also commenced the digging of a tank in that village.

(C.)—Transport of Food.

The sub-divisional officer of Lalbag reports that, from what he has seen when in camp by the Ganges, about 2,000 maunds of paddy came into the district per week *viâ* Allatuli and Patibonah and from the number of carts he sees coming and going, he has no reason to think that importation *viâ* these marts is falling off.

It appears that a quantity of paddy has been imported into Dhoolian from Cutwa and other places *viâ* Pakour.

(D.)—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

The Commissioner in reply to the recommendation reported in the last narrative, states that there is at present no necessity for importing Government grain in this district, but that a supply will be sent when required, and that in the meantime report should be sent regarding the most convenient spots for landing by steamer, rice for Jellinghee and Gowas. The relief committee have resolved to store 500 maunds of rice at Kandhee, and to send out 100 maunds at once to Choa to meet any emergency.

(E.)—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

Several applications have been received for advances for tank-digging and tank-improving. In many cases inquiries have been ordered to be made with regard to the properties pledged, and in others the applicants have been directed to apply in the prescribed form of application. The rules for taking advances appear to be well known by the people. The Magistrate has furnished the following instance showing how very cautiously advances should be made.

"In the morning and afternoon went to see some tanks, with reference to which applications have been made to me for advances for excavation and improvement. I judge that the rules regarding such advances are well known in these parts, from the fact that nearly all the applications received by me have been from this thannah (Bhurtpore) and from this fact observed to-day. Two brothers owning a tank between them, applied for advances of Rs. 500 each, dividing the tank into two portions by means of a small ridge thrown across. They said that this ridge had been put up, as they have by amicable settlement divided the tanks. They were, however, compelled to admit that during the rains there was but one tank; as far as I could judge on a rough estimate, the improvement of the tank could be effected for a sum of Rs. 300 or Rs. 350, and I cannot but believe that these applications were made in the hope of obtaining money without interest, and with little intention of improving the tank. I have of course told these and others that some work will be expected for the money advanced; and further that as a rule I should give the advances by instalment, the receipt of second and subsequent instalments depending upon the results of inspection of the work already performed."

In a certain case with regard to the application for advance for purchasing rice, it was found out that the applicants had evidently intended to buy up rice in the vicinity, and the applications were apparently not *bonâ fide*.

In two other cases of similar applications the sub-divisional officers of Lalbag and Jungypore have been requested to advance money on the execution of the necessary bonds on properly stamped paper, one of the conditions to be stated in the bond being that the grain will be purchased at a distance from places where distress does not extend, and that they should satisfy themselves hereafter that the grain has been so purchased.

In a fourth case the applicant having applied for a sum of Rs. 10,000 for the purchase of grain, sanction has been applied for from the Commissioner to make the advance. In the Jungypore sub-division, Rs. 950 have been advanced for the improvement tanks.

(F.)—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

A detailed report, together with a relief map, has been sent to the Commissioner.

The total amount raised on account of private subscriptions is as follows:—

Donations	Rs.	16,669
Monthly subscription	,,	303

Funds have been placed in the hands of each sub-relief committee for the purpose of affording casual relief.

In the Lalbag sub-division, the poorer people of the city are fed here by private and public charity. In addition to several private charities here, there are two public charities, "Khairats" or religious endowments for charitable purposes, *viz.*, the "Khairat of Bussunt Ali" at Kadamsherif where cooked food is given daily to from 50 to 100 persons, and the "Khairat of Syud Nadir Hossein" where every Friday rice and money are distributed to about 150 persons. The sub-divisional officer wrote to the gentleman in charge of the "Bassunt Ali Khairat" urging on him the propriety of increasing the amount of food distributed, and he assured him that he would try and feed as large a number of persons as possible. The sub-divisional officer held two meetings at Azimgunge and at Baloochur to collect subscriptions, and some gentlemen have been helping him in collecting subscriptions for him in the city. He expects to get about Rs. 4,000 or perhaps upwards, as the agent to the Governor-General has promised to get him some nizamut subscriptions.

At Jungypore a branch committee has been formed, and five persons have subscribed Rs. 26 per mensem.

BERHAMPORE,
The 9th February 1874.

C. D. C. WINTER,
Officiating Justice-Magistrate of Moorshedabad, in charge.

No. 41—S.R., dated Dinagepore, the 9th February 1874.

From—E. E. LOWIS, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Dinagepore,
To—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honour to submit the narrative for the fortnight ending 9th February. The present report is somewhat lengthy, for having now ascertained as far as possible the state of things after the harvest, I have made calculations and entered at some length into details which it will not be necessary to repeat on future occasions. The duty of compiling this and other returns has been, during my absence from head-quarters, entrusted to the Joint-Magistrate, who had reports from the relief officers direct, and who was kept informed of all I learnt regarding the condition of the country visited by me. I found on taking charge of this office that bad accounts were coming in from Ghoraghat, the south-east corner of the district towards Bograh, a part of which had not been visited recently, and which was supposed by Mr. Robinson to be not badly off. I was obliged therefore to go at once and inquire personally into the state of things there, and had I undertaken the duty of preparing this and other returns myself in camp, great delay would have occurred in their submission; I therefore made over the duty to the officer in charge of the station.

A.—State of the Country.

There has been a failure of crop in a tract running across the district from north-west to south-east. The thannahs affected are Ranisonkoil, Peergunge, Kaliagunge, Hemtabad, Bunsihari or Tamboolee, Gangarampore, Patiram, Patnitola, Porsha, and Ghoraghat, containing as near as possible half the population of the district, in round numbers 750,000. Throughout this tract in some places there has been a little rice, more particularly in thannahs Patnitola and Parsha, but, taking all in all, there has not been a one-anna crop altogether. The other half of the district has had a rice crop varying from a one or two-anna crop to a twelve or fourteen-anna one; the cold-weather crops vary in much the same manner. In the distressed tract the return has been sometimes meagre, sometimes pretty fair; in the rest of the district there has been an average crop. The same remarks apply to sugarcane. Jute cultivation is almost entirely confined to the north of the district, where there is no distress. The crop was a fair one, but there was some difficulty in procuring sufficient water to steep the stalks. Wheat, oats, and pulses are not much grown in this district; what there is is mostly grown in a distressed tract to the north-west, on the banks of the Mahananda. The prospects of this crop were very gloomy, but the recent rain has done it an immense deal of good. The distress will be more acutely felt in some thannahs than in others, partly because there has been a semblance of crop in places, and partly because the inhabitants of some portions are better able from their means and position to meet want. In thannahs Ranisonkoil, Kaliagunge, Hemtabad, and Goraghat, and to a certain extent Gungarampore, the majority of the inhabitants are small cultivators; there are few well-to-do munduls or resident zemindars. A considerable amount of the work of planting out and reaping the rice of the southern thannahs is performed by inhabitants of Ranisonkoil and those parts, who, after finishing the work on their own small holdings, travel south for temporary employment as agricultural labourers. On such men a season of distress like the present presses very heavily, and it is from this class that the coolies employed in such numbers by Mr. Jones and Baboo Huri Mohun are recruited. In Bunsihari, Patnitola, and Porsha, on the other hand, there are many well-to-do ryots and munduls who have plenty of dhan in store in their houses, who assist their poorer neighbours, and will, I am confident, prove very useful on relief committees. I have not come across any instance of actual want, *i.e.*, of a person without food or the means of obtaining any; but I have often heard from villagers of their being reduced to one meal a day, and that one meal sometimes eked out with *kuchoo* or plantain stems, the means to procure food being supplied by the sale of their jewels, cattle, &c. I heard of more distress at Ghoraghat than in any other part of the district visited by me. This may be partly accounted for by the fact that until I went there it was supposed that the people were not badly off. I hope things will mend now, for I at once gave directions to mark out a road, sent a relief officer to the spot, and obtained sanction from Mr. Robinson to store 10,000 maunds of rice. The country about Ghoraghat has been saved up to the present, from the want of water in the Jaboona having prevented export of rice from Birampore and Hillee. I found no local grain in the market either new or old; all apparently was brought by Biparees from the supplies of last harvest in the bundurs mentioned above. As soon as the relief work is fairly begun, I hope the surplus harvest of Nowabgunge, where there has been some return, will find its way down. With the exception of Ghoraghat the rest of the distressed tract is supplied almost entirely with new rice brought for sale from the north and west of the district, or sold by ryots who obtained some return and have been compelled to sell to satisfy claims for rent; nor does the demand for rent extend only to those who have gathered some rice, the very labourers on the works do not escape. Mr. Finucane the other day saw some men whom he recognized as his coolies driving cattle to the hât; on his asking them why they were doing so now that they earned wages, he was told that the zemindar, one Kishori Mohan, was pressing for rent, so they were obliged to part with their cattle. Rice is now being sold where relief works have been opened at rates varying from Rs. 3 to 3-5 and 3-7 per maund of 80 tolahs. Baboo Huri Mohun reported that he had been obliged to purchase rice and sell it to his coolies; at my suggestion, however, he has already induced a moodee to set up a shop at the roadside, and no further difficulty has been experienced. Mr. Jones again, at Raigunge, complains that the export of rice from the Julpigoree direction has been stopped, he believes, by order of the zemindar or zemindars at Chukla Boda. His supplies now come principally from the north and west of this district. Heavy rain has fallen lately, which will do much good, enabling the ryots to break up land and sow their bhadoi earlier than usual. The rain will also induce the Mahajuns to lend money. As long as a ryot who had had no winter crop has no prospect of a future one, the mahajuns won't lend, there being no security to pledge; once the villagers can get their bhadoi sown they will get advances on security of the coming crop.

B.—Relief Works.

Mr. Jones is still pushing on with the roads in the vicinity of Raigunge. He employs on an average some 6,000 men a day. Mr. Scanlan, in charge of the Ranisonkoil division, is progressing with his work. His latest accounts show that he affords at present employment to an average of 1,500 persons per day. Baboo Huri Mohun is still employed at Gangarampore. He is continuing work on the roads mentioned in the previous narratives, and has also to superintend the digging of tanks, funds for which have been supplied by private individuals; he employs about 5,000 persons daily. Mr. Finucane has nearly finished the road to Koomargunge; he will soon take up the road to Foolbaree from Patiram, and will join the road towards Patnitola with the portion attended to by the sub-inspector of that division. Mr. Finucane and the sub-inspector between them give employment to a daily average of some 3,000 persons. Baboo Poorno Chunder Goopto has gone to open relief works in the Ghoraghat direction; he has only just begun, and I have not heard how many men he is employing. The Public Works overseers in charge of the

Darjeeling, Maldah, Purneah, and Godagaree roads, are, by the latest accounts, giving employment to 1,663 persons per day. Some difficulty arose as to the work done on the Maldah road; as soon as I heard of it I directed the Executive Engineer to proceed to the spot and see what was the matter. An attempt has been made to introduce task-work. Mr. Finucane first got the men under him to dig 100 cubic feet of sandy soil at the rate of 2½ annas per day; he afterwards reduced the amount to 80 cubic feet, but obliged the coolies, instead of throwing the earth in irregular heaps, to smooth it as they proceeded. Baboo Huri Mohun has introduced experimentally the following rates:—Khiar or stiff clay six annas, pali or lighter soil three annas, and sandy soil two annas per 100 cubic feet. Mr. Jones, again, has some method of pitting one gang against another which results in more work being done. The relief officers are all working right well, and my thanks are due to them for the zeal and promptitude displayed in carrying out my directions. The work on the roads is being pushed on so rapidly, that it will soon be a question whether relief operations should not include the digging and clearing out of tanks and other public improvements. Something will have to be done to supply work for those who want it, for it may be assumed that the number of coolies now employed will have to be kept on, with a probable increase in numbers up to the end of July or beginning of August. The population of the distressed tract is in round numbers 750,000. Out of this I calculate that perhaps three-sixteenths or 140,000 have stores in hand or means to carry them on for a year; four-sixteenths or 190,000 persons have means to carry on for five or six months from 1st January; the remainder, 420,000, have means to enable them some way or another to hold out till March or April next, or having no present means of subsistence, are on the relief works. The above numbers of course include women and children who don't work on the roads. Class I. will not require help at all; Class II. will require help just to tide over the last month or so before the early bhadoi is cut, and Class III. require help now or will require it in another couple of months. I have alluded to the introduction of task-work. I hope to be able, by settling fair rates, to enable an ordinary ryot to earn more than 2½ annas per day. It will not answer to cut the coolies down to a bare subsistence, for they have to provide not only for themselves, but for their wives and children. I have ascertained that many of the coolies manage to live on five or six pice per day, sending the balance home. It is advisable that their earnings should enable them to do so, for if the women and children are not supported by the males of the family, they will have to be supported at much greater expense hereafter by gratuitous relief. I may add that in opening relief works the necessity of the work being within reach of those to be relieved must not be lost sight of. The coolies, as I have pointed out, are recruited largely from the lower class of cultivators; these men will not work at a distance, they cannot or will not leave their families: their little holdings, moreover, tie them to the spot, for the present necessity does not make them forget that a future harvest has to be provided for. The rain during the last fortnight has had the effect of, in some places, diminishing for a few days the attendance of coolies, the men having taken advantage of the rain to go and make arrangements about having their lands ploughed.

C.—Transport.

Baboo Khettro Mohan Singh, the active and intelligent manager of the Rajbaree estate, is importing 20,000 maunds of rice for the relief of his tenants in Kaliagunge, Hemtabad, and elsewhere; 2,000 maunds have been stored, the rest is coming. I hear also that Syama Sankur Chowdry, a Furreedpore zemindar, is sending 3,000 maunds of rice to Jaigunge in thannah Beergunge by boat. I know of no other importation. I have made every effort personally and through the relief officers to induce the mahajuns to import, but without success. It must not be supposed that because a large export trade is carried on from this district that local agency is available for importation. The export trade, to begin with, is not in local hands at all, it is in the hands of traders residing at Coomercolly, Dacca, Calcutta, &c. Their agents located at the different marts on the rivers, buy up the rice from the ryots and ship it off to their masters. This year there being no rice to export, the agents in many instances have not come at all, or if any have come, they are generally subordinates. Koomargunge and other places that at this time of the year are always full of life and bustle are now quiet and deserted; and the agents who are there being appealed to, reply that if their masters see their way to making more money by importing than by employing their capital in any other way they will import, but not unless: the idea of their masters requiring advances is scouted by them as ridiculous. Local agency for distribution within the district there is plenty of; all the traffic of the country is carried on in the hâts, and there are numbers of Biparees and others who frequent the fairs, selling and buying grain, jute, &c., and these men are now busily employed in taking rice from Birhampore and Hillee to Ghoraghat, distributing rice obtained from well-to-do ryots' stocks through the hâts of Gangarampore and Patiram, and bringing the surplus harvest of Thakurgaon and Habra for the relief of Hemtabad and Kaliagunge. It is a question, I think, whether Government should not import rice and sell to these Biparees for distribution through the country; at any rate, I am sure the mahajuns will not import unless rice reaches a price that will put it beyond the reach of the mass.

D.—Storage of Rice.

1,95,000 maunds of rice have been allotted for this district and another lakh available at Purneah. I subjoin a list of golahs showing the amount so far allotted to each, with the points from which supplies will be drawn. A further allotment will be made as soon as I can meet the Relief Commissioner. The allotment, so far as given, has been settled for some time, and the rice is being brought in. I mention this, for an impression that no arrangements have been made seems to have been conveyed by the last narrative.

Name of Golah.	Points of receipt into district.	Total grain allotted.
		Mds.
1. Dinagepore	Rajmehal and Godagaree by road	80,000
Bochagunge		2,000
2. Tamboolee Kali Kamora	Rajmehal by road	20,000
3. Patnitola Patiram	Nowhatta and Sahibgunge, Zillah Rajshahye, by boat	20,000
4. Neetpore	Godagaree by boat	10,000
Gangarampore		5,000
Kardaha		5,000
Nowbazar		5,000
5. Raigunge	Godagaree by boat, Dingraghat, Zillah Purneah by road, Hyatpore, Zillah Maldah *vid* Chooramon by road	44,000
Ajnabad		2,000
Malone		2,000
Bindole		5,000
Minapore		2,000
Hemtabad		5,000
Kaliagunge		5,000
Peergunge		5,000
6. Rani Sonkoil	Kishengunge, Zillah Purneah, by road	5,000
Bodessari		2,000
Nekmard		2,000
Haldibaree		2,000
Bonbaree		2,000
7. Ghoraghat	Govindgunge, Zillah Bograh, by road	10,000

It will be observed that the north-west of the district contains a large proportion of the allotment, the reason being that in that quarter there are very few well-to-do ryots with old stocks of rice in hand.

As to the transport of this allotment, the carriage at our command will hardly bear any strain that may be put on it, as the Joint-Magistrate seems to think, though I hope to get in 1,000 maunds a day. To begin at the north, Mr. Scanlan will probably have to draw his supplies from Purneah; he can collect some 600 carts for this purpose. Mr. Jones draws his supplies through Hyatpore, the rice being sent as far as Chooramon by the Maldah authorities and taken on by Mr. Jones by boat to Raigunge. He also draws from Dingraghat by cart or ponies; for this he cannot I suspect muster more than 150 carts and 150 ponies. Mr. Jones also draws from Godagaree by boat up the Mahananda. Tamboolee, and Dinagepore are supplied from Rajmehal direct by road. For this purpose 500 carts and 1,000 pack-bullocks could be collected through the Dowlutpore and Mahipaldighee mandals. Gungarampore is at present supplied by boat from Neetpore, plenty of small boats being available. It could also afford 400 carts if necessary. Neetpore is supplied by boat from Godagaree and Patnitola and Patiram by the same means up the Atrai. Ghoraghat supplies are forwarded through Bograh to Govindgunge thannah, whence it goes by cart. For this work Ghoraghât can muster about 100 carts. The amount allotted for the district in round numbers, three lakhs of maunds, will not suffice for the requirements of the population; a further allotment must be made. The mahajuns as I have said are not to be depended on to supply grain; the zemindars shrink from undertaking a work for which they have no agency, and of which they have no experience. It rests, then, with Government to sustain the burden, and in order to ascertain what amount will be required I have made a calculation based on the census returns and on figures supplied by the sub-deputy specially deputed to ascertain certain facts. The calculation is a rough one, but it is the most accurate the figures at my disposal will enable me to make out. The district is calculated to comprise 13,59,125 acres of rice cultivation; calculating the yield at 8 maunds of dhan per beegah, or 24 maunds per acre, we have 3,26,19,000 maunds of dhan, or about 163 lakhs of maunds of rice as an average outturn. From this must be deducted the annual consumption of the inhabitants, which at the rate of 6 chittacks for each child, and 10 chittacks for each adult per day amounts to 73,63,575 maunds of rice. The statistical officer, also, after inquiry found that about 67,00,000 maunds of rice were exported last year. The total of consumption and exportation, then, for 1873, amounts to 140,63,875 maunds. This amount, deducted from the estimated outturn leaves about 22,50,000 maunds in stock at the beginning of this year. In this amount is included the rice stored in the marts along the Jaboona, which could not be removed owing to the river not being high enough; a good deal of this rice has since been taken into Rungpore. I have, however, taken credit for the whole. To this amount, 22,50,000, in store must be added the outturn of the present harvest, which I calculate to have been a two-anna crop, perhaps a little more all round, say 20,00,000 maunds. I would also add one lakh of maunds for the Borâ Dhân which ripens at the end of May. The total amount that we can calculate on, then, to last us till the Bhadoi ripens in August, is about 43½ lakhs of maunds. From this we must deduct local rice, say 6½ lakhs which leaves a net balance of some 37,00,000 for the support of the population. This is as near as possible six months' supply for the whole district: supposing the grain to be equally distributed we have enough to last till June, and provision need be made only for July and part of August. In fact, however, the grain is not equally distributed; one half of the district, as I have pointed out, having a sufficiency, the other half very little. Those who have rice will take care to keep an eight months' supply at least. It follows then, there being only six months stock, that the other half will only have four months supply, and this is in fact the conclusion the villagers themselves have arrived at, for I have constantly been told that the supply will be kept up till March or April, and that after that they do not know where rice is to come from. I do not think the villagers are far out in their calculation; in other words a four months supply for 7,50,000 persons is required=ten lakhs of maunds. A smaller amount will probably suffice, for the people have not for some time been living at full rates or consuming the old stocks as fast as usual. The present outturn, too, may be computed as something over a two-anna crop, and some small amount will probably come in from Maldah, Julpigoree, and elsewhere. I would estimate the requirements of the district at seven or eight lakhs of maunds. I may add that it is important the people should be supplied with rice soon, otherwise there is a fear of their consuming a portion of the reserve keep for seed, thus diminishing the prospects of the coming harvest. The above amount will not be required for the supply of relief work labourers alone, but I do not think Government should restrict themselves to their original intention in the matter of storage; rice should be distributed from Government golahs not only for relief works but throughout the distressed tract. Biparees should be permitted to supply the hâts and zemindars encouraged to buy wholesale for the relief of their tenants. If this plan be adopted a great deal of inconvenience to the inhabitants and of expense to Government will be saved for any expense incurred on transport, and loss sustained in sale of such large quantities will be more than compensated by the saving in gratuitous relief.

E.—ADVANCES.

No advances have yet been taken either by traders or zemindars, the former don't require them; if they find it to their interest to import they will do so without asking help from Government; the latter if pressed to take advances to import, urge that they do not know how to set about the business; the zemindars have now again been addressed on the subject of taking advances for the relief of their tenants—it remains to be seen what action they will take. I would suggest that in place of advances for the purposes of importation the zemindars should be permitted to take advances of grain from the Government golahs for distribution among their ryots, on the same terms as to repayment in cash as are now allowed for money lent. It seems to me it is much the same thing whether a zemindar gets 5,000 rupees or 5,000 rupees worth of rice; he will, according to my proposal, at any rate have no longer any excuse for not taking the advance.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

I have already addressed the Special Commissioner, and submitted a plan for a central committee at the Sudder station and Sub-committees at various points throughout the distressed tract.

The following table shows the number of criminal cases in connection with scarcity, that occurred during January 1874:—

			Number of cases reported excluding cases declared by the Magistrate to be false, and never to have occurred.
DACOITY—			
Heading 30 and 31 of Crime Return.	Month of January	1874	6
	Ditto	1873	5
	Ditto	1872	0
ROBBERY—			
Heading 32 and 33 of Crime Return.	Month of January	1874	3
	Ditto	1873	2
	Ditto	1872	0
THEFT—			
Heading 43 of Crime Return AI exclusive of cattle theft.	Month of January	1874	63
	Ditto	1873	29
	Ditto	1872	17
HOUSE-BREAKING—			
Heading 35 of Crime Return.	Month of January	1874	64
	Ditto	1873	28
	Ditto	1872	13
Total of cases	Month of January	1874	136
	Ditto	1873	64
	Ditto	1872	30

No. 501F, dated Camp Bhalooka, the 10th February, 1874.

From—F. J. ALEXANDER, ESQ., Officiating Magistrate-Collector of Maldah,

To—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

IN continuation of my No. 341F of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to forward the sixth fortnightly narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the district of Maldah, for the fortnight ending 7th instant.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Maldah District for the fortnight ending 7th February, 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

PRICES are generally rather easier at the close of the fortnight, especially in the north-west of the district (Thanah Khurbah), where at the close of the previous fortnight and beginning of the present fortnight, they had risen to famine rates. This is no doubt generally owing to the late rainfall, but in the north-west tract small importations affect the market, showing only too clearly that the local stocks in that quarter are deficient.

Supplies, except in the north-west tract, are generally plentiful at the local bazars and markets.

It is noticed that paddy finds a readier sale, as compared with rice, than in ordinary years. Those who have stocks do not wait to husk it, being anxious to sell, while those who buy get rather more for their money in paddy than rice.

The following are the latest prices of paddy and ordinary rice at the undermentioned principal markets in different parts of the districts:—

CENTRAL PART OF THE DISTRICT.

(*At Englishbazar.*)

Paddy	Not given.
Ordinary rice	13 to 13½ seers per rupee (80 tolahs).

(*At Balia—Nowabgunge.*)

Paddy	21 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice	13 ditto ditto.

NORTH-EAST OF THE DISTRICT.

(*At Bamangolah.*)

Paddy	19 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice	13 ditto ditto.

NORTH-WEST OF THE DISTRICT.

(*At Chanchal, Toolsigunge, Shumsi, Abadpore.*)

Paddy	Not given.
Ordinary rice	10 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).

(*At Hyatpore and Futtehpore.*)

Paddy	19 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice	12 ditto ditto.

SOUTH-WEST OF THE DISTRICT.

(*At Kaliachak.*)

Paddy	18¾ seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice	12 ditto ditto.

SOUTH-EAST OF THE DISTRICT.

(*At Rohunpore.*)

Paddy	21 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice	13¾ ditto ditto.

Rainfall.—On the night of the 21st January 1874, and on the morning of the 1st February, rain fell, 0·87 inches being recorded at the Sudder station, and again on the 5th and 6th February, rain fell, 0·27 and 0·05 inches being recorded. On the 25th and 26th January rain also fell, viz., 0·46, making the total rainfall of the fortnight 1·65. This rain has done immense good to the cold weather crops.

State of the crops.—As previously reported the kalai crop now almost harvested has been quite an average one, ditto the sursoo (mustard seed). The *former* has been sufficiently good to admit of a portion been exported, and is a valuable addition to the food supply as it forms the staple article of at least one meal of a great portion of the population in the "deara" lands.

The cold weather crops—wheat, barley, cheena, peas, &c., are looking in excellent condition over a large tract bordering on the Ganges, and generally everywhere, since the rain, promise quite an average yield.

The "boro dhan" is being still busily transplanted. This rain will do it great good; as soon as the transplating is completed, I will give an estimate of the extent to which it will add to the food-supply.

Condition of the District.—Small-pox is still very prevalent in the north-west of the district (Thannah Khurbah), otherwise the general health of the district is good.

The late rain has given the ryots ample occupation in ploughing their lands, and with the prospect of good cold weather crops which may now be safely expected, all the western and south-western portion of the district may be considered safe from anything like general distress or great scarcity.

In the north-west of the district especially, and to a less degree in the eastern tract, there is, however, considerable cause for anxiety. Distress has already shown itself in the north-west tract, and the villagers are many of them glad to get employment on the relief works. I annex a comparative statement of theft cases, &c., for January 1872, 1873, and 1874, respectively. As yet grain-thefts do not call for any very special notice, but two cases reported are clearly attributable to the scarcity and indicate that distress has already commenced.

B.—CONDITION OF ANY SPECIAL TRACTS.

The condition of the north-west tract (Thannah Khurbah) is already critical. At the close of the previous fortnight and for a few days prices had risen as high as eight seers, while the local supplies fell short of the demand. Since then and up to date, I am glad to be able to report that things are easier, prices having fallen and supplies increased (by importation).

When I wrote my last fortnightly narrative, I was at the very south of the district, but on hearing that distress had commenced in the north-west of the district, I hurried up there, and I am now encamped in the neighbourhood, inspecting relief works, organising charitable relief operations, and hurrying on the grain by the north-west route (Sahibgunge *cum* Hyatpore) to Dinagepore and Khurbah.

Relief works have been commenced throughout the distressed tract, and during the last week the number of those coming to the relief works has largely increased; the number employed will be found below, and I annex a rough sketch map for reference showing relief works in progress and which will be started as required in the tracks alluded to.

It has been necessary to open the Government stocks to those employed on the relief works in this tract, but as yet the wages are paid in cash, and the workmen know they can buy rice at the store-houses at Khurbah and Soroopgunge at Rs. 4 per maund, and up to date 12½ maunds have been thus sold from the Khurbah stocks.

Charitable relief is also being given at Khurbah and Chanchal to the old, the lame, sick, and blind, and those who are unable to work; the numbers thus relieved up to date are given below.

We intend to get out of our kangal (beggar) squad such slight work as we can in the way of spinning cotton, twisting thread, and husking rice, &c.

The manager of the Chanchal estate has already found it necessary to advance grain to his tenants to be repaid hereafter, and they daily come in to him in numbers to receive such assistance. He has already thus advanced 509½ maunds. As regards tenants and other zemindars who are giving them no assistance, I have instructed Mr. Reily to offer to purchase and import grain for them out of the districts, if they make a purse to meet the expense. Such an arrangement is absolutely necessary to enable those who cannot leave their agricultural occupations to go to the relief works to keep from starving and deserting their fields.

I shall stay in this tract till the relief works and charitable relief requirements are in thorough working order, at the same time I am receiving great assistance from Mr. Reily, the Manager of the Chanchal estate, and I can place entire confidence in him to carry out whatever is necessary to be done.

Since writing my last report, I have travelled over 150 miles and visited a great portion of the eastern and south-eastern tract, where the likelihood of the failure and the water-supply was causing anxiety. I have arranged to start several tanks where they are most needed, and ordered wells to be dug along the Dinagepore and Godagaree road which intersects that tract.

My presence is needed at all points, and the urgency of pushing on the Dinagepore grain as well as the supplies for my own district adds considerably to the pressure. I urgently require another officer at head-quarters, one of my deputies (Moulvie Fyzoolah) having recently died.

(B.)—RELIEF WORKS.

Work is going on on almost all the ordinary district roads; between 400 and 500 labourers are employed on an average daily according to the latest reports.

In the north-west tract the number of labourers has largely increased, daily average of over 1,000 (men, women, and children) being reported as employed during the last week of the fortnight under report.

Relief work is now going on on all the following roads—*vide* annexed sketch map, *viz.*,

1. Chanchal to Khurbah.
2. „ to Toolsigunge.
3. „ to Bhadovia, Maltipore, and Shunsi.
4. „ to Soroopgunge.
5. Maltipore and Hyatpore.
6. Khurbah to Matarapore and Khanpore—

Tanks have also been commenced at two places (*vide* map), viz., Gopalpore and Sarbowa.

As soon as the above works are completed it will be observed that they are spread over the distressed tract. Work will be commenced on seven other tanks, and a proposition has been forwarded to the Commissioner for sanction to open out the old bed of the Mahanada, an important work in itself and one which will afford ample relief to large numbers.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

The local importation and transport of food is rather more active. The small traders and more well-to-do ryots are, I am glad to see, importing from Sahebgunge and elsewhere, but the zemindars are in many instances doing nothing to assist the local food-supply though well able to do so and well aware of the facilities afforded by Government.

In the "Barivdo" tracts, paddy and rice seem to be still plentiful, and this supply feeds all the central markets and the Sudder station.

Kalai is being exported along the Ganges.

The transport of Government grain is being pushed on as rapidly as the available carriage enables us to do, but at the rate the grain is *now* arriving, the local carriage will be quite unequal to carry it away as fast as it arrives. I refer especially to the Rajmehal and Sahebgunge routes, and it will now be necessary to establish large depôts on the Maldah side opposite the Rajmehal and Sahebgunge routes and store the grain and work it off as it arrives gradually to the extent of the carriage available, as has hitherto been done from the Godagaree receiving station.

Hitherto the boats available have sufficed to carry off the Godagaree receipts, and, as I hope this route may still be open to boats of 200 to 300 maunds for sometime to come, I would have much wished and still would urge that a very large portion of the grain be still sent by that route.

The Rajmehal route I would put but little pressure upon; the crossing is a difficult and tedious one. I would send the main portion of the rail despatches to Sahebgunge, and the *Teesta*, with two flats, would be able to keep both the depôts on the Maldah side of the Rajmehal and Sahebgunge route supplied with quite as much grain as the available carriage can possibly carry away.

It must not be forgotten that with the harvesting of the cold weather crops, the supply of local carts is likely to be less plentiful than now.

If part of the despatches were sent in one-maund bags it would enable us to use pack-bullocks, a mode of transit which we cannot at present make use of on account of the grain being in two-maund bags.

In the above view I am arranging to erect store-houses to contain 20,000 maunds each, as receiving depôts both for the Rajmehal and Sahebgunge routes.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

The latest information of all receipts and despatches has not reached me.

Up to 31st January, *vide* my No. 404 F, dated 31st idem, out of 20,000 maunds allotted to *this* district, 13,257 maunds had been received and stored, and 47,322 maunds were in transit through *this* district to Dinagepore.

Since then the quantity stored in this district has been increased only to about 13,850 maunds, it being thought advisable to push on the Dinagepore supplies first, this will account for the quantity stored here being shown as *less* this fortnight than in the previous fortnight, the deficiency will be filled up from subsequent receipts. In addition to the 47,322 maunds mentioned above as in transit to Dinagepore, 12,276 maunds have since been despatched from Godagaree and is on its way, and 7,000 maunds have been despatched from Hytpore, all of which has been carried through this district to the Dinagepore border. A further despatch of 5,000 maunds, since received from Sahibgunge, is now being despatched to Dinagepore, so that 71,596 maunds have been received and sent on to Dinagepore through this district up to date. This is exclusive of Mr. Westmacott's despatches from Rajmehal of which I have no intimation.

(E.)—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

The Famine Commissioner has sanctioned an advance of Rs. 10,000 in one case, and an application for sanction to an advance of Rs. 50,000 to the same applicant is under reference to Government.

I have also applied for sanction to make further advance of Rs. 20,000 to the manager of the Chanchal estate and Rs. 2,100 have been advanced in other cases.

All of the above are advances for purchase of grain.

Besides these, Rs. 5,000 has been advanced to the manager of the Chanchal estate for village improvements, such as digging tanks, and a recommendation has been made for an advance of Rs. 3,000 for a similar purpose to the manager of the Sohirpore estate.

Other applications are under disposal.

(F.)—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Besides the places previously mentioned, subscriptions have been raised at the following places, *viz.*, Chanchal and Rohunpoor.

The total amount locally subscribed hitherto is Rs. 3,638, and Rs. 500 has been drawn as the Government donation towards the Chanchal Relief Fund as it was urgently needed.

The formation of sub-divisional and sub-committees is in a forward state, but only at Chanchal and Kurbah has it yet been thought necessary, beyond relieving a few casual cases, actually to commence charitable relief. At both of these places the old, lame, sick, &c., who are unable to get work are being relieved; at Khurbal up to date 415 men have received relief at an expenditure of 10 maunds, 25 seers, 14 chittacks of rice, and at Chanchal 760 people at an expenditure of 9½ maunds.

I take this opportunity of urging on the Government the necessity for liberally assisting this district through the Central Relief Committee, inasmuch as there are no Rajas or very rich people here from whom assistance can be expected.

Many of the traders are well off, but they are proverbially backward on these occasions.

I conclude, of course, that any assistance which the Central Relief Committee may give is quite irrespective of the amount which the Government has already promised to give, *vide* circular No 80, as a supplement to the local subscriptions.

(G.)—FINANCIAL RESULTS OF THE FORTNIGHT.

Total expenditure since November from the District Treasury up to date of last narrative (*i.e.*, January 24th) is 20,114-4-0.

No. 1393, dated Beauleah, the 9th February 1874.

From W. H. D'Oyly, Esq., Collector of Rajshahye.

To—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honour to forward my narrative for the fortnight ending on the 8th instant.

A.—State of the Country.

The effects of the plentiful rain which has fallen throughout the district have been beneficial in more ways than one; not only have the cold-weather crops generally been much improved, but the prices of rice have fallen. There has been a great addition to the water-supply, which in many places was beginning to get alarmingly short. The river Attrai has, I am informed, risen 6 inches, and the ploughing of land for next year's rice has been facilitated. On the other hand, the roads have become somewhat heavy, but the clear weather and westerly winds we are now having is fast drying them up; some of the crops in flower have a little suffered, though not to any great extent; and some of the Government rice in transport has got wet, though I am glad to say that only a small quantity has been damaged. What was wetted has been taken out of the bags and exposed to the sun and air and replaced in bags.

The bazars are generally well supplied, importations have increased rapidly, and altogether people's minds are easier than they were a short time back. There have not been any cases of starvation; poor people have undoubtedly stinted themselves to some extent in their food, but beyond this the effects of the scarcity have not been felt. There has been an increase in crimes against property, but not to such an extent as would justify the conclusion that the increase was owing to the scarcity. In the dacoity case the chief man was a known bad character.

The prices of rice are as follows:—

	Seers (of 80 tolahs.)
Beauleah	13½
Nattore	14¼
Nowgong	13
Gobindpore Hât	13

B.—Relief Works.

The following statements show the progress of relief works. Many of the labourers have returned to their homes to plough their lands. This was to be expected. Mr. Abbott has been told that he can employ a mohurrir to keep and submit returns.

C.—Transport of Food.

There have been more importations of food during the last fortnight than there were in the previous one; nearly 30,000 maunds of rice and about half that quantity of dahn have been brought into Beauleah. The Nattore bazar has also received large supplies.

In both instances the rice has been brought from Dacca and Backergunge, and some also from Jessore.

Boats are going down past Noonnagur daily for rice, and as many are coming up daily laden with rice and paddy.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

The following statement will show the progress in transport and storage of Government grain. The Godagaree depôt has done very well, considering the means at our disposal. I was at Godagaree last week, having gone up in the steamer with Captain Ker, and I can confidently state that everything that was possible has been done to secure the quick despatch of rice: we were able to store and shelter all the cargo taken from the two flats which the *Sir William Peel* brought up, and despatches by cart and boat continue daily. I have, at Captain Ker's suggestion, applied for a number of pontoons which are in Calcutta, and I trust they will be sent up shortly. From inquiries made by me it appears that they will carry 100 maunds each, and the draught is only about 12 inches. I believe that about 100 of these are available.

TRANSPORT OF GRAIN.

Godagaree.

Receipts.

Date of receipt.	Place from which received.	Imperial.		Local.	
		Bags.	Maunds.	Bags.	Maunds.
27th January 1874	Kooshtea	—	—	4,067	8,134
28th " "	Ditto	—	—	5,021	10,042
30th " "	Ditto	—	—	4,359	8,718
1st February "	Ditto	—	—	3,772	7,544

Despatches.

Date of despatch.	IMPERIAL.		LOCAL.		Places to which despatched.
	Bags.	Maunds.	Bags.	Maunds.	
25th January 1874 - -	—	—	2,175	4,350	Dinagepore.
28th ” ” - -	—	—	327	654	Ditto.
29th ” ” - -	—	—	1,575	3,150	Khurdah.
31st ” ” - -	—	—	3,893	7,786	Tambooli.
27th ” ” - -	—	—	343	686	Dinagepore.
2nd February - -	—	—	1,265	2,530	Khurba.
4th ” ” - -	—	—	307	614	Ditto.
	—	—	934	1,864	Dinagepore.

NOWGONG.

Receipts.

Date of receipt.	Place from which received.	IMPERIAL.		LOCAL.	
		Bags.	Maunds.	Bags.	Maunds.
25th January 1874 - -	Noonnagur - - -	813	2,132–15	—	—
27th ” ” - -	Ditto - - -	1,162	3,050–10	—	—
30th ” ” - -	Goalundo - - -	306	803–10	—	—
31st ” ” - -	Ditto - - -	939	2,464–35	—	—
1st February ” - -	Noonnagur - -	—	—	3,593	3,593
4th ” ” - -	Ditto - - -	1,733	3,871–16	—	—

Despatches.

None.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Up to the date of the last narrative - - -	12,800	0	0

In course of the narrative under report the following advances were made:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Advanced to Lall Chand Sircar - - -	700	0	0
Ditto to Modhusoodun Nag - - -	1,500	0	0
Ditto to Turibut Sheikh - - - -	200	0	0
Total -	2,400	0	0

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Relief centres have been decided on and committees (district and sub-divisional) organized. No charitable relief has been necessary as yet.

No. 6, dated Rungpore, the 9th February 1874.

Memo. by—E. G. GLAZIER, Esq., Officiating Magistrate.

FORWARDED to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief, Rungpore district, for the fortnight ending Saturday the 7th February 1874.

* * * * *

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

THE supplies in the different markets keep up well; imports now come by land from Julpigori and Cooch Behār to the north of the district, and from Ghoraghat and Bograh to the southern parts. The late abundant rain has caused prices to be a little easier in most parts, though in some places higher quotations are made.

Market quotations are as follows:—

Rungpore, per rupee - - -	11½	of 80 tolahs.
Gyebunda - - - - -	11½ to 12	” ”

In very few places is the price above Rs. 4 to Rs. 4-6 per local maund of 90 tolahs weight. I received a report from one place to the east of the Teesta of the local price being over Rs. 5, but the strain was only temporary and confined to a very limited area, as it is not far from the zemindary of Maharani Soorna Mohi, where the price is kept at Rs. 3-8 per maund by regular supplies and sales on her part at the different markets.

We have had a great deal of rain during the fortnight; the register at the Sudder station shows five inches. During the last week we have had rain almost every day and the fall has been general throughout the district. The first rains have done an incalculable amount of good and the wheat and kalai are looking very flourishing and promise well, especially towards Bhowanigunge. The later rains, however, are more than were wanted and will do some harm to the mustard and tobacco. Hail has fallen near Burihat and damaged the latter crop. The spring sowings are now being delayed on account of the constant showers and cloudy weather, but there has been a vast extent of land prepared for the rice, and with seasonable weather the crop will be a good one, much more than the average. A considerable amount of cheena and kaon has also been sown, and there is every hope of their doing well. Towards the south-east, where the sowing is early, the spring rice has already reached a fair height.

During the fortnight I travelled through part of Thannahs Moluny and Sundergunge and the north part of Sadullapore, all lying to the south and south-east of the station. This is by far the most distressed part of the district. I came upon several cases of emaciation and met many beggars in distress for food. Several deaths, too, were reported, but from the inquiries I had made, they rose from disease, old age, and debility, accelerated no doubt in some cases by neglect and unwholesome food. No case, however, has come under my notice where death could be ascribed to starvation simply. In the two specially distressed tracts, Pyrabund in Moluny and Sundergunge, I have had special road relief works opened, and employment is thus provided for all who come, and charitable relief has been organized and commenced at those places and at two other places in Thannah Sadullapore. The cry, as I have before reported, is for advances for the poorer agriculturists. In Pyrabund, I have arranged with the five sharers to take advances to the amount of Rs. 10,000 for the purpose, and they have already commenced help in that way. Throughout Sundergunge, the zemindars as a rule will not take advances, having money of their own, and they are lending it out to the ryots, but then they charge interest and will not assist the very poor. I have placed the Deputy Magistrate of the sub-division there to do what he can to arrange matters, to organise the local relief committee, and to see the new road works in progress.

Another bad tract lies to the west of Gobindgunge and measures for charitable relief have also been taken there, the condition of the people has become on the whole worse in the bad parts and better in the less distressed quarters. Durwani, Nagasuri, and other parts are improving, Panga and Purbabhag are much the same, and special measures are being taken for their relief. The rain has abated much of the fear of scarcity and raised the spirits of the people, but many thousands will have a difficult time to tide over before the new crops are harvested. I have parcelled out the district among responsible officers to keep every part under constant inspection, to institute where needed measures of relief, and to see that the relief works are properly carried out under the supervisors.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

Our labourers are now fast increasing in the centre and south. In my last tour I had several complaints from several batches of men about irregularity of employment. Most of our men in charge being new to the work it has not been found possible to initiate an extensive system of relief works without a hitch here and there, but I am in hopes that matters have now been put on such a footing that nothing of the kind will occur again. We have over 1,000 men at work on the roads previously in progress. The new roads opened are being flocked to. I have not at hand any reports to show how many are at work there; on tanks being dug by zemindars at least 500 more men are being employed; one large one is being repaired in Bahirbund.

The following roads are now reported as in progress:—

	Men employed.
Dinagepore road	69
Kishoregunge to Bhoydabri	36
Gyebunda to Govindgunge	41
Peergunge to Kallygunge	245
Naldanya to Sadullapore	—
Bograh road	172
Dumduma to Naldanga *viâ* Pyrabund	111
Rungpore station road	66
Chillakhal road	48
Julpigoree	69
Bhowanigunge	—
Cooch Behar	43
Bagwa	61
Kisharegunge to Chittakhal	64
Batashun road	—
Kawninghat road	—
	1.025

The men are paid at the rate of three annas per 100 cubic feet. I consulted with Mr. Robinson this week about raising the rate to 3½ annas, but he advised working on at the old rate for the present, as the men would probably increase with certainty of employment. All are paid at present by task work, but as charitable relief has now commenced, light labour gangs will have to be organised for those who can work a little, but cannot give a fair day's work. The labourers purchase their food at the local markets.

C.—Transport of Food.

Large supplies of rice have been received at Kallygunge for the Baharbund estate, and as noted under A, supplies by land come regularly to the markets. Transport of Government rice is going on steadily; no block has yet occurred and there will be no difficulty in getting rid of the first 70,000 maunds sanctioned for the district. I was down at Kallygunge a week ago; the second lot of 20,000 maunds brought by the *Bombay* was almost landed and has since been done so within the time, 30,000 maunds have been sent away from Kallygunge, and 26,000 maunds remain to be sent off, which will take about 10 days to a fortnight.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

The total amount of rice received and distributed up to date is as follows:—

Receipts.	Mds.
January 22nd, country boats from Seerajgunge	1,000
„ 25th, „ from „	734
„ 26th, „ from Goalundo	2,922
„ 28th, „ from Seerajgunge	1,257
February 2nd, steamer *Bombay* from Naraingunge	20,000
„ 2nd, „ from „	10
Total	25,923
Previously received	32,246
Grand total	58,169

Despatched.	
To—Gyebunda	1,690
Peergunge	1,190
Naldanga	1,660
Rungpore	1,160
Chillakhal	9,037
Kureegram	3,700
Total	18,437
Previously despatched	13,221
Grand total	31,658
Balance at Kallygunge	26,511
	58,169

The steamer *Benares* was expected on the 4th February 1874, with about 4,000 maunds; no other advices have yet been received. A second allotment of 70,000 maunds has been applied for.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

Advances for the purchase of grain have been made during the fortnight to three persons at Rs. 1,000 each, and another advance of Rs. 2,000 has been sanctioned, but the money has not yet been paid. No rice has yet been imported by any to whom advances were made.

As before remarked, advance to the amount of Rs. 10,000 has been sanctioned for loans to ryots; the deeds are in preparation and the money will soon be paid.

F.—Charitable Relief.

Relief operations have commenced at Naldanga, 127 persons aided; Rs. 500 locally subscribed.

Luckhipore 60 to 70 persons assisted; Rs. 300 locally subscribed.

Pyrabund distribution commenced; no report of number yet received. This is under control of the Central Committee.

Mahegunge—An unnachotra has been opened by Baboo Roy Luchmeeput, and 60 persons receive cooked food.

Elsewhere half a seer of uncooked rice is given, as preparations for cooking the food have not yet been matured.

Other centres will be immediately opened for Sundergunge, Batashun, and Govindgunge.

No. 997, dated Bogra, the 9th February 1874.

From—C. A. Kelly, Esq., Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Bogra,
To.—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am at head-quarters, and will write and despatch this fortnightly narrative before leaving again for the interior.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Bogra District for the fortnight ending the 9th February 1874.

A.—State of the Country.

There is as yet no deficiency of supplies in the bazar. Ordinary rice at Bogra selling at Bogra market 12¾ seers of 80 tolahs, at Sultangunj 13½, at Dupchanchea 14 seers:—

12,000 maunds at Dupchanchea,
2,100 „ at Sultangunj,
2,500 „ at Kechak,
1,000 „ at Bogra, and
20,000 „ at Hilli,

are reported as in the hands of traders and petty dealers. My remarks in the last fortnightly narrative with respect to grain in the hands of ryots may be considered as repeated now. The rainfall in the last fortnight has been separately reported upon. The weather looks more settled now, and it is to be hoped that we shall have no more rain for some weeks, as enough, and indeed more than enough, has already fallen for present agricultural purposes. Cold-weather crops may be said to be doing well. Of the two principal crops—mustard and sugarcane—a 12 annas and 13 annas yield respectively may be expected. The cutting of both these crops is being proceeded with. The condition of the people cannot be called critical. There are no known cases of misery and starvation calling for any special remarks. A few cases of distress, such as might be expected in any season of high prices, have been reported, and steps have been taken for their relief. There were 14 cases of grain-thefts reported during the fortnight.

I need not add anything to my previous remarks (in the last narrative) with respect to the condition of special tracts, except that I was pleased to find on a recent visit to Shibganj thannah that the late rains have decidedly improved matters there, and I saw no signs of severe distress.

B.—Relief Works.

The work of altering lines originally laid out so as to meet the views of the Relief Commissioner has been prosecuted. Besides the roads previously reported upon, labourers are at work on the repairs of the Dinagepore and Nattore roads. A list of the lines of road (similar to the last) is subjoined, showing the number of labourers employed on the 7th February on each. This does not include labourers employed by the municipality.

	Men.	Women.	Children.
Shareakandi road - - -	169	—	4
Sultangunj - - -	127	67	29
Matidali - - -	150	2	8
Khuttal - - - -	300	—	20
Dupchanchea - - -	Report is not received.		
Dinajpur - - - -	500	—	40
Nattore - - - -	12	—	—
Total - -	1,258	69	101

A correction should be made in the last report under this head—for "up to the 24th," should be read on the 24th. Some women have recently taken employment on the Sultangunj road, a new feature in our labour operations; but crops in that part of the district (it is in Bogra thannah) have suffered severely. I need not report more with respect to mode of payment, rate of wages, and arrangements for tools.

C.—Transport of Food.

From the reports received it appears that 3,100 maunds of rice has been imported by way of the Daokona and Bangali Rivers, and 600 maunds rice and 100 maunds paddy from Rajshahye.

Means of transport sufficient; but on this head it may be noted that there is some deficiency in procuring carts at Serajgunge, and I have sent some out to help. We are only, however, importing 5,000 maunds from there, nearly 3,300 of which have been received. The recent heavy rain inundated the tracks between Joka and Dupchanchea, and part of the rice was consequently forwarded by boat. No block can be said to exist. The bad point between Serajgunge and Bogra previously referred to is reported as all right now. Some carts have been sent to Sultanpur for conveying grain on the requisition of Major Lindsay. A large number of carts and some small boats have been employed in conveying rice from Jonka, and several have been sent to Serajgunge to aid in bringing in the rice despatched from there.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

I add the names of other storage places selected in addition to those mentioned in my last narrative :—

1. Gakul.
2. Gayeshpur.
3. Jamalgunj.
4. Deoli.
5. Punat.
6. Baguni.
7. Hatshahar.
8. Jambooban.
9. Sherhati.
10. Dhekarpara.
11. Kalandarpur.
12. Hilli.
13. Panchbibee.

A number of store-houses have been supplied gratuitously. We are building large store-houses at Bogra and Khetlal (the one at Khetlal should be nearly or quite finished by now), and another has recently been ordered for Panchbibee. Arrangements for guarding these store-houses have been previously reported. Amount of food-grain received up to date is 18,331-3-11-3, of which 1,285 maunds has been sent to Ghoraghât, Dinajpur district. I am now informed that we are to receive in all 40,000 maunds more, 30,000 for this district and 10,000 for Ghoraghât (Dinajpur). 8,000 maunds of this rice will probably go by river to Govindgunge, and the remaining 2,000 (part of which has already gone) by carts.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

The only advances made to private parties up to this time have been four advances for tank-making under the Land Improvement Act (including the two previously reported upon), amounting in all to Rs. 1,445. In another similar application local inquiry has been ordered, and another application (incorrectly drawn up) will shortly be dealt with. Two applications were presented on the 6th February 1874 for Government loans under paragraph 4 of the Government letter No. 4020 of the 18th December 1873 ; they will be attended to. It has since been found that these applications are not of the kind contemplated by Government.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

I have previously reported upon our relief meeting and subscriptions and selection of relief members. A few more sums have, in the last fortnight, been sent out for distribution in cases of need. A map has also been drawn up showing sites for storage houses and grades of condition of country.

ENCLOSURE No. 7.

SUPPLY OF STEAMERS FOR FERRYING GOVERNMENT RICE ACROSS THE GANGES.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 19th February 1874.

THE Commissioner of Patna has represented that he requires two more steamers with flats to work the ferries at Futwah ghât (near Patna) and at Barrh ghât, as well as an extra steamer to carry the railway material. He wants them to be of light draught, and he has, by a subsequent telegram, asked that for each steamer four flats instead of two may be provided, as a steamer can work more economically and rapidly if she can have a pair of flats for each side of the river. Sir Richard Temple supports the Commissioner's recommendation, and telegraphs that the draught of the steamers should, if possible, be not more than three feet.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor has, in communication with the Master-Attendant, considered the best way of meeting these requirements. The river steamers and flats belonging to and hired by Government are at present employed as follows:—

Steamer "Peel."—Draught 4 feet, with two Government flats, the "Tirhoot" and "Isla," is working the Kooshtea crossing to Godagaree, &c.

Steamer "Koladyne."—Draught 3 feet 9 inches, with one hired flat the "Gogra" is employed on the same station.

Steamer "Teesta."—Draught 3 feet, with Government flat "Kanaye," is working the ferry from Sahebgunge to the Malda road.

Steamer "Jaboona."—Draught 2½ feet, with Government flat "Ganges," is under the Chief Commissioner's orders in Assam.

Steamer "Koel."—Draught 3 feet 9 inches, has been in dock for some time, but will be ready by Saturday (21st February), and can work with the second flat, which is under the Lieutenant-Governor's orders, being hired from the New River Company.

Steamer "Prince Albert."—Draught 3 feet, is still in dock, as her bottom had entirely gone. She cannot be ready until the end of March.

India General Steam Navigation Company's Steamer "Chunar."—Draught 3 feet 9 inches, working with two hired flats at the Barrh ghât ferry.

India General Steam Navigation Company's Steamer "Patna."—Draught 3 feet 6 inches, working with two flats at the Futwah (Patna) ghât ferry.

Further, the Lieutenant-Governor has ascertained that the Eastern Bengal Railway can let to Government, from the 15th March, one of their large steamers and two flats. These steamers draw nearly four feet of water. The India General Steam Navigation Company will also be able to let to Government one or more steamers with flats. Mr. Joakim, who used to trade to Dacca, has offered to Government a steamer and two flats, which are smaller than ordinary river steamers, and are said to draw only two to two and a half feet of water. Mr. Joakim's steamer is not quite ready for work, but she is being surveyed.

3. There are no spare flats in the port for hire, without steamers, though possibly the Master-Attendant may be able to obtain a loan of one additional flat from the Eastern Bengal Railway. The largest of the ordinary Hooghly cargo boats carry little more than 1,600 to 2,000 maunds; but there are several large lighters belonging to the Telegraph Department, two of which the Master-Attendant has been able to borrow for famine. They, however, draw over four feet of water.

4. While these orders were under issue, a telegram was received from Sir Richard Temple to the following effect: "From Mokameh.—My telegram of 15th about steamer. The following vessels are recommended: the "Success," sister ship to "Patna," the "Calcutta," and the "Bombay," also light draught, all believed to be available and belonging to the India General Steam Navigation Company. If sent to Barrh and Futwah should be sent with two flats each and without cargo, so as to arrive in 14 days; each should have six extra lascars. Have seen the steamers working at both ghâts, and hope they will prove successful."

5. It is quite clear that there is very great urgency for the immediate despatches of additional steamers to the Patna division, and the Lieutenant-Governor has ascertained that the "Success" and two flats can be at once hired from the India General Steam Navigation Company. The Lieutenant-Governor accordingly directs—

(1) that the "Teesta" and her flat be at once moved up from Sahebgunge to the Patna division. She should go empty and call at Barrh ghât for orders. Her place must be supplied by the "Koladyne" and her flat which can supply Manikchur either from Kooshtea, Sahebgunge, or Rajmehal according as Mr. Molony may direct. But the supply from the Rajmehal route must on no account be allowed to run short.

(2) that either the "Success," which is light and can be most readily available, be hired and sent at once up to the Patna division with two flats. She should run empty, and should tow up an empty cargo-boat or lighter, and should call at Barrh for orders.

(3) that the "Koel," with the hired flat and with one lighter, should be despatched empty to the Patna division, with orders to call at Barrh.

(4) that either the "Lucknow," or the Eastern Bengal Railway steamer and flats, be hired and put on to the Kooshtea and Godagaree berth.

5. There will thus be four steamers, six flats, and two lighters for the Patna division, and the same complement as before for the Rajshahye division. The Master-Attendant should hire either Mr. Joakim's steamer and flats, or another steamer and pair of flats from the India General Steam

Navigation Company, and send them up empty to Barrh as soon as he can, so that there may be an additional steamer and flats for crossing railway material.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts to Captain Baker to see that there may be no delay in despatching the steamers, flats, and lighters for the Patna division; he will hope to hear from Captain Baker that they have all been despatched by Tuesday next at latest.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 844—S.R.

Copy forwarded to Mr. C. E. Buckland for submission to Sir Richard Temple; to the Commissioner of Patna; to the Master-Attendant, whose very earliest attention is invited to the matter; to the Accountant-General, and to Deputy Comptroller-General (Famine Department), and to the Commissioner of Rajshahye, whose attention is specially drawn to paragraph 5, clause (1).

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 19th February 1874.

Enclosure No. 8.

No. 701—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department, to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore, the Magistrate-Collectors of Patna, Gya, Shahabad, Sarun, Tirhoot, Chumparun, Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, and Purneah.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,
Calcutta, the 16th February 1874.

With reference to my endorsement informing you that the Government grain despatches by the East Indian Railway were to be 2,444 tons a day during the present week, I am directed to inform you that there seems to be some doubt whether the railway can, at the present moment, lift all that quantity of grain from Howrah over and above the ordinary traffic.

2. The railway authorities appear to hope that in a few days arrangements may be made to carry all that amount, and a good deal more if (as appears possible) the Government despatches have to be still further increased. But the Lieutenant-Governor deems it right that you should know how the case stands. He desires that on no account should any carts or boats that are engaged or collected for employment be turned off, owing to the insufficiency of the railway consignments. You should arrange to pay them full demurrage, and to have such demurrage paid through trustworthy hands. You will use your discretion about temporarily lending any surplus carts or boats collected for Government to private dealers; but even in such cases you should arrange that the carriage so lent should return to you.

3. Mr. Toynbee has been instructed on no account to let—

The Sarun dispatches viâ Arrah fall below	2,500	bags daily.
„ Colgong and Caragolo despatches fall below	3,000	„
„ Sultangunge despatches fall below	2,000	„
„ Rajmehal „ „	500	„
„ Futwah ghât „ „	8,000	„
„ Barrh ghât „ „	6,000	„
Total	22,000	„

And he has been directed to raise the despatches as more wagons become available for the several stations in the following order:—Futwah ghât, Barr ghât, small places for Gya, small places for Shahabad, Colgong, and Caragola.

4. I will let you know when there is a certainty of the railway working up to the full demands of Government. Meanwhile carriage must on no account be turned away.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 702—S.R.

Copy forwarded to Mr. Toynbee for guidance, and to Mr. C. E. Buckland for submission to Sir Richard Temple.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 16th February 1874.

ENCLOSURE No. 9.

STATEMENT of Men, Women, and Children employed on Relief Works in districts of Rajshahye, Patna, and Bhaugulpore divisions, for fortnight ending 7th February 1874.

Men - - -	- 511,792
Women - -	- 280,062
Children - -	- 218,641
Total	- 10,00,495

ENCLOSURE No. 11.

No. 817—S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL in the Statistical Department, to the COMMISSIONER of RAJSHAHYE.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR,

Calcutta, 18th February 1874.

Mr. Robinson's letters, Nos. 125, dated 25th December 1873, and 153, dated 27th January. Copies forwarded herewith.

WITH reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, I am directed to enclose copies of the letter of this Government to the Government of India, No. 534—S.R., dated 9th February, and the reply of that Government, No. 496, dated 14th February. You will see that the Government of India has accepted the principle of the proposal of this Government, viz., that in certain very exceptional circumstances Government, if it has the grain to spare, may sell grain wholesale, leaving it to the people themselves to distribute it retail, and has given this Government a discretion to permit grain to be so sold in such exceptional cases.

2. The conditions under which this permission can be granted are two-fold; viz., first, that Government has a sufficient supply of grain to enable it to sell in this manner without stinting its relief works and poor-houses; and second, that there is an absolute dearth of grain in the country, and a want of trade at the chief marts, but a sufficiency of local trade and local activity to distribute the supplies sold by Government. It is the character of wholesale transactions at large centres that distinguishes the plan now permitted from the charitable sales which are permitted under certain circumstances by the charitable relief rules. The latter presumes that food is brought almost the people's doors; the present plan will enable Government to stop short at the main marts without undertaking the task of further distribution, thus making the Government task much easier.

3. It is evident that wherever such a system is tried, it will be necessary to take great precautions that the food-grain is not allowed to fall into the hands of monopolists and regraters, who will hoard it up for their own profit. The system can only be permitted in rare instances. The place which was originally mentioned by Mr. Robinson as fitted for the trial of this system is Raigunge. Supposing then, for instance, that there really is not, and we cannot by advances or otherwise create a private wholesale trade to Raigunge, and that we have ourselves arranged for sufficient supplies there (which is by no means apparent yet); and supposing we find the country to be really denuded of supplies, then with the precautions above indicated we might allow individuals and petty dealers to buy and carry away quantities varying from, say, 20 seers to 10 or 20 maunds, or large quantities in some cases when it can be allowed safely under an arrangement which should ensure its use or its speedy sale to the people of some distressed village.

4. You are requested, in communication with Mr. Robinson, to work out and report the details of any action you would recommend in this matter, and to give the Government your and his opinion when we shall be in a position safely to make such sales, and the country in such a condition as to require them.

5. Before recommending such sales at Raigunge or anywhere else, you should satisfy yourself thoroughly that private trade cannot reach the place. You should state it there are any other places in the division besides Raigunge where you think such a system may be required. Will grain find its way up the Berhampooter by private trade? or may it be necessary to establish a Government depôt at Goalundo or at Kaleegunge? You will be very careful and cautious in making any such recomendations.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 818—S.R.

COPY of present letter with extracts from the enclosures, and of Mr. Robinson's letter No. 125, dated 25th December 1873, showing the circumstances of Raigunge, forwarded to Commissioners of Patna and Bhaulgulpore for information and guidance. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, observes that he doubts whether the system is so applicable to these divisions. It may there be better to induce the local traders to import from the railway stations by aid of advances, &c., as already sanctioned. But if the private traders find it impossidle to get carriage to bring supplies, or if for any other reason private trade cannot be looked to, it may be possible in some cases to ease the pressure of distribution by a system of this kind, if it should happen that the supplies of the country are reduced to the lowest ebb, while those of Government are abundant. Such a system can never be permitted where private trade is possible.

No. 819—S.R.

COPY of this letter with enclosures, and of the letter of the Government of India quoted in paragraph 1, forwarded to Relief Commissioner, Rajshahye.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 19th February 1874.

EXTRACTS from Correspondence about Condition of the Dinagepore Tracts where it is proposed to sell Government Rice.

No. 125, dated Dinagepore, the 25th December 1873.

From W. LEF. ROBINSON, ESQ., Relief Commissioner, Rajshahye Division, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

WITH reference to the question of golas for the storage of rice in the Dinagepore district, it will, I am convinced, be necessary to provide more golas for the west and north-west of the district. On the west side of the district no golas have yet been sanctioned north of the Raigunge on the Koolik, to which point only is there water communication. I have during the last ten days ridden over across the country north of Hemtabad thannah as far north as Laharee in thannah Thakoorgaon to the Purneah border on the west and to the Tangon on the north-east. Taking it roughly, this is a track of country 45 miles long by 30 broad, and throughout the length and breadth of it there will not be more than a four-anna crop of rice in the best parts, dwindling down to none at all in the worst. That there is no large amount of rice in store I have satisfied myself by personal inquiry; one or two men here and there have a fair supply, but nothing like a stock sufficient to keep the country, and in many cases the amount they are said to have is exaggerated by their poor neighbours. For instance, when riding yesterday I heard accidentally of a mundul who was said to have five large golas full, and to refuse to sell any; it was six or seven miles out of my road, but I thought it worth looking into, and went to his house; he had five golas, but two were empty, one was three parts full, another half full, and the fifth had only a small quantity in it.

There are no large native gunjes or marts in this part of the country. In ordinary years the rice exported is all taken to Raigunge and shipped off from there.

From all I could learn after many inquiries from all classes, the impression among the people is (and I must say I think they are right) that in a couple of months' time there will be a great want of rice in this part of the country, and that in fact the present supply will be about exhausted.

* * * * * * *

It appears to me that the great thing to do is to establish a large reserve at Raigunge available for drawing upon. I wish here to point out forcibly that there is no one in this part of the country (I allude to the north-north-west of Raigunge) who is at all likely to import on his own account as a mercantile speculation, and indeed throughout Dinagepore generally I do not think private enterprise to be depended upon at all.

The rice trade is here essentially an export one carried on principally through local agents by firms in Calcutta or elsewhere. The local agents report that there is no rice for export, and there the interest commercially of the firm and the local agent ceases; they do not care about supplying the country with food even as a speculation. The only people likely to exert themselves are the "paikars" or inferior agents who visit the village hauts and markets, buy rice as cheap, and sell it somewhere else as dear as they can, and these of course are the men who run up prices; in fact they combine for the express purpose. Where a profit is to be made, these men will try and make it for themselves; but they are by no means to be relied on to assist in time of need, nor have they any capital to enable them to import largely from a distance, or the kowledge of how to do so. Where there is a private trade, I should be very unwilling to interfere with it in any way; but when I have to face the great probability of having to feed the majority of the population before many months are over (though God grant I may be wrong), I cannot help thinking that something more is requisite than merely providing rice on relief works. I am strongly of opinion that if Government were to establish a good supply of rice at any fixed point, and sell to the people who require rice at the market rate, or slightly under it perhaps, people would do all the transport for themselves, and buy in a stock, as far as the better-off are concerned, enough to last them till next crop can come in; the well-to-do have the money, but not the rice; the poorer have neither, and we must give them work to enable them to buy.

Say we take Raigunge as a centre, and Government puts down a large stock of rice there and would sell. I believe the whole country up to Laharee that could afford it would go and buy and save Government all the trouble and expense of importing to distant localities. A limit might be put on what each man should be allowed to buy at a time; but I should not be chary on that score. If a local man would take 400 or 500 maunds to an out-of-the-way part of the country from the Government depôt as a speculation for profit, I would let him do so; if he does not do it, Government must if it comes to actual famine.

I am quite aware that the course I am proposing is opposed to the orders of Government on the subject; and those orders of course will be strictly attended to; but I do not think I should be doing my duty unless I pointed out, as forcibly as I can, that I do not believe private trade will do anything perceptible to avert famine in this district, and that I do believe the people, or at any rete some portion of them, will do what they can to help themselves if the means are put within their reach. Many men who would die sooner than work on the roads would think nothing of going 20 or 30 miles to buy rice to keep themselves and their families alive, and village mundula and large cultivators are quite aware of the importance of helping their poorer neighbours as much as possible if only for safety's sake.

To put the question in another form: when actual famine begins, as I fear it must in some places, would not Government strain every nerve to save people from dying of hunger? If so, anything that will mitigate that strain must, it appears to me, be beneficial even in a £ *s. d.* point of view; and if the people will themselves do the transport inland, it must be cheaper to Government than doing it for them, no matter what interference there may be with the strict rules of political economy.

I trust I shall be excused for having ventured to state my opinion on the point, but the subject is one so terrible to contemplate that I do not think I should be justified in avoiding a declaration of my opinion which, however faulty it may be, is at any rate genuine and sincere.

No. 153, dated Camp Gyebandha, the 27th January 1874.

From W. LEF. ROBINSON, ESQ., Relief Commissioner, Rajshahye, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

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H.—LOCAL TRADE.

As I said in my last letter, the trade is entirely an export one as far as food is concerned; it is carried on by non-resident firms chiefly, who send agents yearly to buy up rice for export, but there being no rice to buy this year the agents will not come, and the firms who export have not the slightest interest in importing rice into the district. Not being able to get their rice here, they simply send their agents to some other place where rice is procurable. If I saw the slightest hope of an import trade springing up in consequence of a rise in prices, I should not have urged the course I did; but I say unhesitatingly that no such trade will spring up. There is no one with either the knowledge, capital, and energy combined which are necessary to enter into such an undertaking on the scale required. Trade connections are not formed in a month or two; the routes are long and difficult, and the risk of partial or total loss is proportionate.

Taking the present price of rice at Calcutta, which I believe is Rs. 3-2 to Rs. 7-6 per maund, as compared with the latest price I know of at Raigunge, viz., 10 seers per rupee, no private speculator could import rice from Calcutta to Raigunge and sell at 10 seers per rupee at a profit, and Calcutta is the most accessible point from which to get rice to Raigunge. I may be wrong in my calculation, but I base it upon this—

Price of rice in Calcutta, at Rs. 3-4 - - - - -	3	4	0
Rail ⅛th pie per mile—1 anna for 96 miles per maund; Sahebgunge is about 250 miles from Calcutta, say 2½ annas per maund, Calcutta to Sahebgunge - - - - - - -	0	2	6
Sahebgunge to Hyatpore by boat, loading and unloading, &c., about 0-1-6 per maund - - - - - - - -	0	1	6
Hyatpore to Kurbah I know is - - - - - -	0	6	6
Kurbah to Raigunge is about half - - - - -	0	3	0
	4	1	6

say 3 annas a maund, to say nothing of risk and losses in transit, establishment and other expenses incident to opening a new trade.

It has been suggested to me that Government might sanction rice being sold through a relief committee if one were nominated. I am not the least wedded to any theory of my own, and perhaps this may be the intention of Government; in case it is, I submit herewith a nomination for members of a relief committee at Raigunge:—

MEMBERS.

H. L. Jones, Esq., District Superintendent of Police.
The Moonsiff of Hemtabad.
Baboo Janokinath Gus Gossein, the native doctor attached to the Rajbarry Dispensary at Raigunge.
The Naib of the Rajbarry estates at Raigunge.
The head-master of the school at Raigunge.

I would suggest that they should, as an experiment at any rate, be allowed to dispose of 10,000 maunds of rice, say in all February, at 10 seers for the rupee, and that they should not sell more than 50 maunds, or less than a whole bag to any one person, though for my own part I would prefer no restriction beyond keeping a sufficient supply in hand for relief work labor. If such a scheme meets with Government approval, I would suggest that another sale depôt should be formed at Godagaree, and a third at Patnitola. If this were done I believe the people of the district and the petty local traders would do all the transport into the worst part of the country for themselves, and thereby save Government enormous expense. I enclose a copy of a letter from the present Magistrate and Collector of Dinagepore, which also recommends some such course being adopted.

I base my recommendation to sell, on the grounds that there is some money in the country and very little grain; that if the people can get rice within a reasonable distance at a fair price they will go and buy it and take it themselves to their home (or to neighbouring markets if petty dealers), and so supply places difficult of access. I argue that all the better class will do this in preference to first spending all they have and then resorting to relief works, while their families are left either to starve or to be supported by Government. If the working portion of the population is employed on relief works and paid in rice, Government will have to provide for their families or let them starve; but if the men who can afford to buy now were enabled to purchase even one or two months' supply, it would immensely lessen the strain on the Government resources. I also urge the plan as a measure of economy to the Government itself. Indeed, it appears to me to be the only way of recovering a portion of the enormous expenses which must be incurred; if things come to the worst, Government will then have to feed at least 70 or 80 per cent of the population, whereas if rice is sold, I firmly believe that 50 or 60 per cent. would provide for themselves.

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No. 3 Ct., dated Camp Bhaduria, the 15th January 1874.

From E. E. Lowis, Esq., Magistrate of Dinagepore, to the Special Relief Commissioner, Dinagepore.

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8. The local agency for the import of rice consists of the local mahajuns, the commercial population residing at the various marts or bunders, and the zemindars. The local mahajuns cannot be trusted to import rice on the scale required, for they are not men of sufficient capital, nor have they been in the habit of dealing in grain, except in a very small way; the harvests in Dinagepore have up to date always been abundant, and with rice bought up by large traders or their agents on the spot, the ryots have not had much occasion to deal with the village mahajuns except in their capacity of money-lenders.

9. The mahajuns, I mean the small village ones, have had little or nothing to do with the large trade in rice, traders at the marts on the rivers having dealt either personally with the ryots or through their paikars and agents who buy at the hauts. In such a case it may be asked why should these traders not be available for import, as well as for export? The reason is that the traders at all the large bunders are not trading on their own account, but are mere agents or gomashtas for firms in Calcutta, Coomerkally, Dacca, the North-West, &c.; and this year there being no rice to export, the agency has been withdrawn altogether, or only some inferior servant, sent probably to try and recover any advances that have been made to the ryots for grain.

10. I do not consider that we can depend on the village mahajuns or the commercial population at the marts to import rice in the quantity that will, I am sure, be required. If it were a question of getting rice in from Rungpore or Rajshahye, I think the local trade might be trusted to rise to the occasion; but when it comes to be a question of getting rice from Burmah, or Madras, it is a different thing. The firms who are engaged in the export trade of this district undoubtedly could do so, but the principals are not here to appeal to, and such of the gomashtas as I have seen say they will write and ask their masters, but that in their opinion the profit is not worth the risk. I may add that the people generally are convinced that the Sarkar is going to help them in the matter of rice, and this may account in some measure for the traders' gomashtas thinking that their masters will not make much profit by importation.

11. There remain the zemindars and other well-to-do inhabitants; many of these are willing enough to import if they could see their way to do so. They say, however, the importation of rice from distant places is not a business they are acquainted with, or which they have any means of starting; if it were a question of mere inland transport, then many of them profess their willingness to accomplish that, but importation from a distance they shrink from.

12. Rice, however, must be brought into the district if not by the local traders then by Government, and this can be done without a very ruinous expense. There is no difficulty in this district about inland transport; Government need not trouble about that, if rice is put down at certain bunders on the river, and if it is known that rice is to be had, I am quite sure the paikars and beparis who frequent the hauts, to say nothing of the well-to-do monduls, will see that it is distributed at the different hauts wherever wanted. There was a large quantity of rice stored on the banks of the Jomoona, at the end of the rains, which could not be exported, owing to want of water in the river; that rice has since been gradually distributed all over this district and Rungpore, and the process is still going on. I saw strings of carts belonging to beparies going to and from Berhampore bunder; again in Kallygunge thannah I asked the people where, as they had no crop and no old stock, they got their rice; they said, "the beparies bring their rice to the "hauts from Dinagepore or elsewhere."

13. It may be that firms in Calcutta or elsewhere may see their way to pushing rice into Dinagepore; if they will only do so and sell at the existing bunders on the river bank where plenty of golas are to be had, they may depend on the beparies buying from them, and taking grain into the interior. Whoever brings in rice it should be imported speedily, for the pinch of want will be felt soon; in fact it is being felt in some places already, and will be more manifest when what there is of new rice in the market has been consumed.

14. If no one else comes forward to import, Government must, and by doing so now the expense will be very much lessened, for once the people get beyond a certain stage, and have neither money nor strength to labor to get any, Government will not only have to convey and store rice at the bunders but will have all the trouble and expense of inland transport, village distribution, relief committees, &c.

15. In riding about the country I am in the habit of conversing with the villagers, and I have not yet met a man who hoped to get any help in the way of importation from the local traders;

they all seemed to think that it was the duty of the Sarkar to supply the market in some way. In fact, as regards the mahajuns, the very general complaint is that they will not now advance money or grain on any terms; one respectable old Mahomedan even asked me, if Government would not take the place of the money-lenders and undertake to make advances to enable the villagers to tide over their difficulties.

16. I may be mistaken in my estimate of the resources of the district, but the fact remains that no rice has as yet been imported except by Government, and none, I fear, will be, and I would submit, in deference to your opinion, it would be wiser for Government to send rice now to almost any amount into the district, and let it be known that it is for sale at a certain price, than to incur the future expense of keeping the country from starvation by gratuitous door-to-door relief.

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LETTER from DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, No. 498, dated 14th February.

I AM directed to acknowledge your letter No. 554—S.R., of the 12th instant, with enclosed correspondence with Mr. Robinson, the Relief Commissioner of Rajshahye, in connection with his proposal to sell Government grain in certain exceptional tracts of the Dinagepore district, and in reply to the inquiry made in your 3rd paragraph, I am to state that the Government of Bengal is authorised to sanction the sale of Government grain in special and exceptional cases of the kind under notice.

No. 100.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, dated Calcutta, the 14th January 1874.

[Agriculture and Horticulture.]
Famine.

RESOLUTION.

THE volume named "Famine Aspects of Bengal Districts" has been prepared by Mr. W. W. Hunter, Director of Statistics, in accordance with a request by the Government of India that he would embody in a compact form, out of the materials which he has collected for the Gazetteers of Bengal, such information as might be useful at the present time.

2. The work has been well and quickly executed, and will be found to contain much practical information. It is to be understood that the Preface is not intended to give expression to the views of the Government, but only to the conclusions which Mr. Hunter has himself deduced from the information at his command.

3. The thanks of the Government are due to Mr. Hunter for this valuable contribution to the Famine Statistics of Bengal.

COPIES of the work will be transmitted for the information of the Government of Bengal, and for circulation, together with this Resolution, to Departments, local officers, and others concerned.

(True extract.)
(Signed) A. P. HOWELL,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 13 OF 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To The Most Honorable the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS, Calcutta, the 27th February 1874.

IN continuation of our weekly despatches we have the honor to forward a copy of the supplement to the Calcutta Gazette of the 25th instant, from which Your Lordship will observe with satisfaction that the generally favorable character of the district reports, noticed in our despatch of the 13th instant, has been maintained, and that in some of the distressed districts prices have slightly fallen.

2. We further enclose, with reference to para. 7 of our last despatch, the record of proceedings at the conference* held on the 21st instant for the disposal of current

* Page 119.

business. We have invited the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to a similar conference to be held weekly for the same purpose.

3. We enclose copies of Sir Richard Temple's minutes* of the 19th instant, Nos. 25 to 28, received from the Government of Bengal, on the subject of the supplies required and the relief operations in progress in different parts of the Bhaugulpore Division. As Sir Richard Temple is expected to return to Calcutta to-morrow, we defer until next week a full account of his proceedings. At present we will only observe that complete arrangements for transport, as summarised in our telegram of this date, have now been made in the Patna Division and the Bhaugulpore District. * Pages 123, 126–127.

4. We have on a previous occasion explained to Your Lordship that the additional transport arrangements made up-country have put a severe pressure upon the carrying power of the East Indian Railway, which we calculated would limit the daily despatches from Calcutta to an average of 2,000 tons independent of the requirements of private trade. This average has been somewhat exceeded, as will be observed from the enclosed schedule. We have no doubt, that when some further facilities, now in progress at the several points of despatch, have been completed, the daily despatches on account of Government will amount to 2,500 tons. Our supplies from beyond sea continue to arrive in sufficient quantities to maintain this rate.

5. We enclose the first report* of the Superintendent of State Emigration, showing that, as a beginning of operations, about 250 effective laborers have been despatched to British Burmah, about 100 are awaiting passage, and daily recruitment is going on. A considerable addition may be expected to these numbers when the local officers have carried out the instructions issued to them on the subject as reported in our despatch of the 30th ultimo. * Page 127.

6. We have to acknowledge Your Lordship's telegram of the 24th instant, and in reply we have sent this day a telegraphic summary of the returns called for from the Government of Bengal, showing the number of relief centres in each famine district, the grain actually stored at each centre, the grain in transit, the number of laborers employed on relief works, their rate of pay, and the number receiving gratuitous relief. We enclose the returns in original as received.* They have necessarily been somewhat hurriedly prepared, and we do not think that they are sufficiently complete to make it of any advantage at present to attach, as requested in your Lordship's telegram, a current number to each relief centre, but a more complete list will be sent by next mail, and the additional weekly telegram will be continued. * Pages 129 and 130.

7. We enclose a telegram,* received this day from the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces confirming the favorable anticipations of the coming harvest previously reported. * Page 130.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

List of Enclosures of Despatch to the Secretary of State No. 13 $\frac{\text{Agriculture and Horticulture,}}{\text{Famine,}}$ dated the 27th February 1874.

1. Supplement to the Calcutta Gazette of the 25th instant.
2. Schedule of letters and subjects disposed of, February 21st, by the Governor General of India in Council at a meeting at which the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal attended.
3. Record of explanations and instructions given to the Central Relief Committee at Government House on the 21st February 1874.
4. Letter from Mr. Buckland, No. 69, dated 21st February 1874, and enclosures.
5. Statement showing the quantity of rice despatched from Calcutta by the East Indian Railway to some of the famine stricken districts of Bengal and Behar from the 18th to 24th instant inclusive.
6. Dr. Payne's memorandum on Emigration to Burma, dated 24th February 1874.
7. Letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 187 P. S., dated 26th February 1874, and enclosures.
8. Telegram from the Government of the North-Western Provinces, dated 27th February 1874.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE CALCUTTA GAZETTE, Wednesday, February 25, 1874.

RELIEF WORKS IN PART OF THE SHAHABAD DISTRICT.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to direct the publication of the correspondence noted below for the information of local officers, and their attention is invited thereto.

No. 1035, dated Fort William, the 19th February 1874.

Memorandum from COLONEL J. E. T. NICOLLS, R.E., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Scarcity and Relief Department.

No. 801, dated the 14th instant.

THE undersigned has the honor to forward for information the annexed extract (paragraphs 7, 8, 13 to 17, and 22) from a report of an inspection made by the Superintending Engineer of the Northern Circle, between the 7th and 13th instant, on relief works in part of the Shahabad District.

EXTRACTS from an Inspection Report No. 801, dated 14th February 1874, from the Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, on Relief Works in part of the Shahabad District, between the 7th and 13th of February 1874.

Paragraph 7. I remarked in driving along the line the good effects of the measures taken by Baboo Teeluck Sing, a Rajpoot of Barji, in October last; the rubbee crops, as far as the eye could reach on each side of the road, seemed in splendid condition; water was still flowing into the excavations all along the road-side, and is being utilized in irrigation channels.

8. Mr. McNamara, the Executive Engineer, informs me that the zemindar, at a cost of about Rs. 400, had banked up the Durgowty River, and, with the aid of Rajputahs, succeeded in irrigating a tract of land which Mr. McNamara estimates at 30,000 beegahs, extending over twenty-six villages. I do not enter into details of the great benefit conferred on the people by Baboo Teeluck Sing, as I conclude the matter has been brought to the notice of Government by the civil authorities; but I am surprised that similar steps were not taken in other parts of the district to utilize running streams of a similar nature to the Durgowty. The benefit to the country would have been enormous.

* * * * * * * *

From Bhabooa to Bhugwanpore, five miles.

13. This very useful village road has been repaired by Mr. Newland, of Mussahya Factory, from district funds, at a cost of Rs. 10 a mile. It requires raising here and here; and if it is considered necessary hereafter that it should form a relief work, it should be continued from Bhugwanpore through Rajghat to open out the trafic from the plateau on the hills where a tract already exists.

From Bhugwanpore to Chynepore.

14. This a country road eight miles in length, skirting the foot of the hills and runs almost parallel to the line of the Main Western Canal about to be carried out; it has been repaired by Mr. Newland, of Mussahya, and culverts have been constructed.

15. The road is in very good order, and appears to be a useful line of communication from the hills to Durgowty on the Grand Trunk Road; much traffic in lime, stone, hides, spices, rice, &c., passes along the line.

From Chynepore to Hatta and on to Durgowty on the Grand Trunk Road, fourteen miles.

16. The above line ceases near Chynepore, through which runs the road from Bhaboοa. I would recommend that the Bhugwanpore road should be raised and re-aligned so as to meet the Bhabooa road which runs on to Hatta; this might be a relief work if required, but I imagine the canal works will absorb all the labor in the neighbourhood when it is once started.

17. I found about 450 men, women, and children, at work on the road between Hatta and Durgowty. This appeared to be the only spot where want had induced the people to come and work, and the look of the country round showed how the rice crops had failed. I however remarked, with regard to the returns sent in of the different classes of people employed on these relief works, that it does not follow that because the returns show that artizans and handicraftsmen seek work on the roads, that these are men who have actually left their several trades for road-making; but that though they are weavers, &c., by caste or families, many of them have never even learnt their trade, but have been from their infancy employed in agricultural labor, and are used to earthwork.

* * * * * * * * *

22. Near Matianee, in the 375th mile, I observed that the water from the Durgowty was still flowing into the ditches and tanks along the road-side, and was carried away over the country by artificial irrigation channels. The embankment across the river, noticed in my 7th paragraph, is near Matianee; the crops for miles on each side of the road were magnificent.

LIBERALITY OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJAH OF BURDWAN.

No. 896—S.R., dated Calcutta, the 21st February 1874.

From A. MACKENZIE, ESQ., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the COMMISSIONER OF BURDWAN.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 185T., dated 15th February, reporting that the Maharajah of Burdwan has at his own cost organised a charitable relief department for his estates, with centres at Burdwan, Culna, and Chinsurah.

2. In reply, I am to request you to convey to His Highness an expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's acknowledgment of this fresh instance of the Maharajah's liberality to the poor and suffering. The Lieutenant-Governor felt sure that he was warranted in informing the Government of India, as he did a few weeks back, that in Burdwan our having the Maharajah to rely upon was a great consolation under the present circumstances of that district. The facts reported by you have quite justified His Honor's expectations.

No. 185T., dated Burdwan, the 15th February 1874.

From C. T. Buckland, Esq., Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of the memorandum dated 11th instant, from His Highness the Maharajah of Burdwan regarding the formation of a relief department at His Highness' own cost in the district of Burdwan. The relief centres will be at Burdwan and at Culna, with a branch at Chinsurah in Hooghly. The Maharajah has made this arrangement in compliance with my suggestion that he should undertake the care of the poor of the district as he did in 1866; and in addition to this, he has written to me to say that he is prepared to do anything else that is necessary for charitable purposes. His Highness' present action is only a continuation of numerous deeds of charity and liberality for which he has always been distinguished, and I have no doubt that it will meet with the suitable acknowledgment of Government.

Memorandum.

I have formed a relief department for the purpose of more efficiently alleviating the distress which is likely to ensue to the poor of the Burdwan Raj during the time of scarcity. This department will be known as the Maharajah's relief department. I have placed it under the direct control and superintendence of my nephew, Lala Bena Beharee Burmah, and my Secretary, Mr. Miller, at Burdwan, until my arrival at that place. The relief will be under the charge of my debutter member, Baboo Bungsee Gopal, and at Culna after my departure the relief works will be supervised by Lala Maneek Chand Kaapoor and Dr. Baboo Mohendro Lall Goopto, medical officer in charge of my dispensary. At Chinsurah the relief work will be under the darogah of the rajbaree. All reports, however, will be made to Lala Bene Behary Burmah and Mr. Miller, who will submit weekly general statements through me to the Commissioner.

Rice is now being purchased at places where cheaper rates prevail, and orders for further importation have been given. The department will be guided by circumstances as to the manner in which the relief may be most effectively administered. At the present time it is intended to make two depôts for the relief of the very poor, one at Culna and one at Burdwan, as was done in 1866. The gift of food will be limited to the old and infirm men and the women and children. All persons fit for labor will be provided with work on the relief works, and the overseer of the latter will receive orders to admit all able-bodied people and give them work. It is also intended to keep as many skilled workmen as possible off the relief works, by providing them with work in their own trade. By these means I hope that if the department works energetically and heartily much suffering may be alleviated.

Mahtab Chunder,
Burdwan Maharaj Udheeraj.

Rajbaree, Culna, the 11th February 1874.

Schedule of Letters and Subjects disposed of, February 21st, by the Governor-General of India in Council, at a Meeting at which His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal attended.

I.—Letters from the Government of Bengal

January 31st	No. 334 S. R.
February 3rd	„ 166 P. S.
„ 3rd	„ 415 S. R.
„ 9th	„ 555 S. R.
„ 12th	„ 641 S. R.
„ 20th	„ 856 S. R.
„ 20th	„ 860 S. R.

transmitting weekly transport returns in forms ordered in letter No. 82 of 12th January.

The Government of India will not make any observations upon these returns, believing that the deficiencies have been adequately noticed by the Government of Bengal, and that all concerned are now making every endeavour to organize sufficient transport.

The returns may, in future, be sent in fortnightly in lieu of weekly as originally directed.

II. Letters from the Government of Bengal—

February 13th	No. 664 S. R.
„ 14th	„ 689 S. R.
„ 16th	„ 708 R. S.
„ 17th	„ 178 P. S.
„ 18th	„ 835 S. R.
„ 21st	„ 876 S. R.

on the subject of the transport of grain to the distressed districts.

The Viceroy had an interview with the Agent and the Consulting Engineer of the East Indian Railway Company on the 18th instant, and was assured by the Agent that the Company could convey 2,500 tons a day, besides 200 tons a day consisting of materials for the Chumpta Ghât and Durbungha Railway, and required no assistance from Government, and that, if after a week's experience it was found that wagons were not detained at the up-country stations, the Company could carry a larger quantity.

Further inquiry leads the Government to believe that 2,500 tons a day is rather more than the present facilities for loading, &c., enable the Company to carry. Yesterday nearly 2,000 tons were carried, and it would be unsafe to calculate as yet upon a larger quantity as the daily average.

The present requisitions are—

	Maunds.	
Arrah for Sarun	35,000	a week.
Patna for Chumparun	50,000	,,
Patna fer Tirhoot	100,000	,,
Barrh for Tirhoot	100,000	,,
For Bhaugulpore (estimated)	50,000	,,

Supplies for Dinagepore viâ Rajmehal and some further demands since received make a total of 380,000 maunds, or say 14,000 tons a week, or 2,000 tons a day. Although this quantity may be conveyed, Government consider it to be more safe to relieve the strain upon the transport from Calcutta. The Government of Bengal are, therefore, authorised to instruct the Commissioner of Patna to arrange for part or the whole of the supplies required for Sarun in such way as may be best through the local grain dealers, and arrangements should be made, as far as possible, to supply Dinagepore viâ the Eastern Bengal Railway and Kooshtea, instead of viâ Rajmehal.

Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor, Consulting Engineer for the East Indian Railway Company, has been directed to visit the Howrah Station daily, and report the progress of the transport, with full authority to take any measures he may think necessary to facilitate the despatch of the Government grain. He has arranged that the weighing of rice should be omitted as causing delay; this is one of the suggestions contained in No. 876 S. R. of 21st February. The other suggestion contained in that letter, that the different consignments of rice need not be kept separate, is approved.

The Government of Bengal are mistaken in supposing that there is any deficiency in the supplies of Government rice in Calcutta, there being at the present time about 15,000 tons either stored or afloat in Calcutta.

The demand for transport has been largely and suddenly increased, but the Government of India believe that, although there may be some temporary difficulties, the requirements will be met both in Calcutta and up-country.

III.—Provision of rice in 30-seer bags.

Letters from the Government of Bengal—

February 9th	No. 546 S. R.
,, 18th	,, 825 S. R.

It was arranged that all rice re-bagged in Calcutta shall be bagged in 30-seer bags; that endeavours should be made to obtain 35,000 tons of rice expected in April in 30-seer bags, and some of the rice from Burma in one maund bags, but that the shipments should not be delayed, in order that the size of the bags may be changed.

The Government of Bengal to arrange to re-bag rice, if necessary, at local depôts.

IV. The Government of Bengal are requested to cause the returns of the exports of food-grains given in the appindices to the special narratives to be furnished by the Collector of Customs, as the return in the last narrative differs from that received by the Government of India from him

V.—Orders have been given for the supply of Veterinary Surgeons and Public Works Overseers asked for by Sir Richard Temple. The latter should be trustworthy men. The Secretary in the Public Works Department is instructed to see to this.

An additional Commissioner is authorised to be employed in North Behar, and also to act in conjunction with Mr. Barlow in the Bhaugulpore Division. Allowances to be settled in the Financial Department.

VI.—Letters from the Government of Bengal—

February 16th	No. 705 S. R.
,, 17th	,, 766 S. R.
,, 19th	,, 737 S. R.
,, 20th	,, 864 S. R.

Explanations and instructions were given to the Central Relief Committee, which will be recorded by Mr. Bernard. Copy of record to be submitted to the Government of India for approval.

VII.—Letter from the Government of Bengal—

February 11th	No. 616.

Mr. Geddes to act as Secretary to the Central Relief Committee in addition to his other work connected with the scarcity, and at no charge upon the funds of the Committee.

A. Howell,

Deputy-Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

RECORD of Explanations and Instructions given to the Central Relief Committee at Government House on the 21st February.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY.	THE HONORABLE B. H. ELLIS.
THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.	THE HONORABLE E. C. BAYLEY.

Members of the Executive Committee:

MR. SCHALCH.	MR. BULLEN SMITH.
MR. DALYELL.	MR. BERNARD.
MR. ROBINSON.	MOONSHEE AMEER ALI.
RAJAH JOTENDRO MOHUN TAGORE.	BABOO DOORGA CHURN LAW.
MR. SUTHERLAND.	

His Excellency the Viceroy said he had invited the members of the executive committee to meet him and the Lieutenant-Governor, because he considered that any matters requiring settlement would be better discussed and decided at a conference of this kind. He reviewed the position; he said that matters had developed since the beginning of November. It had then been intended that the central relief committee should, when constituted, buy grain for relief purposes. But for some time it had been held that a central committee could not be usefully appointed; there were people who said there was no famine and would be none; and while matters were so, it was deemed inexpedient to make any general appeal to the public. Meanwhile the Government had bought or arranged for a very large supply of grain, and would have, in most places, enough grain for charitable distribution.

On the occasion of the conference at Government House, on the 24th of January, at which the instructions to relief committees were settled, the Government did not know so fully as it now does what was or would be the position of affairs. But now we know that, as shown in the Lieutenant-Governor's last special narrative, a large proportion of the whole population will require relief in North Behar, and in some other limited tracts; while over the rest of the country regarding which the Government had been anxious, matters were turning out more favorably. In the very bad tracts the Government of India could not leave the responsibility of superintending the local committees to the central committee at Calcutta. The Commissioner of the division, with his officers, must be responsible for the relief of distress.

The question then arose, how the central committee could work in these very distressed tracts. They might desire to contribute in aid of particular classes of relief there. Perhaps, the Viceroy said, Mr. Schalch had considered the matter, and would explain his view as to any possible division or distribution of functions.

Mr. Schalch observed that the rule at the top of page 3 of the relief committees' instructions (settled at Government House on a previous occasion) clearly laid down that the responsibility for meeting and relieving distress lay upon Government officers.

His Excellency the Viceroy inquired if this point had been clearly put by the central committee.

Mr. Schalch explained that the central committee were circulating the Government of India's orders regarding the functions of the central committee, and that thus the orders and wishes of the Government of India would be clearly made known. These orders (No. 476, dated 13th February), make it very clear that the responsibility and control will rest with the Commissioner and the Government officers.

His Excellency the Viceroy then took up the several references on the subject of the working of relief committees pending before the Government of India, or brought forward by the Lieutenant-Governor for discussion, as follows:

I.—Payment of Relief establishments.

His Excellency the Viceroy read out the Bengal Government letter asking who was to pay the salaries of the relief superintendents who were being appointed to administer relief in relief circles in North Tirhoot, each of which had an area of about 100 square miles.

The Lieutenant-Governor explained that the letter had been sent up hurriedly the previous evening, so that the matter might be ready for the conference, and that in reality there was involved the question of all relief establishments, storekeepers, clerks, &c.

The Viceroy observed that the view of the Government of India would be that relief establishments, designed to distribute and superintend relief on a very large scale in the most distressed districts, were and must be organised by Government, and their staff appointed and paid by Government. The local committees there would act under the general advice and supervision of the officers of Government. In smaller areas of less severe distress, or in large towns like Calcutta, the central committee might very well direct the operations of the local committees. But in tracts like North Tirhoot, where a large proportion of the people would have to be relieved, the work would be beyond the means of the central committee.

II.—Are local relief committees bound to affiliate themselves to the central committee whether they like it or not?

After some discussion it was settled, with the Lieutenant-Governor's concurrence, that local committees may, if they so desire, manage and spend the charitable funds they themselves collect plus the Government subscription, and need not come under the central committee's rules until they ask aid from the central committee's funds. It will be desirable, however, that the central committee should, for purposes of finally reporting on all charitable relief expenditure, obtain some short abstract account from every local committee which may act separately.

III.—Are the district charitable committees bound to buy their rice from the Government stores, or may they purchase grain outside?

After some discussion it was settled, with the Lieutenant-Governor's concurrence, that any committee might buy outside if it liked. If a committe wished to buy from the Government stores, the conditions of such purchase would be as follows :—

If in any district the Government had no grain stores, then of course the committee would have to buy for themselves. If there were Government stores, then the local officer acting under the general instructions of the Commissioner would decide whether the relief committee should be allowed to buy Government rice, or whether they should buy for themselves. For instance, in Shahabad, regarding which district a specific reference had been made, if the Commissioner of Patna thought that the Government stores would only suffice for the laborers on the Government works, and if he were satisfied that the committees could supply themselves cheaply and easily with grain from the North-Western Provinces, then he would tell the district committees to get in grain for themselves from the North-Western Provinces.

IV.—What price were the committees to pay for the Government grain?

It was settled that in the very distressed districts where grain will have to be very largely distributed, the cost of such grain would be beyond the means of the local committees, and that therefore no charge would be made against the committees for any Government grain distributed by way of relief in the very distressed districts which the Lieutenant-Governor should define ; on the other hand, any receipts by committees on account of the sale or advance of grain would be credited to Government.

In regard to other less-distressed districts or tracts it was settled that where there are Government stores, and the Government officers decide to let the committees buy grain from their stores, the central committee, or any district committee working under the central committee's rules, may buy the Government grain at 10 per cent. below the wholesale rate ruling in the nearest large mart where there are ample supplies. The Viceroy explained that for the Patna division Patna prices would rule the selling price of Government grain to the committees in that division.

Under this ruling the Commissioner of the division will settle once a month for his division what is to be considered the market rate of the month under these instructions.

It was explained that the Government granted this concession in respect of Government grain only to committees working under the central committee's rules, because in the case of such committees only would the Government have a guarantee that the committees' sales would not affect the market.

V.

His Excellency the Viceroy then was shown by Mr. Schlaeh the draft of certain detailed instructions about relief arrangements in Tirhoot which the central committee had proposed to submit to the local Government for sanction. His Excellency observed that those instructions, or indeed any instructions laying down the details of relief arrangements in the very distressed districts, could not with advantage issue from the central committee. Instructions such as those might be very well issued by the Commissioner; but it was the Government officers who must be responsible for relief arrangements in the very distressed districts. In such districts the central committee would probably desire to restrict themselves to supplying funds to the local committees. The responsibility for the general relief of distress must not be placed on the central committee for the very distressed districts. The feeling of the Government was that there must be unity of responsibility and control in all the relief matters in such districts, and the responsibility and control must rest with the officers of Government.

The Lieutenant-Governor would let the central committee know now and from time to time in what districts, or parts of districts, the Government officers will relieve the central committee from the responsibility of superintending the local committees.

VI.

The question then arose, who was to pay the relief agency in districts where full relief establishments are not maintained by Government. It was ruled that, if a moderate agency only was employed, the central or district committee would employ, appoint, and pay the agency. But if a large agency for general relief from village to village was required, the committee would apply to Government, and if such an agency were held necessary, then the district would probably have to be brought into the category of districts to be relieved by establishments paid by Government.

VII.

There remained the question, in what way would the charitable funds raised in very distressed districts or allotted to them by the central committee be spent? In reply it was decided that the local committees would act under the instructions contained in paragraphs 2 and 3, heading II. of "Instructions to Relief Committees," settled on the 24th January.

The only modifications and additions being that the local committees in such districts will be under the general supervision of the Commissioner of the division, or such officer as he may appoint, and not under that of the central relief committee;—that Government grain will be supplied to the committees free of charge; and that the expense of the establishments will be borne by Government.

No. 69, dated Durbhanga, the 21st February 1874.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, ESQ., with SIR R. TEMPLE on special service, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, in the Statistical Department.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of the following minutes recorded by Sir Richard Temple; viz., No. 25, regarding the grain requirements of the Soopoole and Mudhepoora sub-divisions of the Bhaugulpore district, and the transport arrangements; No. 26, about the establishment of sub-committees in those sub-divisions; No. 27, on the subject of the relief road works in the same tract; and No. 28, on the Commissioner's estimate of the needs of the Purneah district.

2. Sir Richard Temple earnestly hopes that his recommendations may meet with His Honor's approval, and that the necessary steps may be taken to carry them into effect.

MINUTE No. 25, by the Honorable SIR R. TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Soopoole, the 19th February 1874.

1. HAVING visted the north part of the Bhaugulpore district, which may be regarded as the distressed part, and conferred with the Commissioner, the Collector, the civil officers of the Soopoole and Mudhepoora sub-divisions, where the distress is most likely to occur; also with the officers of the Court of Wards in the Nareedigur pergunnah of the Soopoole sub-division, and with those Native gentlemen whom I have been able to meet, I have to record the following observations.

2. The Collector, Mr. V. Taylor, assures me that in those parts of the district which lie south of the Ganges, and those which are situate on the basin of the river Kosee, there is no reason to fear any serious distress, and on the north bank of the Ganges the crops are excellent; indeed the excellence of the prospects of the crops near the Ganges is beyond doubt. Here and there owing to the high range of prices all over the country, there may be scattered outbreaks of distress. Otherwise the prospect of wide-spread and protracted distress is restricted to the tract which lies on the eastern or left bank of the Teeljooga, which tract extends eastward till it approaches the "spill" or basin of the Kosee, the said tract adjoining the Mudhobanee and Durbhanga sub-divisions of Tirhoot.

3. This tract includes the thannahs of Soopoole, Bungaon, Pertabgunge, (Soopoole sub-division), and the thannah Mudhepoora (in the Mudhepoora sub-division). The population of these thannahs is as given below:—

Soopoole	-	279,102
Bungaon	-	145,088
Pertabgunge	-	141,577
Mudhepoora	-	251,683
Total	-	817,430

4. The cause of distress here is much the same as in North-Eastern Tirhoot:—namely, the failure of the principal rice crop, which failed from insufficiency of rain on a hard soil peculiarly needing abundant moisture. The case is, however, slightly better than Eastern Tirhoot, because of the murwa crop of August being somewhat larger, the spring crop of wheat being somewhat better, and the supplementary crop, cheena, sown since recent rain, being susceptible of irrigation. Still allowing for all these circumstances, the nature of the case in most parts of the above-mentioned thannahs does not materially differ for the better from North-Eastern Tirhoot. There is reason to fear that for several months the distress will be severe.

5. The Commissioner of the division, Mr. Barlow, has given me a careful and elaborate calculation, which I append. He has made this after consulting the Collector and the sub-divisional officers. The result is that he reckons on a possibility of 1,71,651 persons needing assistance for a period of five months, hence he deduces a requirement of 5,00,000 maunds at ¾ seer per head per diem, to which he adds 1,00,000 maunds as a margin of security.

6. My own opinion, after the best consideration which I am able to give to the subject, is that some of the per-centages assumed in Mr. Barlow's calculation may be exceeded actually in many parts of the tract when the worst season of distress arrives.

7. All things considered, I estimate that in thannahs Soopoole and Bungaon 50 per cent. of the population may need assistance in the most distressed half, and 30 per cent. in the other half; that in thannah Pertabgunge, not quite so distressed, there would be 30 per cent.; that in Mudhepoora, in one half badly distressed, there would be 50 per cent., while the other half may escape from distress altogether. This estimate gives a total number of 2,74,650 souls, which might need assistance for three and a half months, from 1st June to 15th September, while half this number might need assistance for April and May and one quarter of this number for March. This calculation at ¾ seer per head per diem, gives a total requirement of 7,33,732 maunds, or say 7⅓ lakhs of maunds.

8. Looking, then, to the comparatively isolated situation of this tract, far from the Ganges, close to the hill frontier, having few roads passable in the rains and few facilities for private trade, adjoining other tracts even more distressed, I consider it essential to the safety of the population concerned—8,17,430 souls—that 7⅓ lakhs or 7,30,000 maunds should be brought within its limits by the 15th June.

9. The Collector reports that 1,00,000 maunds have been carted into the tract, which leaves 6⅓ lakhs or 6,30,000 maunds to be brought up.

10. The Commissioner states, after consulting the special Inspector of Transports, Mr. Han-

key, that carriage has been arranged, that is, carts and bullocks are present to carry 60,000 maunds a month for four months, or 2,40,000 on the whole.

11. Both Mr. Barlow and Mr. Hankey state that great difficulty has been experienced in finding carriage in the Bhaugulpore district and in opening out new routes. They have just succeeded in effecting a contract for six lakhs of maunds to be carried from Monghyr to Soopoole in four months. It yet remains to be seen whether this contract will be entirely fulfilled. But we may expect that it will be fulfilled for the most part. If it is, then there will be carriage for—

2,40,000 maunds.
6,00,000 „

8,40,000

This would provide an ample margin over and above the requirement. In that case, however, there is plenty of work for the spare carriage, inasmuch as further means are needed to convey supplies to the neighbouring district of Purneah.

12. I had previously arranged to obtain 2,000 (two thousand) carts from the North-West Provinces. This carriage, if it shall be actually obtained, will be available for Tirhoot where the carriage as yet falls short of requirements.

13. It may be added that an arrangement has been made for the conveyance of 1,00,000 maunds up the Kosee river by boat, which quantity will be available either for the Bhaugulpore or the Purneah district according to circumstances.

14. I desire in conclusion to state that the exertions made by the local officers, Mr. Barlow the Commissioner, Mr. Villiers Taylor the Collector, and Mr. Hankey the Inspector of transport, to obtain carriage in a country where carts are scarce and routes difficult, are very creditable, and will, I hope, eventuate in complete success.

15. I have ordered further enquiries to be made as to the quantity that could be conveyed, if required, to Soopoole by the river Teeljooga during the rains.

16. I have now to recommend that 40,000 maunds a week may be sent by rail to the railway stations between Bhaugulpore and Monghyr.

R. TEMPLE.

COPY of the above forwarded to G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division, for information.

C. E. BUCKLAND, on special duty.

Durbhanga, 21st February 1874.

SUMMARY.

Total to be relieved (probably) during the five critical months	155,021
Add—	
Three per cent. of population of thannah Budhowa, in Muddehpoora sub-division	4,110
Two per cent. of population of Banka sub-division	7,640
One per cent. of population of Sudder sub-division	4,880
Probable total to be relieved in Bhaugulpore during the five critical months	171,651

171,651
3

4) 514,953

40) 128,738 seers a day.

3,218 maunds a day.
30

96,540 per month.
5

482,700 say 5 lacs.

Allowing one lac stored now for consumption before May.

Total requirement - = 6 lacs.
or
To be carted hereafter, - 5 lacs.

G. N. BARLOW,
Officiating Commissioner.

TABLE showing the probable number to be relieved in Bhaugulpore District in the most afflicted tracts during the period of greatest suffering, viz., from 1st May till end of September

Name of Caste as entered Census Statement III.	Half Muddehpoora Thannah at full rates = whole Thannah at half rates.			Thannah Soopole at full Rates.			Thannah Bongong at full Rates.			Nathpur, or Thannah Pertabgunge, at about half Rates.		
	Total Number of Population.	Per Cent. of Distress.	Number to be relieved.	Total Number of Population.	Per Cent. of Distress.	Number to be relieved.	Total Number of Population.	Per Cent. of Distress.	Number to be relieved.	Total Number of Population.	Per Cent. of Distress.	Number to be relieved.
Aboriginal tribes	735	5	36	1,792	10	179	5	10	—	1,542	5	77
Semi-hindnised (Aboriginals)	33,232	20	6,646	31,499	40	12,599	19,311	40	7,724	19,267	20	
Superior Castes, I.	8,342	5	417	10,042	B 20	2,008	11,152	C 20	2,230	6,726	10	672
Intermediate Castes, II.	2,635	A 5	132	6,878	B 20	1,376	8,418	C 20	1,684	5,102	10	510
Trading Castes, III.	3,716	2	74	3,299	5	165	1,943	5	97	4,121	2½	103
Pastoral Castes, IV.	100,527	B 15	15,075	56,202	20	11,240	33,073	20	6,614	26,599	10	2,659
Cook Castes, V.	5,827	2	117	7,201	5	360	3,858	5	192	2,182	2½	54
Agricultural Castes, VI.	8,481	A 10	848	15,636	20	3,127	1,184	20	237	10,573	10	1,057
Servants, VII.	12,340	6	739	33,654	8	2,692	10,617	8	848	13,663	4	546
Artizans, VIII.	21,528	A 10	2,152	29,438	20	5,887	15,029	20	3,005	12,984	10	1,298
Weavers, IX.	11,995	20	2,399	13,727	30	4,118	13,769	30	4,130	10,806	15	1,620
Laborers, X.	4,173	A 10	417	8,695	20	1,739	626	20	125	1,162	10	116
Fishers, XI.	21,608	10	2,160	33,648	20	6,730	10,106	20	2,020	11,435	10	1,143
Hindus not recognising Castes	522	2	10	351	5	18	96	5	5	623	2½	15
Mahomedans	15,005	8	1,200	24,995	20	5,000	15,668	20	3,410	14,318	10	1,431
			32,422	Say 50,000	—	57,282	—	—	32,051	—	—	15,748

Mr. Martin (Sub-divisional Officer, Muddehpoora) agrees in these rates, save that he thinks those marked A too high, while B should be 15; and my figures thus corrected would stand 32,422, say 50,000 outside, including all west of A.B. Mr. Smith (Sub-divisional Officer, Soopole) agrees to the averages of his thannahs. He thinks the rates marked C should be halved; he would take Pertabgunge at half instead of one-third rates. This would make the figures for that thannah according to the entries.

Including increased figures proposed by both Sub-divisional Officers, the total will come to 1,55,021:—

TOTALS IN DISTRESSED THANNAHS.

Muddehpoorah	50,000
Soopole	57,282
Bongong	32,051
Nathpur	15,748
Total	155,021

MINUTE by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 26, dated Soopoole, the 19th February 1874.

1. IN continuation of my Minute of this day's date, No. 25, regarding the grain requirements of the Soopoole and Mudhepoora sub-divisions of the Bhaugulpore district, I have to request that sub-committees under rule 7, part 2, of rules for relief committees may be established at the following places, which have been settled by the Commissioner in consultation with the Collector and the sub-divisional officers, viz., Soopoole, Ekar, Simrahi, Nareedigar, Behwanipore, and Kamp.

2. There will be, if possible, an European officer stationed at each of these places, save Nareedigur, for which circle European supervision will be provided by the Court of Wards.

3. The Commissioner is authorised to have temporary accommodation constructed at each place where accommodation may not be already available, before the hot weather begins.

4. The Commissioner is requested to declare the places where, and the dates when clause *g* of rule 3, part 2, regarding sale of Government grain should be applied; also to determine the classes who should come under clause *f*.

R. TEMPLE.

Copy of the above forwarded to G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore division, for information.

Durbhanga, the 21st February 1874. C. E. BUCKLAND.

MINUTE No. 27, by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Soopoole, the 19th February 1874.

I HAVE to record the following remarks regarding relief works in the Bhaugulpore district after carefully consulting the Commissioner, the Collector, and the sub-divisional officers of Soopoole and Mudhepoora.

2. The District Engineer, Mr. Grant, has presented a statement, hereto appended, of roads running through distressed tracts to a total length of 215 miles. These are recommended by him and the Collector as useful and practicable. But both he and the district authorities apprehend that the amount of work which might be advantageously executed on these roads, cannot afford relief to more than a limited number of persons, and that a large number would still remain to be employed on other works.

3. The Commissioner and his officers consider that no more roads can be advantageously designed, and that the only class of works which they can recommend for the relief of distress consists of the tanks near the villages, on the road-sides, or in other places open to the public. They urgently request that they may be permitted to employ the distressed poor on these tanks, and they represent that there is no other way of fully employing the distressed people who are now seeking employment.

4. Looking to the tenor of the official correspondence on this subject, to the necessities of the case, and to the permanent benefit of the population, I authorise the Commissioner to cause relief labor to be employed on the tanks of the country, either in excavating new tanks or clearing out old tanks, care being taken to work at those relief roads which are included in the 215 miles mentioned above.

5. There are, I find, other lines of road designed by the Executive Engineer. But both he and the Collector affirm that these lines are worse than useless, and the Commissioner supports this view. The construction of these particular lines as relief works is not therefore to be attempted.

(Signed) R. TEMPLE.

Copy of the above forwarded to G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division, for information.

Durbhanga, the 21st February 1874. C. E. BUCKLAND.

LIST of proposed ROADS in the distressed portion of the Mudhepoora and Soopoole Sub-divisions.

			Miles.
	Pertabgunge	to Burpoor	16
Set out	Ditto	to Singhessar	26
Ditto	Peepra	to Soopool	17
Partly set out	Soopool	to Singhessar	16
Ditto	Pachgachia	to Buraoorir and on to Maheea	15
	Sookpoor	to Mahessir	17
	Bungaon	to ditto	4
	Mahessir	to the Monghyr boundary	7
Set out	Bungaon	to Patoria Ghât	22
	Mudhepoora	to Sonbursa	17
Ditto	Ditto	to Bailee	7
	Ditto	road repairs from 19th mile to Singhessur	27
	Soopool and Bhootia road		17
Ditto	Ditto	to Chundail	7
		Total	215

A. GRANT, Executive Engineer.

MINUTE No. 28, by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Soopole, the 19th February 1874.

THE Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division, Mr. Barlow, has shown me a careful and elaborate calculation, whereby he estimates that 6,50,000 maunds of grain will be required for the thannahs of Kusbah Amour, Bulrampore, Kudbah, Purneah (part), all thannahs in Arrareeah sub-division, all thannahs in Kishengunge, in the Purneah district. He reports that 1,00,000 maunds have arrived, and he desires my approval to his proceeding at once to provide carriage for the remainder, 5,50,000 maunds.

2. I am not able myself to affirm the correctness of the estimate till I shall visit the district. But looking to the authority of an estimate proceeding from the Commissioner, and to the urgency of the case, I deem it necessary to authorise Mr. Barlow to go on with transport arrangements within the limits of his own estimate, and to constitute as many sub-committees in the thannahs above mentioned as will be required, according to the principle which I have agreed to for the north part of the Bhaugulpore district.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

Copy of the above forwarded to G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division, for information.

C. E. BUCKLAND,
On Special Duty.

Durbhanga, 21st February 1874.

STATEMENT showing the quantity of Rice despatched from Calcutta by the East Indian Railway to some of the famine-stricken districts of Bengal and Behar, from the 18th to 24th instant inclusive.

	Tons.
18th February	1,665
19th Do.	1,771
20th Do.	1,954
21st Do.	1,827
22nd Do.	2,345
23rd Do.	2,194
25th Do.	2,958
Total	14,714 tons.
Average per day	2,102

EMIGRATION TO BURMA.

MEMORANDUM.

ON 15th February possession was obtained of the depôt lately occupied by the Jamaica Agency during the suspension of the colonial emigration, and it is hoped that permanent tenure may be obtained. Meanwhile such repairs in the office building and such works of construction as are indispensable, will alone be undertaken. The depôt is very conveniently situated, to the south of the old High Court buildings adjoining the two Lunatic Asylums. In its present state it is to cost only Rs. 100 per mensem in rent.

An establishment was hurriedly got together on the basis of the colonial establishments; it is not expected that it will be found altogether suited to the work in its present state, but experience will point out the changes that are required—more rapid shipment of emigrants will bring greater pressure of office and other work, and it is probable that higher salaries and more hands will be needed here than elsewhere.

Stationery and medicines are obtained from Government stores on chargeable indent.

Magistrates of districts have been addressed, and information asked for on the prospects of emigration from the several localities. Suggestions on the details of conducting recruitment and despatch have been forwarded to Magistrates, and supplies of contract forms to those who have called for them. The replies of Magistrates may be summarised as follows: From Monghyr, a large emigration may be expected very shortly. In Sarun, people are collecting, and from Bancoorah, Rajshahye, and Patna there is prospect of early despatch. From Jessore, Hooghly, Nuddea, Midnapore (at present), Tirhoot, Rungpore, and Singhbhoom, emigration is considered improbable. No definite information has yet been received from other districts.

With regard to direct recruitment, on which the immediate despatch of people must depend, difficulty arose at first from the very high rates of charge accepted in the colonial agencies which were not yet closed for the season. With every desire to take advantage of the low passage money offering in the rice vessels, the advantage vanished if it were to cost from Rs. 17 to 23 per head for recruitment only, as was the case elsewhere. Contractors offered me people in numbers, and were refused on their own terms. I roughly calculated a mean cost of transport from the interior which would have to be paid on people despatched by the Magistrates, and on this basis fixed Rs. 4 for a man, and Rs. 3 for a woman, as the sum to be paid to local recruiters. Comparing the circumstances of the several agencies, it appeared that while emigrants to the colonies were detained for several weeks, at the cost sometimes of maintenance and always of custody to the recruiters, during which the latter received nothing, those for Burma would remain only a week or ten days in depôt after being admitted and fed from the time they were accepted, and the recruiters would be paid up at once on the departure of a ship, and be at liberty and in funds for further operations. Thus it seemed that at the end of the month the recruiter would find his work more profitable here, and in a manner that the class are not slow to appreciate.

My terms were regarded with some little amusement at first, not to say derision; but I suppose they were studied to a different conclusion, for quite as soon as I was ready to receive them, parties of emigrants began to arrive, and continued to do so, until, on the 22nd instant, I was enabled to embark on board the "Himalaya" 262* souls, about 250 effective laborers, and have now about 100 awaiting passage, with daily recruitment going on.

*220 men.
21 women.
13 boys.
5 girls.
8 infants.

Office and depôt organisation are somewhat in abeyance, giving way to the exigencies of immediate despatch; but I believe that with the people the Chief Commissioner will find himself in possession of all the information he will require for their speedy distribution. I desired to present him with a separate account of each man's expenses at the same time, but found it impossible at the last, as they varied somewhat, but all will be despatched in a day or two. I think, however, that an exact separate account will be impracticable; some average charges must be introduced in future, so as to equalise the sums due from individuals. This is as necessary to facilitate recovery in Burma as it is for preparation of accounts here.

I have now given out that I will make no payment for women recruited. It is to be expected that many will be received from the famine districts, and it is advisable that the smallest number possible be engaged here therefore, so that in Burma inconvenience on this account may be as limited as it can be. I have asked Mr. Eden for specific instructions on that point.

I submit this hasty memorandum for Secretary, because I believe His Excellency the Viceroy desires to hear what has been done and what are the immediate prospects of emigration.

At request of Government of Bengal, a fortnightly statement of operations will be forwarded for information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. Perhaps a similar statement will be useful in Mr. Hume's Office. It shall be prepared and forwarded unless I am otherwise instructed.

ARTHUR J. PAYNE,
Superintendent, State Emigration.

The 24th February 1874.

No. 187—P. S.

From C. BERNARD, Esq, Acting Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT OF INDIA in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Statistical Department, Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, 26th February 1874.

IN reply to your Letter, No. 652, dated 25th February, I am directed to submit three Returns.

No. 1. Showing the relief committees appointed, the relief centres established, and the number of persons being relieved in the distressed districts.

No. 2. Showing the amount of grain stored in each district and the amount of grain transit to each division.

No. 3. Showing the number of persons employed on relief works, and their rate of wages in money, with its equivalent in grain. The workpeople on relief works are at present nowhere being paid in grain.

2. I am to explain that for some districts the information given in these returns is up to no later date than the 7th February, because the reports from some of the more remote districts for the fortnight ending on the 21st February have not yet reached Calcutta.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Acting Secretary to the Government
of Bengal.

No. 1.

Return showing the Number of Relief Centres established, of Relief Committees appointed, and of Persons receiving gratuitous Relief in each District up to date of last Return.

Name of District.	Number of Committees appointed.	Number of Relief Centres actually established and at work.	Number of people receiving gratuitous relief from Government or Relief Committees, besides private charity.
Burdwan - -	District committee formed -	No relief centres yet required; but at Ranegunge, where an influx of paupers is feared, everything is prepared for giving relief, and sheds are ordered at one grand trunk road.	
Beerbhoom - -	Ditto - - - - -	—	
Bancoorah - -	One district committee and one sub-divisional committee, for each thanna (or 5 in all).	No relief centres as yet wanted.	
Hooghly - -	One district committee, and other sub-divisional committees.	Relief centres not as yet required.	
Howrah - -	1 - - - -	One centre in Howrah city.	
Moorshedabad -	Four, besides sub-committees in several thannas.	Relief centres not as yet required.	
Dinagepore -	One committee, and other sub-committees formed.	Relief centres not as yet regularly established.	
Maldah - -	3 - - -	3 - - - -	1,175 in all; or about 140 daily.
Rajshahye - -	2 - - -	None needed as yet.	
Bograh - -	2 - - -	None yet at work up to 7th February.	-
Rungpore - -	7 - - -	10* - - -	*1,146 since reported up to 7th February. A. H. 27/2.
Patna - -	3 - - -	None wanted as yet. Native zemindars in the interior have established relief houses for helpless poor.	Arrangements for giving relief at Patna city are complete.
Shahabad -	3 - - -	None wanted as yet; preparations forward.	
Gya - - -	4 - - -	None wanted as yet; preparations complete.	
Tirhoot - -	8 - - -	Twenty centres selected, of which some have been actively established.	Returns of the paupers under relief are not yet received.
Sarun - -	2 - -	None wanted yet; preparations well forward. Lieutenant-Governor has ordered centres to be opened.	
Chumparun -	3 - - -	3 - - - -	Numbers not given, but they expected on the 7th February to have about 2,500.
Monghyr - -	13 - - -	13 - - - -	1,005.
Bhaugulpore -	13 - - -	7 - - - -	330.
Purneah - -	7 - - -	7 - - - -	Numbers not given, but do not seem to be large.

26th February 1874. (Signed) C. Bernard, Acting Secretary.

No. 2.

Return showing the Amount of Grain stored in or in Transit to each District.

Name of District.	Amount of Grain actually stored by latest Returns.		Approximate Amount in transit between Calcutta or Railway Stations and the final destination in each Division on the 26th February.
	Maunds.		
Dinagepore -	Return not yet received.*		480,000
Maldah - -	18,940		
Rajshahye - -	13,652		
Bograh - -	20,009		
Rungpore - -	39,003		
North Bengal Railway work.	42,700	1,34,304	
Patna - -	46,256		13,53,108
Gya - - -	120,762		
Shahabad - -	54,948		
Soane Canal Works	96,468		
Tirhoot - -	192,504		
Sarun - -	171,858		
Chumparun -	159,005	841,801	
Monghyr - -	182,806		300,000
Bhaugulpore -	99,465		
Purneah - -	158,516	440,787	

* Return since received shows 79,254 maunds in store at final destination in Dinagepore on the 21st February, so far as returns had then reached the district head-quarters.—(Signed) C. B.

Abstract.

	Maunds.	
Total stored by latest returns - -	†14,16,892	
In transit between Calcutta and the final depôts - - - - -	†21,33,108	
Despatched from Calcutta up to 26th February - - - - - -	30,00,000	
Received into the districts by local and N. W. P. purchases - - -	5,50,000	
		35,50,000

† These two figures must be reduced and increased by 79,254, the number of maunds since ascertained to be in store in the Dinagepore district.—(Signed) C. B.

Note.—It takes a very long time for returns for far outlying grain stores to reach the sub-divisional officer, the district officer, and the Government; and it is believed that much of the grain shown as "in transit" is by this time really in store.

26th February 1874. (Signed) C. Bernard, Acting Secretary.

No. 3.

RETURN of Persons employed on Relief Works in each District, Rates of Pay, &c., according to latest return.

Name of District.	Date up to which the figures now offered go.	Total number of Laborers on Government Relief Works and Court of Wards' Works, under Government Officers.	Rate of Wages or Payment.
Burdwan - -	21st February -	3,958	Well work, mainly yielding a daily wage of from 2 as. and upward, equal to 1½ seer of grain.
Beerbhoom -	" -	991	Well work, mainly yielding a daily wage of from 2 as. and upward, equal to 1½ seer of grain.
Hooghly - -	" -	1,145	Same wages as above, 5,542 are said to be at work on private tanks.
Nuddea - -	7th February -	1,500	Same as Burdwan, but wages go up to 2½ as.
Moorshedabad -	21st February -	3,562	Wages or piece-work amounting to about 2 as. a day or 1½ seer of grain.
Dinagepore -	" -	23,914	Piece-work and wages which yield from 2 to 2½ as. a day, or about 1½ to 1¾ seer of grain.
Maldah - -	" -	2,019	Same as Dinagepore.
Rajshahye - -	" -	465	Same as Dinagepore, but rates of piece-work in some parts come up to 3 as. a day, or a full day's work.
Rungpore - -	" -	2,068	Piece-work entirely, which yields from 2½ to 3 as. a day to an adult male, equal to 1½ to 1¾ seer of grain.
Bograh - -	" -	2,810	Piece-work, which yield daily earnings of 2 to 2½ as., equal to 1½ seer of grain.
Northern Bengal Railway and its feeder roads.	14th February -	5,000	Piece-work, which yields a daily average earning of 2½, 3 as. and even more per adult male, equal to 1½ to 2 seers of grain.
Patna - -	21st February -	6,936	Mostly on piece-work, wages are 1½ to 2 as. a day where daily wages are paid. Payments not made in grain, wage is equal to from 1¼ to 1½ seers of grain.
Gya - -	7th February -	1,593	As above.
Shahabad - -	" -	1,851	As above.
Tirhoot - -	" -	19,217	Daily wages are here more common, and the rate is 1¼ to 2 as. a day, and at some three works Government grain is being sold to the laborers on the works. As yet the wages are as stated above.
Sarun - -	" -	70,000	Same as in Tirhoot, except that Government grain is not being sold on the works.
Chumparun -	" -	12,999	Same as Tirhoot rate.
Soane Canal Works	" -	32,000	Wages are paid almost entirely by piece-work, and the most ordinary laborers earn about 2 as. a day. Skilled laborers earn more.
Gunduck Embankment Works.	" -	9,500	Wages are still mainly paid on piece-work, and men earn from 1½ to 2 as. a day, equal to 1¼ to 1½ seers of grain.
Monghyr - -	21st February -	3,845	Paid by piece-work entirely, which comes to nearly 2 as. a day for an ordinary man.
Bhaugulpore -	7th " -	6,400	Partly piece-work, rate of wages is 1½ as. for a man, yields about 1 seer of grain.
Purneah - -	21st " -	2,650	Mainly piece-work; no adult man gets less than 1½ as. a day; grain is selling from Government store on the works.
Sonthal Perghs. -	7th " -	3,260	Wages for adult male by piece-work amount to about 1½ as. a day, which is the usual rate of wages.
Grand total - -		217,683	

26th February 1874. C. BERNARD, Acting Secretary.

TELEGRAM from the GOVERNMENT of the NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, dated 27th February 1874.

Ghazeepore, 23rd February.—Prices a little lower. Distress decreasing. Nine out of nineteen relief works closed. Charitable relief at head-quarters and tehseelies.

Benares, 24th February.—No change. Crops beginning to ripen. Good prospect of average outturn. No signs of increasing distress. Applicants for labor few.

Mirzapore, 22nd February.—Much good from late rain in the South. Distress not extending. Imports rather greater.

Goruckpore, 23rd February.—Grain, except rice, somewhat cheaper, owing to imports from Oudh and near prospect of harvest. Benefit from rain greater than at first thought. Damage to Urhur in North over-estimated. Relief works still largely attended and charitable relief at Goruckpore to about 1,200 daily.

Bustee, 23rd February.—Prices steady. Rubbee ripening fast.

Azimgurh, 22nd February.—Prices slightly lower. Rubbee generally doing well. Relief works on small scale in Nugra Tehseel. General prospects better.

Jounpoor, 23rd February.—Prices lower owing to increased imports and approaching harvest expected in about a fortnight. Some barley already cut. No necessity for relief works.

General remarks.—Prospects continue to be more cheerful. Distress expected to be diminished by approaching harvest. Relief works and charity provided, where necessary, for the destitute.

(True copy).
(Signed) ARTHUR HOWELL,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

INSTRUCTIONS TO RELIEF COMMITTEES.

I.

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES.

There will be three classes of committees—first, the central committee at Calcutta; second, district committees; third, sub-divisional committees. The latter will generally be organized for a sub-division, but where necessary more than one of such committees may be appointed in a sub-division.

2. The central relief committee at Calcutta will be organized under the immediate supervision of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

3. The district relief committees will be organized in such districts as the Commissioner of the division may think it desirable. The Magistrate and Collector of the district will usually be the chairman of the district committee, and will arrange for the appointment of the members in communication with the Commissioner of the division.

4. The sub-divisional committees will be organized wherever the Magistrate and Collector of a district consider it desirable. The Sub-divisional Officer will usually be the chairman of the sub-divisional committee, and will arrange for the appointment of members in communication with the Collector of the district.

5. The district relief committees will communicate direct with the central relief committee at Calcutta.

6. The sub-divisional relief committees will act under the general supervision of the district relief committees.

7. The sub-divisional relief committees will be responsible for organizing the agency for the relief of distress within their area. They will be authorised to employ sub-committees, or any other agency which, with a view to local circumstances, they may think best suited for the purpose, or to delegate any portion of their duty to the other members. The sub-divisional committees will be responsible that the whole of the relief operations within the sub-division should be constantly inspected once a week at the least for the purpose of ascertaining whether the relief operations have been properly carried on, and whether there are any places in the sub-division in need of relief where relief operations have not been instituted. For this purpose they will apply, through the Collector of the district for such additional assistance, whether Native or European, as they may require.

II.

DUTIES OF COMMITTEES.

The functions of the central relief committee will be to collect subscriptions and to supply money or food, as the case may be, to the district committees; to exercise a general supervision over the proceedings of those committees; to receive their reports; and to examine their accounts.

2. The functions of the district relief committees will be to draw supplies of money or food from the central relief committee; to collect subscriptions on their own behalf, but so as not to interfere with the resources of the sub-divisional committees; to supply the sub-divisional relief committees with money or food; to exercise a general supervision over the proceedings of those committees; to receive their reports; and to examine their accounts, forwarding reports and accounts to the central relief committee at Calcutta.

3. The functions of the sub-divisional relief committees will be—

(*a.*) To collect subscriptons and to distribute the resources which will be at their disposal from local subscriptions, from the contributions of Government, and from the grants received from district committees.

(*b.*) To provide food for relief purposes from local sources or Government depôts.

(*c.*) To transport food to convenient places, and to provide for its proper storage.

(*d.*) To distribute gratuitous relief to persons in need of it and unable to work.

(*e.*) To provide useful employment for those people who apply for it, and are able to work, by instituting minor relief works and providing other employment, such as spinning, weaving, husking rice, &c. Sub-divisional committees will have full information of the imperial and provincial public works in their neighbourhood, in order that, if desirable, able-bodied laborers may be despatched to those works, together with their families.

(*f.*) To provide, in such manner as may be considered the best, in each particular locality, for the relief of such persons whose caste usages and feelings prevent them from going to the Government public works—women of good family and others—who would die of starvation if not relieved. Relief for this class of persons might be afforded either wholly gratuitously or partly gratuitously by the sale of grain under the market rates, or even in some cases, with due precautions, by the advance of money or grain, to be subsequently repaid.

(*g.*) If there should be an absolute deficiency in the supply of grain in any part of their district the sub-divisional committee may, with the previons approval of the Collector, make arrangements for the sale of grain from Government stores. The arrangement should be made through the agency of the traders, which will probably be available everywhere. The price should be fixed at that of the nearest large mart, where supplies are readily brought in by railroad or river, together with such addition representing the cost of transport as may be considered proper. Such sales should be stopped at once as soon as the local trade receives supplies, and any competition with the local trade should be carefully avoided.

(*k.*) It will be probably found necessary for the sub-divisional committees to establish in certain parts of their districts poor-houses, where those who apply may be received and furnished with cooked food. It will be essential, however, that besides such houses relief centres should be established, if possible, in every large village in which severe distress exists, from which centres the distribution of food, either cooked or not, might be made to those who, under the general principles laid down, should receive gratuitous relief as unable to work. It appears highly desirable to avoid the congregation of large masses of people together away from their homes for the purpose of relief.

III.

ACCOUNTS.

The Central Relief Committee at Calcutta should draw up forms of account for the use of the sub-divisional and district committees. Provision will be made, in communication with the central committee, for the proper audit of their accounts.

IV.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Nothing in these rules is intended to preclude relief committees or officers of Government from adopting special measures to relieve sudden and severe distress wherever it may occur, reporting the measures they have taken at once for the approval of superior authority.

2. Further and more detailed instructions for relief committees will be given from time to time by the Central Relief Committee at Calcutta in communication with the Government of Bengal.

No. 14 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To the Most Honorable the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, P.C., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS, Calcutta, the 6th March 1874.

WE have the honor to transmit the twelfth special narrative of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal for the fortnight ending the 5th instant.

2. We entirely concur with the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in acknowledging the great advantage to the public service from Sir Richard Temple's zealous and energetic labors in inspecting and supervising the relief operations in Behar. Sir Richard Temple returned to Calcutta on the 28th ultimo, and left on the afternoon of the 4th instant for the purpose of inspecting the relief operations in Purneah, Maldah, Dinagepore, and Rungpore, with the same full powers that the Lieutenant-Governor delegated to him upon the occasion of his visit to Behar.

3. In addition to the information with respect to prices contained in the special narrative, we are glad to be able to report that the price of common rice at Calcutta has fallen steadily during the last four weeks. The daily quotations for "Ballam "low to good middling" were, on the 7th of February, Rs. 3-4 to Rs. 3-7½ per maund, and on the 4th of March Rs. 2-15 to Rs. 3-2 per maund. The price of wheat has also steadily fallen of late in Calcutta.

4. While the general condition of the preparations made to meet the impending distress is shown from the fortnightly district narratives to have improved, and the arrangements in some districts to be very complete and much to the credit of the local officers, the Lieutenant-Governor again expresses considerable anxiety as to the condition of the arrangements both for relief works and the distribution of food in the northern sub-divisions of Tirhoot. Mr. Worsley's report of the condition of the special tract of Singhiya and Bahera, Durbhunga sub-division, is alarming, and private information since received has induced Sir George Campbell, with the approval of the Viceroy, to decide upon visiting the spot himself, in order to see that the local arrangements are properly organised. Sir George Campbell leaves Calcutta this evening for that purpose.

5. With reference to the 9th and 10th paragraphs of our Despatch No. 11 of the 13th of February, the 7th paragraph of our Despatch No. 12 of the 20th of February, and the record of proceedings at the conference held on the 21st of February, we beg to enclose copies of letter No. 801 of the 5th instant, addressed to the Government of Bengal, and of a Resolution of Government of this date, promulgating, with some preliminary observations, the instructions to Relief Committees issued by us on the 24th of January, modified in some respects in communication with the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Executive Committee of the Central Relief Committee. We trust that the instructions now issued will be found to be sufficient for the guidance of local officers and Relief Committees. We are satisfied that the Executive Committee have wisely desired that the responsibility of directing the local Committees shall not be divided, but shall rest exclusively with the local officers of Government. Enclosure No. 1. Enclosure No. 2.

6. We have taken measures to increase the quantity of rice at our command, in order to be in a position to meet any further demands for supplies. Enclosure No. 3.

7. In continuation of our Despatch No. 11 of the 13th of February, we enclose a return showing the export of food-grains for the Presidency of Bengal in the five months from the 1st of October to the 28th of February in each of the official years, 1872–73 and 1873–74.

Enclosure No. 4.

8. We enclose a list of relief sub-divisions numbered consecutively in accordance with the desire expressed in your Lordship's telegram of the 24th of February.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
NAPIER OF MAGDALA.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

Enclosure No. 1.

No. 801.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

Fort William, the 5th March 1874.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Governor-General of India in Council to place on record, for the information and guidance of the Government of Bengal, the following arrangements which were concluded yesterday by the Viceroy in communication with the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Executive Committee of the Central Relief Committee.

2. The following papers were taken into consideration:—

(1.)—The instructions to Relief Committees given by the Government of India on the 24th of January last.

(2.)—The letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 705 S. R. of the 16th of February, enclosing Bengal circular letter No. 703 S. R. of the same date, with reference to the orders of the Government of India of the 13th of February and to certain "additional instructions" to Relief Committees which it was supposed had been issued by the Central Relief Committee.

(3.)—The record of explanations and instructions given to the Central Relief Committee at Government House on the 21st of February.

(4.)—The letter from the Government of Bengal to the Secretary of the Central Relief Committee, No. 1071 S. R. of the 26th February, transmitting, with explanatory remarks, the above-mentioned record.

3. The Executive Committee of the Central Relief Committee suggested that it would be desirable that the officers of Government should have executive control over the relief operations of all the Local Committees, and that the functions of the Central Committee should be limited to the collection and distribution of funds and the receipt of reports. The Viceroy concurred in the wisdom of this suggestion as being calculated to prevent any risk of divided responsibility in dealing with distress. The instructions to Relief Committees have accordingly been modified in communication with the Executive Committee, and with their concurrence.

4. It appeared, on enquiry, that the "additional instructions" of the Central Relief Committee, quoted in Bengal circular letter No. 703 S. R. of the 16th of February, had not been issued, but were under consideration. The circular will, therefore, be cancelled, and it is unnecessary for His Excellency to make any observations upon the contents of that circular, or of the draft "additional instructions," which will no longer be required.

5. The change now made in some of the functions of the Central Committee will make the explanations and instructions contained in Bengal letter No. 1071 S. R. of the 26th of February unnecessary, and no further observations on the subject appear to be required from the Government of India.

6. His Excellency in Council considers that the instructions to Relief Committees of the 24th of January, as modified in the revised issue forwarded herewith, will probably suffice for the guidance of the Committees, and this is the opinion of Sir Richard Temple, derived from his experience in Behar. They will be immediately made public by the Government of India, together with some preliminary remarks; and the importance of avoiding any misapprehension

on the subject of the duties of the Committees is so great that I am to request that, should the Government of Bengal consider any further general instructions or explanations necessary, they should be referred before issue for the previous approval of the Government of India.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
A. Howell,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure No. 2.

No. 813.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce,—dated Calcutta, the 6th March 1874.

Resolution.

Active operations for the relief of distress having now commenced, the Governor-General in Council reminds local officers that it is their duty to see that the arrangements for the relief of distress are adequate within the area under their charge, and that they will be held responsible that no deaths from starvation occur, which could have been avoided by any exertion or arrangement within their power and the means placed at their command.

2. His Excellency in Council is satisfied that all officers have cheerfully accepted this responsibility, and that they will perform the arduous task imposed upon them with the zeal, ability, and self-sacrifice which have always distinguished the servants of the Crown and of the East India Company in India in times of difficulty and danger.

3. The instructions to Relief Committees issued on the 24th of January last are re-published herewith, with some modifications made in communication with the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Central Relief Committee.

4. The duty of superintending the operations of Relief Committees rests with the sub-divisional and district officers under the general instructions of Commissioners of divisions.

5. Relief Committees have been authorised by the instructions to adopt any measures necessary to meet sudden and severe distress. The same authority is given to local officers under similar circumstances. Where the danger is sudden, officers must act promptly to the best of their power, and not be satisfied with making reports to their official superiors.

6. The instructions leave much to the discretion of Relief Committees, and to that of the local officers of Government, under whose supervision they will act, as regards the manner in which distress is to be met.

7. The Government has not prescribed the invariable use of any test, either by labor or by the distribution of cooked food, for the purpose of determining who are fit objects for relief. Such tests are desirable and necessary under certain circumstances. It is right that able-bodied men, accustomed to labor, should, as a general rule, be required to work in return for the food or money supplied to them. It is desirable that light work should be found for others where this can be arranged profitably and without obliging large numbers of people to leave their homes. In dealing with certain classes of distress, especially in towns, the issue of relief in cooked food may be useful as a test. But stringent tests are inapplicable to those limited tracts of country where, owing to the great failure of the crops and the absence of private trade, the Government have, in accordance with their Resolution of the 7th of November last, assumed the task of importing grain for sale and distribution to the people.

8. In such tracts the difficulty will be not to prevent undeserving applicants from being relieved, but to ensure that sufficient supplies reach those who require them; and, in addition to the modes of relief and the provision for the sale of grain specified in the instructions to Relief Committees, grain should be freely advanced to zemindars and mahajuns under the instructions already issued by the Government of Bengal, as well as to cultivating ryots, where there is a reasonable probability of repayment, at the discretion of the local officers, and with a due regard to the maintenance of a sufficient reserve.

(True Extract.)
A. Howell,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

INSTRUCTIONS TO RELIEF COMMITTEES.

I.—Organisation of Committees.

There will be three classes of Committees,—first, the Central Committee at Calcutta; second, District Committees; third, Sub-divisional Committees. The latter will generally be organised for a sub-division, but where necessary, more than one of such Committees may be appointed in a sub-division.

2. The Central Relief Committee at Calcutta has been organised under the immediate supervision of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

3. The District Relief Committees have been, or will be, organised in such districts as the Commissioner of the division may think desirable. The Magistrate and Collector of the district will usually be the chairman of the district Committee, and will arrange for the appointment of the members.

4. The Sub-divisional Committees will be organised wherever the Magistrate and Collector of a district considers it desirable. The Sub-divisional Officer will usually be the chairman of the Sub-divisional Committee, and will arrange for the appointment of members in communication with the Collector of the district.

II.—DUTIES OF COMMITTEES.

The functions of the Central Relief Committee will be to collect subscriptions and distribute them to the local Committees in such amount and for such objects as they may consider desirable, and to receive reports of the expenditure of the funds supplied by them.

2. The functions of the District Relief Committees will be to collect subscriptions, but so as not to interfere with the resources of the Sub-divisional Committees, to supply the Sub-divisional Committees with money, and to receive their reports.

3. The Sub-divisional Relief Committees will organise the agency for the relief of distress within their areas. They will be authorized to delegate any portion of their duty to individual members, and to employ Sub-Committees, or any other agency which, with a view to local circumstances, they may think best suited for the purpose. The Sub-divisional Committees and the Sub-Committees will arrange that the villages within their several circles shall be constantly inspected (once a week at the least) for the purpose of ascertaining whether the relief operations have been properly carried on, and whether there are any other places in the circle in need of relief. For this purpose they will apply through the Collector of the district for such additional assistance, whether European or Native, as they may require.

The principal functions of the Sub-divisional Committees and the Sub-Committees will be—

(*a.*) To collect subscriptions and to distribute the resources which will be at their disposal from local subscriptions, from the contributions of Government, and from the grants received from District Committees.

(*b.*) To distribute for relief purposes grain received from local sources or Government depôts.

(*c.*) To transport grain to convenient places, and to provide for its proper storage.

(*d.*) To distribute gratuitous relief to persons in need of it and unable to work.

(*e.*) To provide useful employment for those people who are in need, and are able to work, by instituting minor relief works and providing other employment, such as spinning, weaving, husking rice, &c. Sub-divisional Committees will have information of the Government public works in their neighbourhood, in order that laborers may be despatched to those works, together with their families, if desirable.

(*f.*) To provide in such manner as may be considered the best, in each particular locality, for the relief of persons whose caste, usages, and feelings, preclude the application of a labor test, women of good family and others, who may be in great distress. Relief for this class of persons may be afforded either wholly gratuitously, or partly gratuitously, by the sale of grain under the market rates, or, with due precautions, by the advance of money or grain to be subsequently repaid.

(*g.*) If a serious deficiency of grain in any part of their district is apprehended, which the trade is unable to supply, the Sub-divisional Committee may, under instructions from the Collector of the district, make arrangements for the sale of grain from Government Stores. The arrangement should, as a rule, be made through the agency of the traders, which will probably be available everywhere. The selling price should be fixed at that of the nearest large mart, where supplies are readily brought in by railroad or river, together with such addition representing the cost of transport as may be considered proper. Sales should be stopped as soon as the local trade receives sufficient supplies, and any competition with the local trade should be carefully avoided. This rule will not interfere with the sale of rice under the market rate as a means of relief under clause (*f.*) to persons whose cases have been inquired into by the Committees or their officers.

(*h.*) The congregation of large masses of people away from their homes for the purpose of relief should be avoided. Every village in which general distress exists should, so far as is practicable, be dealt with separately as regards relief works and the distribution of gratuitous relief. The acceptance of cooked food should not be insisted upon as an invariable test to be applied to all who require relief. In the very distressed districts such a test would generally be inapplicable. It may be necessary to establish poor houses in some places, such as considerable towns. In those houses food might be distributed cooked or uncooked as may be most convenient. Generally speaking, those who are unable from illness to cook their own food should be provided for in hospitals.

III.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Nothing in these rules is intended to preclude Relief Committees from adopting any measures necessary to relieve sudden and severe distress wherever it may occur, reporting the measures they have taken at once for the approval of superior authority.

A. HOWELL,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

March 5th, 1874.

3418.

Enclosure No. 3.

STATEMENT showing the Quantity of Rice (distinguishing Table and other kinds), Paddy, Wheat, Gram, and other Food Grains, exported from the Presidency of Bengal, in the Five Months, from 1st October to 28th February, in each of the Official Years 1872–73, and 1873–74.

Whither exported.	In the Five Months from 1st October to 28th February 1872–73.									In the Five Months from the 1st October to the 28th February 1873–74.								
	Rice.		Paddy.	Total of Rice and Paddy.	Other Food Grains.				Grand Total of all Food Grains.	Rice.		Paddy.	Total of Rice and Paddy.	Other Food Grains.				Grand Total of all Food Grains.
	Table.	Other kinds.			Wheat.	Gram.	Other kinds.	Total.		Table.	Other kinds.			Wheat.	Gram.	Other kinds.	Total.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
To Ceylon - -	38	42,983	1,246	44,267	16	669	179	864	45,131	22	30,808	1,538	32,368	—	507	941	1,448	33,816
To Mauritius, Bourbon, and West Indian Islands.	1,040	56,692	—	57,732	141	1,077	1,691	2,909	60,641	1,236	42,045	—	43,281	1,419	1,948	2,931	6,298	49,579
To other foreign countries -	12,685	64,105	24	76,814	823	142	83	1,048	77,862	22,964	28,068	1	51,033	9,116	241	111	9,468	60,501
Total to foreign countries.	13,763	163,780	1,270	178,813	980	1,888	1,953	4,821	183,634	24,222	100,921	1,539	126,682	10,535	2,696	3,983	17,214	143,896
To other Presidencies beyond Bengal.	11,419	44,612	6,774	62,805	566	1,128	1,767	3,461	66,266	1,048	16,709	5,683	23,440	638	857	4,024	5,519	28,959
Grand total - -	25,182	208,392	8,044	241,618	1,546	3,016	3,720	8,282	249,900	25,270	117,630	7,222	150,122	11,173	3,553	8,007	22,733	172,855

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NOTE.—The figures for table rice represent those for the port of Calcutta only. as those for the minor ports cannot be distinguished; but it is believed that the exports of table rice from the latter ports are unimportant. The figures are all taken from actual returns, excepting only the exports from the Orissa ports in February 1874. These are not yet known. The exports of February 1873 have accordingly been repeated for February 1874, as follows:—

	Tons.
Rice and paddy - - - - - - - - -	2,682
Other grains - - - - - - - - -	40

Errors excepted.

(Signed) R. B. CHAPMAN,
Secretary Financial Department.

Financial Department,
3rd March 1874.

Enclosure No. 4.

NAMES OF RELIEF STATIONS in Famine Districts with Current Number.

Famine District.	Name of Relief Station.	Current Number.
Tirhoot	Mozufferpore	1
	Hajeepore	2
	Tajpore	3
	Dhulmya	4
	Hatee	5
	Mudhoobanee	6
	Naryn	7
	Seetamurhee	8
	Poopree	9
Chumparun	Moteeharee	10
	Dhaka	11
	Govindgunge	12
	Bettiah	13
	Ramnugger	14
Bhaugulpore	Bhaugulpore	15
	Banka	16
	Soopoole	17 In these two sub-divisions six relief circles have already been opened.
	Mudeypoora	18
Monghyr	Monghyr	19
	Beegoserai	20
	Jamni	21 In this sub-division 3 circles under civil officers have been formed and are at work.
Purneah	Kudbah	22
	Kusba Amow	23
	Purneah	24
	Kissengunge	25
	Arrareah	26
Sonthal Pergunnahs	Godda	27
	Rajmehal	28
Moorshedabad	Berhampore	29
	Sah Bagh	30
	Jangypore	31
	Rampore Haut	32
Maldah	Chunchul	33
	Maldah	34
Dinagepore	Raneesunkoil	35
	Raigunge	36
	Gungarampore	37
	Pateram	38
	Ghoraghat	39
	Kullugung	40
Rajshahye	Rampore Bauleah	41
	Nattore	42
Rungpore	Rungpore	43
	Bhowaneegunge	44
	Koraigaon	45
Sarun	There are 18 first grade relief centres in this district, names will follow next mail.	

No. 1250.—S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL in the Statistical Department, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Calcutta, $\frac{\text{dated 5th March}}{\text{issued 5th March}}\Big\}$ 1874.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 847—S. R., dated the 19th February 1874, I am directed to forward herewith seven copies of the twelfth Special Narrative of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal, from the 20th February to the 5th March 1874, inclusive.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

TWELFTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE of the DROUGHT in BENGAL, from the 20th February to the 5th March 1874.

Weather and rainfall.

THE weather has been on the whole very seasonable. In parts of Eastern Bengal there has been a moderate amount of rain during the fortnight, and there has been some little rain in Central Bengal. But between the showers in Bengal and during the whole fortnight in Behar, the weather has been for the most part clear and bright. Only from one very limited tract of Chumparun was any fall of hail reported. The rain was wanted in East Bengal, and the dry weather was wanted in Behar to ripen the spring crops, so that the weather has been on the whole as good as could be wished. As yet there has been no cholera or threatening of cholera among the laborers on any of the works. Regarding the weather of the fortnight at Calcutta, the Meteorological Reporter writes:—

Rainfall of the fortnight in inches.

Dacca - - - -	0·35
Furredpore - - -	1·40
Backergunge - - -	2·53
Mymensing - - -	·0·49
Sylhet - - - -	3·19
Chittagong - - -	2·31
Noacolly - - -	1·78

"Since the date of the last report the weather has been on the whole fine, but occasionally cloudy in the day-time, and foggy in the early morning. On the 26th a few drops of rain fell at Calcutta, and between the 22nd and the above date slight showers were felt in some parts of Bengal Proper and in Maunbhoom. At this time the weather was close and oppressive, and warmer than is usual at the time of year; but since then the wind has gone round to the west, and it has become cooler."

The weather and rainfall reports for the two weeks under review form enclosure No. 1.

Price of grain.

2. In last Narrative a fall of prices was recorded in the Rajshahye Division, and a general rise in prices over the rest of Bengal and Behar. The prices-current for Saturday, the 28th February, show that there has been a fall in prices over the whole of Western and over parts of Central Bengal. The only parts that show a considerable rise in prices are the districts of Chittagong, Tipperah, and Noacolly, which supply the port of Chittagong. In Backergunge there was a great rise, but the price has fallen again. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks there is a general tendency to a rise of prices in Eastern Bengal. In the Rajshahye Division prices are about the same as they were at the date of last Narrative. In Behar also there has been a slight fall in prices excepting only in the districts of Sarun and Chumparun, where a slight rise has occurred. In Chumparun the price of maize, the ordinary food of the common people at this season, has gone up from 14½ to 13 seers per rupee. The price of common rice in the principal districts compares with those quoted in last Narrative thus:—

	Number of seers of common rice sold for a rupee.		
	On 31st Jan.	On 14th Feb.	On 28th Feb.
Burdwan	14	13	13½
Beerbhoom	12⅜	12	12½
Hooghly	11 to 12	10 to 10½	11½ to 12½
Calcutta	12½	10½	12¼
Dinagepore	13¼	14	14
Maldah	11¾	12½	12
Rungpore	11¼	11¼	11¼
Dacca	16	16	14
Backergunge	16½	13½	15
Chittagong	18	17	16½
Noakhally	17½	16	13
Patna	12	13	13½
Shahabad	13	11¾	12½
Tirhoot	10	10	10
Chumparun	11¾	11¼	11
Bhaugulpore	12⅝	11¼	11⅜
Lohardugga	15½	16	16
Maunbhoom	15	14½	14½

From passages in the district narratives it will be seen that in many districts the price in the interior is higher than the prices above quoted, which are only those of the district head-quarters town. The price-current statements for the two weeks under review form enclosure No. 2.

State of the crops.

3. The district officers have now been able to form some estimate of the probable yield of the spring crops. The rainfall at the beginning of February has done immense good to the crops, and the yield will probably be, on the whole, more than twice as heavy as it would have been without rain, provided no fresh misfortune from hail, excessive rain, or the like occurs. Still, on the whole it is hardly to be expected that the yield of the spring crops will be equal to the yield of an average year. It is in South Behar, in Sarun and Chumparun, and the lower parts of Tirhoot, Bhaugulpore, and Purneah, that these crops contribute largely to the food of the people. No doubt in all the alluvial lands they will be very fine indeed; but in the northern parts of Tirhoot and Bhaugulpore, and in much of Dinagepore and some adjacent tracks, the spring crops give but an insignificant addition to the food-supply. In Patna, Monghyr, Purneah, and South Bhaugulpore, the yield of the spring crops is expected to be nearly as good as in ordinary years. In Gya the crop will be fair; but only half the ordinary area was, the Collector estimates, sown with these crops. In Tirhoot the yield may be nearly half the average. In Sarun the Collector expects that two-thirds of an average crop will be got all round; the Commissioner estimates the yield at a somewhat lower proportion, but he is making further enquiries. In Chumparun, the yield will be probably above half of an average crop. In the Rajshahye Division the spring crops will be little below the average.

Later estimates of the rice crop.

4. Since the last Narrative was submitted, estimates of the out-turn of the principal rice crop have put the yield of some of great producing districts, such as Backergunge and Chittagong, at something less than had been previously estimated. These estimates, taken together with the general rise in prices in Eastern Bengal during the last five weeks, make the Lieutenant-Governor fear that the stocks in Eastern Bengal may, as suggested in paragraph 26 of the last Narrative, have been much depleted. If so, then the need for a reserve of Government grain to meet possible demands for North-Eastern, Central, and Western Bengal becomes greater. The matter has been laid before the Government of India with an expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's views.

Supply of grain.

5. The supply of grain is still sufficient in all the large marts except in North Behar, and at occasional places in the interior of the Rajshahye Division. In some villages in North Tirhoot grain is not to be bought, and at one point on the Northern Bengal Railway works the supply of grain fell short in the local bazaars. Still up to the present time the Government stores have been opened for the supply of laborers on only a very few works. At one or two places, where prices were very high, Government grain was offered for sale to the

workpeople; but they preferred to provide for themselves from the bazaar as long as they could. Private trade in grain is still active in the Patna, Shahabad, Monghyr, Purneah, Rajshahye, Rungpore, and Bograh Districts; in the other distressed districts private trade in grain is very slack indeed. During the period under review private traders carried by railway into Behar—

From the North-Western Provinces
and Punjab - - - 7,881 tons of grain during one week.
From Calcutta - - - 4,186 „ „ two weeks.

This gives a private import of grain of about 1,424 tons a day. There is still, so the Patna dealers report, very much grain ready for export from the Punjab, if only its owners could get railway wagons on which to carry it into Behar. The private imports of grain reported from the Sarun District continue to range at about 1,20,000 maunds per fortnight, but probably there is a good deal of petty import not reported.

Export of grain.

6. The export of grain from Calcutta during the month of February is returned by the Collector of Customs at 15,421 tons, which is a very great reduction on the exports of the two preceding months. On the other hand the imports are now very large amounting in February to 60,068 tons. The total exports of grain from Bengal from the 1st October (up to the 28th February for Calcutta and Chittagong, and up to the 15th February for the Orissa ports), is shown by the Collector of Customs to be 174,628 tons, and to be 155,926 tons reckoning from the 1st November, so far as returns have been received from the outlying ports. The grain imports since the 1st October are shown by the Collector of Customs at 100,064 tons, of which 3,723 tons were imported on private account. As was supposed, it turns out that a large part of the imports on private account stated in last narrative was really on Government account. This Government has no exact information regarding the grain consigned to the Government of India which has arrived in the river, and that statement has therefore been omitted; only the imports which have been entered in the Collector of Customs' books is given. Enquiry was made regarding the private imports which were ascertained to be as above stated; of this, part was rice imported from the Madras coast for the Hutwa Wards' Estate, indigo factories and the like; and part consisted of experimental imports from Burmah. Enquiry has been made regarding the result of these Burmah imports, but the information elicited is contradictory, one importer stating that the rice was good and the result successful, while another firm declare that it is still on their hands and cannot be sold except at a heavy loss.

Condition of the people.

7. The only districts or tracts in which the condition of the people would seem to be perceptibly worse than it was at the time of the submission of last narrative are Northern Tirhoot and parts of the Rungpore district. From all the rest of the distressed districts it is reported either that the improving prospects of the spring crops have brought prices down and made the people more cheerful, or that the relief works and charitable relief arrangements are meeting and alleviating distress. In the Patna District prices are high, and professional beggars cannot get arms from their ordinary supporters, but there are no other signs of distress. In Gya "the condition of the people remains good, but the Magistrate cannot expect "this to last much longer." Four or five isolated cases of distress met relief. In Shahabad there is no general distress, though "pressure is being felt by the more "indigent of the high castes, and by those who ordinarily subsist on charity, or "who from bodily infirmities are incapable of work." In Sarun the condition of the people is expected to improve "for a time at least" in consequence of the yield of the spring harvest. "Meanwhile, the provision of relief works has been found "to relieve distress wherever reported;" and it is believed that "widespread and "general distress among the laboring classes has thus been avoided." From the very worst parts of Chumparun it is reported that there had been great distress, but that owing to the various relief measures, "a material and already perceptible im"provement in the condition of the people has been caused." In Monghyr, the condition of the spring crops is excellent, and there is much work to be had in the fields; but in two limited tracts the condition of the people is said to be bad, though the distress has been "hitherto confined to the old, infirm, widows, and children." From the very worst parts of Bhaugulpore, the Magistrate, who was there in camp, was able to report that much field-work was going on, and the general "condition "of the people was better than he had anticipated." The Purneah reports show that

Districts where things are better.

distress is extending in the two worst thannahs, where arrangements are being made to meet it; but the rest of the district is apparently better off than it was a fortnight ago. From Moorshedabad, Rajshahye, and Bogra, it is reported that the condition of the people is not critical, and actual distress is felt as yet only by the old, infirm, and diseased. The Maldah report says there is no actual distress except in one tract where people flocked much to the works, and charitable relief was being given in grain and food. The Dinagepore Magistrate reports that the prospects of his district "appear much more hopeful than they did a short time ago."

The district narratives, bringing the history of affairs in the distressed districts down to the 21st February, will be found in enclosures Nos. 3, 4, and 5.

Tracts where matters are worse.

8. The only distressed district from which the report is clearly worse is Tirhoot. In the three southern sub-divisions of Tirhoot there is not any general distress except in certain limited tracts. But in the three northern sub-divisions of Durbhanga, Seetamurhee, and Madhoobunee matters are worse. In many tracts of these sub-divisions distress is increasing. Prices are very high, and grain is not always to be had at the nominal prices, so that it has been necessary to commence the sale of Government grain. People are now flocking to the works in much larger numbers; the infirm and the professional beggars are coming in to relief centres to be fed. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the arrangements now made in Tirhoot will meet the distress as fully as has been done in Sarun and Chumparun. Hitherto the system of relief works in parts of Tirhoot had not been at all so good as in the last named districts, and it is not yet certain that they are what they should be. Abuses are said to have prevailed which must be remedied; every effort is being used to prevent their recurrence.

The Magistrate of Rungpore reports the condition of the people to be worse, and that a police officer employed on inspection reported severe distress leading to the sale of wives and children. Previous accounts had not led the Lieutenant-Governor to anticipate such statements, and he has urgently referred the matter to the Relief Commissioner, who very recently visited the district. The Lieutenant-Governor's own hope is that things are not so very bad in a district like Rungpore, where prices are always high and nearly everybody is well-off; still the last reports show that parts of Rungpore require very careful watching and relief. If there is plenty of rice in the eastern districts, private trade will bring much of it to Rungpore when the south winds blow, but if the sources of supply fail they must be supplemented.

Even in Dinagepore, Sir George Campbell does not anticipate there will be so much suffering as in Tirhoot, now that a large supply of Government grain is provided for that district, and he hopes that by selling grain to the people, the Government may enable most of them to tide over the difficulty. (See Bengal Government letter, No. 1236, dated 4th March, at Appendix C.*)

* Page 158.

Disposal of references and questions by the Government of India in oral communication with Lieutenant-Governor.

9. On Saturday the 21st, and on Saturday the 28th February, His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to invite the Lieutenant-Governor to meet the Government of India, for the disposal of pending references and questions on famine matters after oral discussion. In Appendix G* will be found schedules of the points and letters which were discussed and disposed of at these meetings. Action has already been taken on most of these points, as will appear from subsequent paragraphs of this narrative. It is therefore unnecessary to go through the several questions seriatim in this place.

* Page 169.

Sir Richard Temple in Behar.

10. Since the submission of the last narrative, Sir Richard Temple has completed his tour in Behar; he has visited North Bhaugulpore, and has again travelled through the worst parts of Tirhoot, seeing to the completion of the relief arrangements there; he has, during the past week, come to Calcutta, where he has conferred with the Lieutenant-Governor upon the state of the distressed districts. He has now started on another tour, in which he will visit Purneah and Dinapore, and probably some other places. At Appendix C* will be found minutes showing Sir Richard's conclusions regarding Bhaugulpore, and a conditional opinion regarding Purneah, also the letter in which he reported the conclusion of his first tour, and the Lieutenant-Governor's reply warmly ackowledging Sir Richard's services, and stating the subjects to which the Lieutenant-Governor would now specially call his attention. The Lieutenant-Governor has before acknowledged the great energy, ability, and tact with which Sir Richard Temple has directed famine operations in North Behar during his tour there, and he has derived much benefit from being able to discuss matters personally with Sir Richard during his present short visit to Calcutta.

* Page 153.

Allotments of Government grain.

11. The allotment of Government grain to the different districts remains very much as was stated at paragraph 26 of the last (eleventh) Narrative. Sir Richard Temple's estimates for Bhaugulpore differs very little from that of this Government. Not having visited Purneah, he has not yet given a final opinion as to the amount of grain that will be there required; he has, for the present, authorised (see minute No. 28 in Appendix C*) the Commissioner to arrange for carriage up to a total allotment of 6,50,000 maunds for Purneah. But, as the last accounts are favorable there, the somewhat smaller quantities previously contemplated by Government may be found sufficient. Meanwhile, in order to relieve the pressure on the East Indian Railway traffic upwards from Howrah, the Government of India, on the Lieutenant-Governor's suggestion, has authorised him to provide for the Sarun district and for any pressing needs of Shahabad by purchasing grain through the Patna dealers who draw their supplies from the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab. A portion of this may also be diverted for Tirhoot. When the carrying power of the East Indian Railway was specially slack, and contractors' carts were being kept empty opposite Patna, authority was given to the Commissioner of Patna to purchase locally enough grain to keep the carts going. Under the latter authority some small amount of grain was bought; all the grain so purchased, and the supplies to be brought for Sarun, will be so much in excess of the original total provision of 340,000 tons of Government grain. 1,000 tons of Government rice has been made over to the Nepal Government for the relief of sufferers in the Nepal terai; the grain is now on the way to Bhaugulpore, where it will be taken over by Nepal Famine Commissioner.

* Page 158.

Despatch of Government grain from Calcutta.

12. The total despatches of Government grain from Calcutta during the fortnight under review were (see Appendix B) 10,33,737 maunds. Altogether 36,50,000 maunds (about 135,000 tons) of Government grain have been despatched to or received in the distressed districts up to date. The daily despatches by the East Indian Railway during the month of February averaged 1,700 tons. At one time an attempt was made to load up and despatch in one day as much as 2,800 tons, in order to make up for previous slack days, and to meet the indents of the officers who had collected means of transport at the stations up-country. But the locomotive department could not carry away the full quantity loaded, and the Government of India decided that the strain upon the railway caused by such large Government despatches, in addition to the ordinary traffic of the country, would be too great, and directed that not more than 2,500 tons of Government grain should be loaded up at Howrah in any one day. Effort is being made to have a reserve equal to two or three days' supply at all the great river-side depôts, so that the local means of transport may not be thrown out of gear by occasional short despatches on the East Indian Railway.

River crossings.

13. In last narrative it was stated that the arrangements for crossing the grain over the Ganges from the East Indian Railway and Eastern Bengal Railway stations into the very distressed districts were being made fairly complete. During the past fortnight one additional Government steamer, three hired steamers, eight flats, and three cargo boats have been added to the fleet which is occupied in crossing grain over the Ganges. Some of these vessels may not yet have reached their respective stations; but there either are or soon will be present—

At the Kooshtea crossing—three large river steamers with six flats, one smaller steamer, with a flat, besides country boats;

At the Rajmehal crossing—one river steamer with one flat, besides country boats;

At the Barrh ghât crossing—three river steamers with four flats and two cargo boats, besides country boats;

At the Futwa ghât crossing—two river steamers with four flats or cargo-boats;

On the rivers in the interior of Rajshahye—one small steamer with two barges already at work, one steam launch about to arrive, and three steamers expected shortly to arrive from Godavery.

At each of these crossings there are large numbers of native boats. But when the strong west winds begin to blow steadily these country boats will find it a very long business indeed to cross the Ganges, and especially to beat up-stream as they have to do from Kooshtea and Futwa Ghât. The trip from Kooshtea up to Godagaree takes a steamer and flats three or four days, and it takes a native boat from fourteen to twenty days; up to Manick Chuck, opposite Rajmehal, the voyage is still longer. Against the stream of the Ganges at this time of year native boats can rarely make more than 8 to 10 miles a day, and when the west wind is against them, they often fail to make 5 miles a day.

Inland transport.

14. The arrangements for carrying the allotments of Government grain into the interior are now complete and systematic. Even allowing for occasional mishaps and disappointments, there seems every reason to hope that the large allotments of grain made to the most distressed tracts will be well into the interior before the 15th June. If there should be any disappointment, the water-routes and the Durbhanga railway may make up the supply after that time. Sir Richard Temple's minutes reviewing the transport arrangements, will be found in Appendix D.* No. 35 reviews the transport arrangements for Tirhoot; his minute No. 34 describes the reserve carriage which has been provided. It will be seen that arrangements have been made by contract for throwing 42,00,000 maunds into the three northern sub-divisions of Tirhoot before the rains. This, with the quantity before provided by other means, and that supplied by Durbhanga Court of Wards, will make fully 45,00,000 maunds, say 166,000 tons. This is a very fully sufficient supply for almost the whole population for several months, and that part of the country is amply secured against a failure of the general food-supply. It will be seen that it has not been found necessary to rely on the North-Western Provinces contracts for more than 4,00,000 maunds. Even for so much it was necessary to pay excessively high rates, and the Lieutenant-Governor is very glad that Sir Richard Temple has been able to arrange without further drawing on this source at present. It will be seen that besides the contracts a reserve of Government carriage has been provided. The Patna divisional narrative (enclosure No. 8)* gives details of the transport scheme for Sarun and Chumparun, and describes the steps taken by the officers of the Quartermaster-General's Department to keep the roads in order, and by other military officers to maintain discipline and system at the river-side depôts whence such immense numbers of carts have to start daily. An additional crossing place and route into Tirhoot is to be opened opposite the Mokameh railway station, and is to be worked by a contractor from the North-West Provinces from the 15th March. Altogether, the full Tirhoot supply is arranged for; and so are the supplies for Sarun and Chumparun. The transport contractors are working well so far as is yet known; their carts and cattle are in good condition. Fodder is being collected, and there is no reason why the contracts should not be fulfilled. Most of the transport contracts carry the grain to great centres, and the local officers will, with the help of local planters and zemindars, distribute the grain to the more remote centres. Sir Richard Temple's minute No. 36 (Appendix D*) shows that pack-bullock carriage is being engaged for this work of internal distribution. Several thousands of small gunny bags, to contain 30 seers (61 lbs.) of grain apiece, are on the way to each of the distressed districts. They will be distributed to each grain depôt, so that grain can be packed in them and sent to villages either on pack-bullocks, or on coolies' heads.

* Pages 163 and 164.

Patna Division.

* Page 243.

* Page 165.

Bhaugulpore Division.

15. The Monghyr District has always been able to carry all the grain it got or could want. But in North Bhaugulpore there had been difficulty and delay in getting the grain away from the river-side. Contracts have, however, been made for carrying into the northern tracts all the grain that has been allotted. Efficient officers of the Quarter-Master General's Department have been told off to bridge the streams, keep the roads in order, and systematise the working of the two traffic routes. The Purneah district has recently been carrying into the interior fully 5,000 maunds of grain a day, and it is believed that this rate will be increased. The Dinagepore district looks to get some part of its supplies through Purneah, where the roads are good. Accordingly, Mr. Hankey has gone to Purneah with a view of obtaining sufficient carriage to raise the Purneah transport power as much as possible.

Rajshahye Division.

16. It had been stated in previous Narratives that the transport into the remoter parts of Dinagepore, where a very large supply of grain was required, had been difficult to arrange. The difficulty has, however, now been overcome; and from the papers in Appendix E* it will be seen that the Relief Commissioner expects to get the whole Dinagepore supply (10,00,000 maunds of grain) into the district by nine different routes before the end of May. Since the summary in Appendix E was written, report has been received that the officers are already working up to the full estimate on three or more of these routes, and the Commissioner of the division has informed the Government that even more may be done. The Commissioner reports that the engineers occupied in improving

* Page 165.

the bed of the Mahanuddy, hope by the end of March, to secure a good straight channel, 100 feet wide and 3½ feet deep, up the Mahanuddy as far as Maldah. As this will open the river for large boats and small steamers half-way to Raigunge, the principal depôt of north-west Dinagepore, the benefit to the grain transport will be very great if this expectation is fulfilled.

General aspect of the grain transport question.

17. Thus then, it may be said that the Government officers have now arranged, at great expense indeed in some cases, but still they have arranged, to carry into the interior of the most distressed districts all the grain which Government proposes to send; and there is every reasonable hope that these arrangements will, notwithstanding the misadventures which must occur in great undertakings of this kind, be effectually carried out. At Appendix F* will be found a table showing the quantities of Government grain which had reached its final destination in the interior of the districts up to the date of the latest returns. The total of that statement is 16,97,467 maunds, or 62,870 tons. Considering that the latest returns do not bring the facts for remote store-houses up to later than the 17th or 18th February, and that the despatches were largest at the end of January, while the internal transport was not then fully developed, it may perhaps, be reckoned that the grain now reaches the final storehouses in the interior of the worst districts within a month of its leaving Calcutta.

* Page 168.

Relief works.

18. The fortnightly returns of persons employed on the Government relief works will be found at enclosure No. 6.* The numbers receiving relief in this shape have increased largely during the fortnight in all the worst districts, except Bhaugulpore and part of Monghyr. Compared with the figures given in the last narrative (paragraph 27), the numbers employed daily stand thus:—

* Page 241.

	Last fortnight.		Fortnight under report.
Patna Division - - -	120,000	people.	162,267
Soane Canal works - - -	32,000	„	36,000
Gunduck Embankments - -	9,500	„	19,240
Bhaugulpore Division (inclusive of Kurruckpore works) - -	19,000	„	16,310
Rajshahye Division - - -	24,000	„	35,940
Burdwan Division, Nuddea, and Chota Nagpore - - - -	6,000	„	11,754
Northern Bengal Railway - -	3,000	„	6,200
Total - - -	213,000	„	287,711

The districts where relief is most freely given on works are, Sarun, with its daily average of 82,820 people, exclusive of those on the Gunduck embankment; Chumparun, with 25,787 relief laborers, besides 7,900 on the embankment works; Dinagepore, with 25,000 people on the district works, besides 6,200 on the railway. In Tirhoot the relief works are being developed; 25,889 people are employed (according to the narrative, enclosure No. 3)* on Government works, besides 13,000 on Court of Wards' works, and 5,036 on private works. But, as has been said, some abuses and failures have come to light in this district, and we have yet to learn that the arrangements are all we could desire. In the Sarun districts, and in South Behar, the number of work-people fell off during the latter days of the fortnight; this decrease was due to the demand for labor for the spring harvest, and partly to the slight fall in the price of food.

* Pages 189 and 190.

In North Bhaugulpore and Purneah, the number of laborers on the Government relief works continues to be small. In the former tract a great deal of relief work on village tanks is said to be now being done by private persons; in Purneah the system of daily payments to laborers has been strictly introduced, and it remains to be seen if the number of work-people increases greatly. Happily the condition of Purneah appears to be, excepting certain limited tracts, better than had been at first feared.

Relief works system.

19. The system of administering the relief works differs in different districts. In Sarun and Dinagepore, there has been little or no demand for additional trained subordinates of the Public Works Department, yet the works are attracting an immense number of people and much good work is being done. The people on some of the Sarun and Shahabad works are paid by what is called "the cowrie system," under which each man, woman, or child re-

ceives payment in cowries (that is, in the lowest denomination of money) for each basket of earth lifted. In these districts the people worked for the most part with their own tools, but a reserve of Government tools is provided. From Tirhoot, on the other hand, a requisition has been made for a very large number of trained overseers and for 60,000 tools; and it is said that the work cannot be done and the people cannot be paid regularly unless the requisition is met. Rather than run any risk that there should not be enough work for the able-bodied poor in a very distressed district like Tirhoot, the Lieutenant-Governor has, with the help of the Government of India, arranged that additional overseers shall be sent into Tirhoot to the extent of an indent passed by Sir Richard Temple; but after consulting Sir Richard Temple, he has refused to attempt compliance with a much larger demand for Department of Public Works establishments since made by Mr. Worsley. The indent for tools has been partially, and soon will be wholly, complied with. But seeing how very much of the relief work will be on common earth roads and tanks, the construction of which the people perfectly understand, and that in other districts relief works are very satisfactorily managed through the people themselves, the Lieutenant-Governor has thought that the Tirhoot officers have in this matter fallen very far short of the measure of success attained by officers of other districts. Copy of certain orders under which the Lieutenant-Governor's views on this subject were conveyed will be found at enclosure No. 7,* and farther orders are about to issue. The real difficulty is to see that the money charged to Government is really disbursed. For this purpose unprofessional is as good as professional agency, and the duty must be undertaken by the relief establishments. The Commissioner is now on the spot; his views are quite in accord with those of the Lieutenant-Governor, and he will see that things are put on the best footing possible.

* Page 242.

Charitable relief.

20. Now that the arrangements for transporting Government grain into the interior are fairly complete, and that relief works for the employment of the able-bodied are ready in all the distressed districts, the subject to which the attention of Government, its officers, and of the local Relief Committees, is now mainly directed, is the organization and distribution of charitable relief. At Appendix G. to the tenth Narrative were given the "Instructions to Relief Committees"; a very wide discretion was left to the local Committees and their subordinates, who were—

(1.) to ascertain where relief was required within their circles.
(2.) to collect subscriptions and to obtain resources either from Government or from the Central Committee.
(3.) to give relief either—
  (*d.*) gratuitously to those who were unable to work;
  (*e.*) in the shape of wages for in-door employment or for petty village works;
  (*f.*) by advances of money or grain, or by sale of grain at reduced prices to classes and persons who were by usage prevented from working;
  (*g.*) by sale of grain through the agency of local traders in tracts where there was an absolute deficiency of supply;
  (*h.*) by establishing poor-houses for the reception of paupers and for feeding them.

21. The Central Committee have already at their disposal about Rs. 7,00,000 (70,000*l.*) for the central relief fund. Over and above this total considerable sums, amounting altogether to over Rs. 1,00,000 (10,000*l.*), have been collected in the distressed districts, and are being spent there by the local committees.

Central Relief Committee.	Rs.
Subscriptions paid or promised in India to the Central Committee - -	2,99,567
Subscriptions remitted by the Right Honourable Lord Mayor from London -	2,09,265
Subscriptions remitted from Madras - - - - - - -	67,000
Subscriptions remitted from Rangoon - - - - - -	34,000
Government contribution towards doubling private subscriptions - -	1,00,000
Total -	7,09,832
or £	70,983

The Central Committee have granted from their funds Rs. 2,05,000 to the districts shown in the margin. The expenditure of these grants will be conducted under the control of the Government officers, but will be accounted for to the Central Committee.

Patna, Gya, Shahabad, Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, Monghyr, Bhagulpore, Purnea, Dinagepore, Maldah, Rungpore, and Bogra.

22. Meantime, the organisation of relief in the worst districts has been pushed on. Sir Richard Temple had, in communication with the local officers, arranged (see Minutes 26 and 33, Appendices C* and D,*) details of the relief sub-divisions and relief circles in Tirhoot, Chumparun, and North Bhaugulpore. He is now proceeding to Purneah, where he will revise the relief circles there required. The Commissioner of the division has reported (see Appendix H*) upon the relief circles he is organising in Dinagepore. As yet the relief circles have not all been manned, but the officers told off to the relief sub-divisions and relief circles are arriving at their posts daily; and in the meanwhile such distress as comes to light is relieved through the civil officers, engineers, police, or other Government officials who may be on duty in the interior. At Appendix J* is given a statement showing how far the charitable relief organisation has been completed or is at work. The numbers of persons actually in receipt of daily charitable relief are not accurately given for every district, but the total numbers thus relieved by the local committees or by Government officers (exclusive of the recipients of private charity) range from 200 to 1,200 a day in the districts for which returns are complete.

Relief organisation in the districts.

* Pages 157 and 162.

* Page 174.

23. For each of the most distressed districts the following short notes of actual operations may be given:—

Progress of charitable relief in the worst districts.

Tirhoot.—Till recently no charitable relief operations on a large scale have been undertaken in the three western sub-divisions, but the last accounts show that it has been necessary to take immediate measures to relieve a part of the head-quarter sub-divisions. Sub-committees have been appointed and are being appointed where distress is anticipated. Sir Richard Temple has given orders regarding relief sub-committees in Tajpore. In three sub-divisions three additional relief sub-divisions have been formed, and twenty relief circles; the sub-divisions have been manned, and so have seven of the circles. The relief officer of Durbhanga reports that funds for charitable relief have been placed at the disposal of factory managers and village headmen in the worst tracts; and he adds: "our relief superintendents are now arriving every day; the ensuing fortnight will show great progress in this direction. Meantime, I think all precautions are being taken to prevent the occurrence of deaths from starvation. Each superintendent on his arrival is posted to a circle and directed to visit every village in his jurisdiction without delay, to prepare lists of the headmen through whom he will work, and to collect all information that he can obtain regarding the condition of the inhabitants."

Sarun.—In the Sarun district reliance has hitherto been placed, and very successfully placed on a very large system of public works; but the persons in charge of the 18 first grade relief centres have been placed in funds to enable them to relieve casual distress, and so also have most of the Government officers on duty in the interior, and regular relief centres have been opened at two places on the Hutwa estate. The Lieutenant-Governor has instructed the Magistrate at once to open centres similar to that at Hutwa in the parts of the district where any of the inspecting officers report signs of actual distress not met by works.

Chumparun.—In the Chumparun district five relief sub-divisions have been formed, and four of them have been manned. In the fifth, or most distressed, sub-division three circles have been formed, all three of which are manned by officers who have already been for some weeks at the work. In the other relief sub-divisions the circles will be in charge of indigo planters and native zemindars, who have undertaken and may be trusted fully to discharge the relief duties. Of the most distressed, the Ramnuggur relief sub-division, the Magistrate-Collector writes: "Colonel Boulderson is collecting statistics, village by village, in the tract under his care, and distributing relief. Mr. Howe is doing the same for Ramnuggur; 200 persons have already been relieved; these are almost all cripples and men who, from sickness or other cause, are unable to work. A relief-house and dispensary are also being erected at Ramnuggur. At Bagha Messrs. Chritien and Moore distribute relief to about 200 to 300 persons daily."

North Bhaugulpore.—In the north of Bhaugulpore six relief circles have been formed in the sub-divisions of Soopole and Mudheypoora under the sub-divisional officer, and the circles are being manned. Meanwhile the Soopole sub-divisional officer "has started charitable relief at Soopole, Nowhatta, and Kunda in anticipation of formal sanction; and about 100 persons are now fed daily at Soopole, 150 at Nowhatta, and 50 at Kunda. These persons appear to be chiefly of the lowest classes, and a large proportion of them children." The Mudheypoora sub-divisional officer writes that in his jurisdiction "four centres have been started, out of which three are in full work, relieving on an average ten daily. No one as yet seems willing to apply for relief at Ghylar."

Purneah.—In the Purneah district seven centres have been formed in the worst tracts; at two of these centres a Government officer is in charge; at the others planters and zemindars have undertaken the duty. Sir Richard Temple will decide, after visiting Purneah, how many centres, with full relief organization, are required in Purneah.

Dinagepore.—The Commissioner's report in Appendix H* shows that he has constituted six relief sub-divisions, to each of which an officer has been told off. Mr. Molony hopes to administer the circles through village headmen and local people rather than by paid agency. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that these arrangements will suffice, for he does not anticipate such severe and helpless distress in Dinagepore as will have to be met in North Behar.

* Page 173.

Maldah.—In the Maldah district only one relief sub-division besides the district head-quarters has been opened. But in the worst tract of the district seven relief centres are in operation, whereat from 140 to 200 people are relieved daily.

25. Of the remaining districts, charitable relief is being given most largely in Monghyr and Rungpore. Of Monghyr the Magistrate-Collector writes:—

"Officers engaged in distributing relief complain much of the difficulty in selecting candidates for tickets; crowds of lepers, blind, and cripples, styled professional beggars, whose profession however is the result of necessity rather than choice, present themselves. It appears hard to refuse charity to such persons, but if once they come on our hands, it will be a problem of some difficulty to determine at what hour we are to shake them off. I have not thought proper to insist on any very hard-and-fast rules; the distributing committees must use their own discretion in each instance.

"The following is a list of the relief centres already opened:—

No.	Name of relief centre.	Number of persons fed.	Under whose supervision.
1.	Monghyr	359	Municipal committee.
2.	Buktearpore	70	M. More and committee.
3.	Chupraun	65	Mr. H. Christian aided by a committee.
4.	Lukhiserai	60	Local committee superintended by Mr. Currie.
5.	Sheikpoora	104	Mr. Currie aided by local committee.
6.	Secundra	200	Mr. Money aided by committee.
7.	Garua Parsanda	12	Ditto ditto ditto.
8.	Orain	50	Moulvie Abdul Jubbar aided by committee.
9.	Obeypore	20	Mr. J. Christian aided by committee.
10.	Pachna	5	Mr. Currie aided by committee.
11.	Sondhi	20	Only just opened by Moulvie Abdul Jubbar.
12.	Choara	40	Mr. Money aided by committee.
13.	Jamui	0	Return not received."

From Rungpore the Magistrate writes:—

"Relief is being distributed at the following places—

	Persons.
Pyraband	400
Meetapuker	231
Pirgunge	76
Govindgunge	34
Kamdair Haut	(Unknown.)
Gaibunda	39
Sundergunge	150
Kalligunge outpost	16
Naldanga	120
Luckhipore	80
Total	1,146

Uncooked food, half potatoes half rice, is being given; but arrangements will be made to give cooked food. At Mohigunge, two private annochatras (relief-houses) have been opened, and relief is given to about 600 persons in cooked food, and on Sundays Basanta Geer Sunnasi gives a dole of rice. I was present yesterday, and about 2,500 people attended for it. In Batashun, Baboo Luchmipat Dugar gives a week's supply of rice to about 400 of his ryots. The Superintendent is going from village to village and gives tickets to the deserving objects of charity, on the production of which a supply of rice is given at the cutcherry. In Baharbund annochatras (relief-houses) are opened at Olipore and Lalchamara Haut, and will be opened at other places. No particulars as to numbers relieved are at hand."

Advances for purchase of grain and landed improvements.

26. Advances for purchase of grain continue to be taken in Sarun and in South Behar. In the Sarun district also, advances to the amount of Rs. 51,853 have been made for the execution of landed improvements. In North Bhaugulpore the zemindars are coming forward much more freely than hitherto to undertake tanks and other works for the benefit of their estates. A leading zemindar, named Hurbullub Narain Sing, has set a specially excellent example in this respect (see enclosure No. 4).* The Government of India has been pleased to remit the stamp duties charged on deeds required for advances of money to persons in Bengal for the purchase of grain or for the maintenance of ryots during the present season.

* Page 214.

Burdwan Division.

27. There is no material change in the condition of the Burdwan Division, though the tendency of prices is still upward; and in Hooghly the cultivators are now refusing to part with their stores of grain. This affects the supply of the smaller markets in the interior of that district, which are now fed from the large importing depôts on the banks of the large rivers. Upwards of 6,000 laborers are employed on works in Hooghly. In Midnapore supplies are ample and exportation from the district still goes on. But the weaving class are beginning to suffer, and subscriptions are being collected and relief organised to meet the wants of this and other non-cultivating castes. The Messrs. Watson have opened their stores of rice in the wilder part of the district, called the Jungle Mehals, but there is no demand for the rice at present, though the number of laborers at subsistence rates on the works provided is said to be increasing fast. From Burdwan district export is still going on, and prices are beginning to pinch rather severely in parts. Relief arrangements are complete. Last Narrative stated that the Maharaja of Burdwan had, with his usual princely liberality, undertaken the gratuitous relief of all the poor and helpless in his zemindaree, and had organised a relief system on a very ample footing. Other zemindars are, the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to say, now following this good example. In Beerbhoom and Bancoorah distress affects at present only the non-cultivating and indigent classes. Relief Committees are now at work, and labor is provided for all who require it. It may possibly be found desirable to give advances to zemindars and others in one corner of Bancoorah to enable them to import some rice; but the Commissioner has not yet declared this necessary.

Chota Nagpore Division.

28. In Manbhoom prices are slowly rising all over the district though they vary very much, 17 or 18 seers of common rice being obtainable for a rupee in the south and south-west of the district, while only 13 seers can be got in the north-west. Exportation is going on still to Hazaribagh and Ranigunj. No cases of casual distress for want of food have yet been met with, but it is extremely probable that, as noted in last narrative, some Government grain will have eventually to be sent into this district. The average daily number of laborers on the roads was 2,260 for the fortnight. Advances for land improvement have been taken to the amount of Rs. 36,435. Charitable relief arrangements are still backward, but the Lieutenant-Governor has insisted on their being at once completed.

From Palamow there is nothing fresh to report. Orders have been given for strengthening the sub-divisional staff to meet the demand for supervision of works, and to dispose of applications for advances.

Later reports from other districts show that the rain in the beginning of February has done much good everywhere in this division, especially in filling the tanks and bringing on the crop of mhowa, and the jungle products, upon which the poorer classes here habitually live. The part of Hazaribagh, near Palamow and Gya, may still, the Commissioner thinks, require special relief, and the storage of some Government grain is recommended.

From Singbhoom the Deputy Commissioner writes with enthusiasm of the "steady honesty and zeal" with which the villagers are working out their advances. No less than 40 really useful reservoirs have been constructed for Rs. 7,000. The people under their mankis, or village headmen, are working "with clannish emulation" in throwing up embankments, and the system of relief seems both complete and successful.

The Commissioner, Colonel Dalton, has been on tour in the Tributary States of Sirguja, and Korea, where he has been stimulating the chiefs and headmen to look into the condition of their people. Though there was some failure of crops, Colonel Dalton finds that there is food enough in the country. Work will be found for those who need it. But the large purchases of lac for export are said to have put even the poorer classes in funds, and there is altogether no great cause for anxiety about these States.

Nuddea district.

29. In Nuddea supplies are reported still sufficient, but prices have an upward tendency, ranging from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 3-3 per maund. The only classes, however, that feel actual distress are day-laborers and weavers. 1,500 persons are now employed on tank-digging and roads. For the weavers, attempts are being made to supply work at their own trade in making gunny-bags for Government. Charitable committees will be at once formed to give advances for, and look after this mode of relief.

Sonthal Pergunnahs.

30. It was stated in a former Narrative that prices had risen very greatly in the Rajmehal tract of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and at one time the Commissioner had recommended that Government grain should be stored in that district. Looking to the facts that the Sonthal Pergunnahs are situate on two lines of railway, that the information as to the threatenings of distress was incomplete, and that grain was still being exported largely, the Lieutenant-Governor was for some time unable to agree to store Government grain in the Sonthal Pergunnahs. There was risk that if Government grain was brought in prices would fall, and the exports from the district would become brisker than ever. Now, however, more complete, though still not final reports have been received; it appears that for the greater part of the Sonthal Pergunnahs there is no immediate anxiety, but that in one limited tract near the railway, where the rice failed and there is no spring crop, prices are very high, and the people eagerly resort to relief works. For the food of these workpeople grain from outside was much required; the Commissioner reported that he could not buy the required quantity of grain locally without greatly disturbing the market; and, accordingly, the Lieutenant-Governor has sent 5,000 maunds of grain, and has promised to send more for this particular tract. Carriage for its transport, and storehouses for its reception, are said to be ready. In one part of the great Government estate called the Damin-i-koh, the Sonthal ryots are said to find difficulty in paying their rents owing to the failure of their crops. The Lieutenant-Governor has accordingly authorized the suspension of the Government demand from those ryots who are really in straits and require such a concession.

Cooch Behar.

31. The Commissioner of Cooch Behar has reported that in the protected state of Cooch Behar and in the young Rajah's zemindaries situate in the Rungpore district, there is much scarcity; that rents cannot be collected by tenure-holders; and that distress is beginning among the old and infirm. The Commissioner has, from the revenues of Cooch Behar, imported and stored grain, has opened relief works, and has arranged for in-door works for the women and the infirm. By these measures he hopes to enable the people to tide over the hard times until the early rice harvest of the month of May.

Irrigation department works.

32. The daily average of laborers on the Soane canal works has risen to 36,000. The laborers continue to draw their supplies from the neighbouring bazaars, where prices have, according to the engineer officer's reports, fallen appreciably. On the Gunduck embankments, the number of laborers is increasing rapidly, notwithstanding that the prospects of the country are better than they were twenty days ago. Food is said to be a little cheaper in the local bazars whence the laborers supply their wants. The number of laborers has risen from 6,000 to 10,000 a day on the Chumparun embankments, and from 3,500 to 10,283 on the Sarun embankments. The supplies of Government grain for the embankment works are coming in rapidly, 20,000 maunds are said by the engineer to be arriving weekly in the Chumparun embankments. As yet the Government grain is not being used on the works.

The temporary dam which threw the Damoodah water into the Kana Nuddee was carried away by the freshes in the middle of February, and it has not yet been reconstructed. New embankments under construction in South Midnapore will give employment to about 1,000 persons. From the Jungle Mehals (forest tracts) of Midnapore, where there was much failure of the crops, laborers are going to the irrigation and embankment work on the Cossye river; and about 700 carts from this tract are employed regularly in carrying stone for the irrigation department.

Northern Bengal Railway.

33. The latest returns from the Northern Bengal Railway show that for 98 miles of the main line the side-widths have been set out. 130 miles of railway-feeder roads have been marked out, and 10 miles of the Rungpore branch have been lined out. The land is being taken over under the Act as rapidly as it is required. Comparatively few people seek work on the lower length of the line, but on the upper length there are plenty of workpeople. Up to the 14th February 6,241 people were employed; they were all paid by piece-work and the average earnings of an adult male came to over three annas a day. Brickmaking was being pushed on for the bridges; the telegraph line from Julpigoree southward, as far as the marshy country was complete, and communication was established. Forty-five storehouses for rice were complete, and the rest were approaching completion. The supply of grain in the local markets was for the most part sufficient, and prices were about 11 seers per rupee. At one or two points on the line supplies are said to be falling short, but the Government stores have not as yet been opened.

Emigration.

34. One effect of the scarcity has been a considerable increase in the number of emigrant-laborers to the tea-districts. Colonial emigration has not been increased in the same proportion. The majority of the emigrants come from Western Bengal, Chota Nagpore, and the Sonthal Pergunnahs, rather than from the very distressed districts of Behar. The scheme, which was described in a previous Narrative for promoting emigration to British Burmah, has now begun to take effect, and up to the end of February 503 persons had taken advantage of Government assistance to emigrate to British Burmah; out of these 427 were recruited in Calcutta, and 76 in the Monghyr District. No emigrants for Burmah have as yet come from other districts. These emigrants are bound in course of time to repay the money spent by Government in carrying them over to Burmah, so that the emigration fund will be replenished, and it may be possible to maintain a constant stream of emigrants. The numbers of emigrants during the four months, November to February during the last two years, have been as follows :—

NUMBER of EMIGRANTS despatched from Calcutta during the Famine months as compared with the corresponding months of the preceding season.

	November.		December.		January.		February.		Total for the four months.	
	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.	1873.	1874.	1873.	1874.	1872–73.	1873–74.
To the Colonies and West Indies	2,148	3,222	760	3,045	1,701	1,939	2,758	2,525	7,862	10,731
To the tea districts	1,113	2,218	1,418	3,929	2,095	4,718	2,427	2,398	7,348	13,268
To Burmah	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	503	—	503

The total for the past four months is thus 24,497 as against 14,410 in the preceding year. The numbers are as yet too small to give any appreciable relief to the afflicted districts, but the increased supply of labour will be of much benefit to the tea districts.

Railway to Durbhangah and telegraph lines in the distressed districts.

35. The staff for the construction of the Durbhangah railway have been on the ground now for some weeks. Two companies of Sappers have been sent to Chumpta ghât whence the line starts. Material is arriving steadily and is being unloaded and carried across the Ganges. More specific progress reports of this work will be given in future narratives. Telegraph lines have been laid and are now in working order from the Ganges to Mozufferpore, Durbhangah, Moteeharee, and Bettiah. The line is being carried on to Mudhobanee. Telegraphic communication has also been established between Julpigoree and the greater part of the Northern Bengal Railway works. As yet cables for carrying the telegraph lines under the Ganges at Patna ghât and Barrh ghât have not been arranged. It is proposed to work a military field-telegraph across the Ganges from Barrh to Chumpta ghât, by means of boats moored at intervals on the river.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 5th March 1874.

APPENDIX A.

MOVEMENT OF FOOD-GRAINS.

Some discrepancies have been discovered in the statements of exports and imports of food-grain received from the Collector of Customs, Calcutta, and the out-port officers. These are under examination as regards Chittagong and the Orissa Ports, but for Calcutta amended returns have been received, which give the following results :—*

	Exports to places outside Bengal. Tons.	Imports from places outside Bengal. Tons.
October	14,220	2
November	13,398	2,219
December	32,632	9,068
January	42,346	28,707
February	15,421	60,068
Total	118,017	100,064

Of the imports the following are returned as private :—

	Tons.
In October	2
„ November	159
„ December	1,004
„ January	788
„ February	1,770
Total	3,723

The export is falling off rapidly, the figures for the last three weeks being 2,10,224 maunds, 1,00,883 maunds, and 56,843 maunds respectively.

As regards the out-ports, the monthly returns under the signature of the Collector of Customs, which this Government has received for Chittagong, show the following totals of export to places outside Bengal :—

CHITTAGONG.	Exports to places outside Bengal. Tons.
October	3,309
November	7,004
December	9,294
January	12,769
Total	32,376

A different set of statements submitted to the Government of India direct put the total at 4,192 tons less. The discrepancy is now under examination.

From the 1st to the 15th February the export from Chittagong is returned at 5,021 tons in the half-monthly statement. For the second half of the month the figures as telegraphed are 9,957 tons, which, if correct, would make the total export for February 14,978 tons, and the total export beyond Bengal from Chittagong up to date 47,354 tons.

From the Orissa ports the exports are returned by the Collector of Customs thus :—

	Exports to places outside Bengal. Tons.
October	1,173
November	735
December	1,650
January	4,107
Total	7,665

Another set of returns, however, place the total at 7,629 tons. The discrepancy has here also to be explained. According to the half-monthly return, the exports for the first half of February were 1,592 tons. Later returns have not been received. The total exports beyond Bengal from Orissa, therefore, as by the returns before this Government, stand to 15th February at 9,257 tons.

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* Throughout this Appendix the ton is taken at 27 maunds.

The grand total of exports to places beyond Bengal since the 1st October, according to the returns before this Government, is thus:—

		Tons.
To end of February	Calcutta	118,017
	Chittagong	47,354
To 15th February	Orissa ports	9,257
	Total	174,628

From the 1st November the total is 155,926 tons.

2. Between the 18th and 24th February, 4,77,700 maunds of rice left Howrah for Behar, and between the 25th February and 3rd March 4,80,000 maunds more, making a total for the fortnight of 9,57,700 maunds or 35,581 tons.

The total amount of food-grains despatched since 1st November to Behar from stations below Jamui on the Chord line and Rajmehal on the Loop line was as follows:—

In November	16,555	tons, of which	2,829	tons was Government rice.	
„ December	24,656	„ „	11,849	„ „ „	
„ January	47,776	„ „	26,682	„ „ „	
Total	88,987	„ „	41,360	„ „ „	

The difference, viz., 47,627 tons, represents the amount of private grain sent up-country to Behar since 1st November up to the end of January. The Railway return for February has not been received, but the despatch upwards of Government grain in that month was 49,482 tons.

The Railway brought down from the North-Western Provinces to stations between Buxar and Rajmehal, from the 14th to 21st February, 7,881 tons, and from the 21st to 28th, 6,967 tons, making 84,428 tons since the 1st November.

3. From the 18th February to 3rd March, 5,24,846 maunds, or 19,438 tons, of food-grains entered Calcutta by the eastern canals, making a total of 146,910 tons since the 1st October.

4. During the latter half of February, 68,678 maunds, or 2,543 tons, of food-grains passed up by Sahebgunge, and 9,926 maunds, or 367 tons, passed up. At Goalundo, between the 15th and 25th, 60,100 maunds, or 2,225 tons, were registered going up, and at Kooshtea during the same period, 13,500 maunds, or 500 tons, passed down.

A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 5th March 1874.

Appendix C.

No. 69, dated Durbhanga, the 21st February 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., with Sir R. Temple on special service, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department.

I am directed to forward, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of the following minutes recorded by Sir Richard Temple, viz., No. 25, regarding the grain requirements of the Soopoole and Mudhepoora sub-divisions of the Bhaugulpore district, and the transport arrangements No. 26, about the establishments of sub-committees in those sub-divisions; No. 27, on the subject of the relief road works in the same tract; and No. 28, on the Commissioner's estimate of the needs of the Purneah district.

2. Sir Richard Temple earnestly hopes that his recommendations may meet with His Honor's approval, and that the necessary steps may be taken to carry them into effect.

Minute No. 25, by the Honorable Sir R. Temple, K.C.S.I., dated Soopoole, the 19th February 1874.

1. Having visited the north part of the Bhaugulpore district, which may be regarded as the distressed part, and conferred with the Commissioner, the Collector, the civil officers of the Soopoole and Mudhepoora sub-divisions, where the distress is most likely to occur; also with the officers of the Court of Wards in the Nareedigur pergunnah of the Soopoole sub-division, and with those Native gentlemen whom I have been able to meet, I have to record the following observations.

2. The Collector, Mr. V. Taylor, assures me that in those parts of the district which lie south of the Ganges, and those which are situate on the basin of the river Kosee, there is no reason to fear any serious distress, and on the north bank of the Ganges the crops are excellent; indeed the excellence of the prospects of the crops near the Ganges is beyond doubt. Here and there, owing to the high range of prices all over the country, there may be scattered outbreaks of distress. Otherwise the prospect of wide-spread and protracted distress is restricted to the tract

which lies on the eastern or left bank of the Teeljooga, which tract extends eastward till it approaches the "spill" or basin of the Kosee, the said tract adjoining the Mudhobanee and Durbhanga sub-divisions of Tirhoot.

3. This tract includes the thannahs of Soopoole, Bungaon, Pertabgunge (Soopoole sub-division), and the thannah Mudhepoora (in the Mudhepoora sub-division). The population of these thannahs is as given below:—

Soopoole - - - - - - -	279,102
Bungaon - - - - - - -	145,088
Pertabgunge - - - - - - -	141,577
Mudhepoora - - - - - - -	251,683
Total - - -	817,430

4. The cause of distress here is much the same as in North-Eastern Tirhoot, namely, the failure of the principal rice crop, which failed from insufficiency of rain on a hard soil peculiarly needing abundant moisture. The case is, however, slightly better than Eastern Tirhoot, because of the murwa crop of August being somewhat larger, the spring crop of wheat being somewhat better, and the supplementary crop, cheena, sown since recent rain being susceptible of irrigation. Still, allowing for all these circumstances, the nature of the case in most parts of the abovementioned thannahs does not materially differ for the better from North-Eastern Tirhoot. There is reason to fear that for several months the distress will be severe.

5. The Commissioner of the division, Mr. Barlow, has given me a careful and elaborate calculation, which I append. He has made this after consulting the Collector and the sub-divisional officers. The result is that he reckons on a possibility of 171,651 persons needing assistance for a period of five months, hence he deduces a requirement of 5,00,000 maunds at ¾ seer per head per diem, to which he adds 1,00,000 maunds as a margin of security.

6. My own opinion, after the best consideration which I am able to give to the subject, is that some of the per-centages assumed in Mr. Barlow's calculation, may be exceeded actually in many parts of the tract when the worst season of distress arrives.

7. All things considered, I estimate that in thannahs Soopoole and Bungaon 50 per cent. of the population may need assistance in the most distressed half, and 30 per cent. in the other half; that in thannah Pertabgunge, not quite so distressed, there would be 50 per cent., while the other half may escape from distress altogether. This estimate gives a total number of 2,74,650 souls, which might need assistance for three and a half months, from 1st June to 15th September, while half this number might need assistance for April and May, and one quarter of this number for March. This calculation at ¾ seer per head per diem, gives a total requirement of 7,33,732 maunds, or say 7⅓ lakhs of maunds.

8. Looking, then, to the comparatively isolated situation of this tract, far from the Ganges, close to the hill frontier, having few roads passable in the rains and few facilities for private trade, adjoining other tracts even more distressed, I consider it essential to the safety of the population concerned—8,17,430 souls—that 7⅓ lakhs or 7,30,000 maunds should be brought within its limits by the 15th June.

9. The Collector reports that 1,00,000 maunds have been carted into the tract, which leaves 6⅓ lakhs or 6,30,000 maunds to be brought up.

10. The Commissioner states, after consulting the special Inspector of Transports, Mr. Hankey, that carriage has been arranged, that is, carts and bullocks are present to carry 60,000 maunds a month for four months, or 2,40,000 on the whole.

11. Both Mr. Barlow and Mr. Hankey state that great difficulty has been experienced in finding carriage in the Bhaugulpore district and in opening out new routes. They have just succeeded in effecting a contract for six lakhs of maunds to be carried from Monghyr to Soopoole in four months. It yet remains to be seen whether this contract will be entirely fulfilled. But we may expect that it will be fulfilled for the most part. If it is, then there will be carriage for—

2,40,000 maunds.
6,00,000 „
8,40,000

This would provide an ample margin over and above the requirement. In that case, however, there is plenty of work for the spare carriage, inasmuch as further means are needed to convey supplies to the neighbouring district of Purneah.

12. I had previously arranged to obtain 2,000 (two thousand) carts from the North-West Provinces. This carriage, if it shall be actually obtained, will be available for Tirhoot, where the carriage as yet falls short of requirements.

13. It may be added that an arrangement has been made for the conveyance of 1,00,000 maunds up the Kosee river by boat, which quantity will be available either for the Bhaugulpore or the Purneah district, according to circumstances.

14. I desire in conclusion to state that the exertions made by the local officers, Mr. Barlow, the Commissioner, Mr. Villiers Taylor, the Collector, and Mr. Hankey, the Inspector of Transport, to obtain carriage in a country where carts are scarce and routes difficult, are very creditable, and will, I hope, eventuate in complete success.

15. I have ordered further inquiries to be made as to the quantity that could be conveyed, if required, to Soopoole by the river Teeljooga during the rains.

16. I have now to recommend that 40,000 maunds a week may be sent by rail to the railway stations between Bhaugulpore and Monghyr.

R. Temple.

Copy of the above forwarded to G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division, for information.

C. E. Buckland, on special duty.

Durbhanga, 21st February 1874.

Summary.

Total to be relieved (probably) during the five critical months -	155,021
Add—	
Three per cent. of population of thannah Budhowa, in Muddehpoora sub-division - - - - - - - -	4,110
Two per cent. of population of Banka sub-division - - -	7,640
One per cent. of population of Sudder sub-division - - -	4,880
Probable total to be relieved in Bhaugulpore during the five critical months - - - - - - - - -	171,651

	171,651 3	
4	514,953	
40	128,738	seers a day.
	3,218 30	maunds a day.
	96,540 5	per month.
	482,700	say 5 lacs.

Allowing one lac stored now for consumption before May.
Total requirement - - = 6 lacs.
or
To be carted hereafter - 5 lacs.

G. N. Barlow,
Officiating Commissioner.

TABLE shewing the probable number to be relieved in Bhaugulpore District in the most afflicted tracts during the period of greatest suffering, viz., from 1st May till end of September.

Name of Caste as entered Census Statement III.	Half Muddehpoora Thannah at full rates = whole Thannah at half Rates.			Thannah Soopole at full Rates.			Thannah Bongong at full Rates.			Nathpur, or Thannah Pertabgunge, at about half Rates.		
	Total Number of Population.	Per Cent. of Distress.	Number to be relieved.	Total Number of Population.	Per Cent. of Distress.	Number to be relieved.	Total Number of Population.	Per Cent. of Distress.	Number to be relieved.	Total Number of Population.	Per Cent. of Distress.	Number to be relieved.
Aboriginal tribes	735	5	36	1,792	10	179	5	10	—	1,542	5	77
Semi-hinduised (Aboriginals)	33,232	20	6,646	31,499	40	12,599	19,311	40	7,724	19,267	20	3,853
Superior Castes, I.	8,342	5	417	10,042	B 20	2,008	11,152	C 20	2,230	6,726	10	672
Intermediate Castes, II.	2,635	A 5	132	6,878	B 20	1,376	8,418	C 20	1,684	5,102	10	510
Trading Castes, III.	3,716	2	74	3,299	5	165	1,943	5	97	4,121	2½	103
Pastoral Castes, IV.	100,527	B 15	15,075	56,202	20	11,240	33,073	20	6,614	26,599	10	2,659
Cook Castes, V.	5,827	2	117	7,201	5	360	3,858	5	192	2,182	2½	54
Agricultural Castes, VI.	8,481	A 10	848	15,686	20	3,127	1,184	20	237	10,578	10	1,057
Servants, VII.	12,340	6	739	33,654	8	2,692	10,617	8	848	13,668	4	546
Artizans, VIII.	21,528	A 10	2,152	29,438	20	5,887	15,029	20	3,005	12,984	10	1,298
Weavers, IX.	11,995	20	2,399	13,727	30	4,118	13,769	30	4,130	10,806	15	1,620
Laborers, X.	4,173	A 10	417	8,695	20	1,739	626	20	125	1,162	10	116
Fishers, XI.	21,608	10	2,160	33,648	20	6,730	10,106	20	2,020	11,485	10	1,148
Hindus not recognising Castes	522	2	10	351	5	18	96	5	5	628	2½	15
Mahomedans	15,005	8	1,200	24,995	20	5,000	15,668	20	3,410	14,818	10	1,481
			32,422	Say 50,000		57,232	—	—	32,051	—	—	15,748

Mr. Martin (Sub-divisional Officer, Muddehpoora) agrees in these rates, save that he thinks those marked A too high, while B should be 15; and my figures thus corrected would stand 32,422, say 50,000 outside including all west of A.B. Mr. Smith (Sub-divisional Officer, Soopole) agrees to the average of his thannahs. He thinks the rates marked C should be halved; he would take Pertabgunge at half instead of one-third rates. This would make the figures for that thannah according to the entries.

Including increased figures proposed by both Sub-divisional Officers, the total will come to 155,021:—

TOTALS IN DISTRESSED THANNAHS.

Muddehpoorah	50,000
Soopole	57,232
Bongong	32,051
Nathpur	15,748
Total	155,021

MINUTE by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 26, dated Soopoole, the 19th February 1874.

1. In continuation of my minute of this day's date, No. 25, regarding the grain requirements of the Soopoole and Mudhepoora sub-divisions of the Bhaugulpore district, I have to request that sub-committees under rule 7, part 2, of rules for relief committees may be established at the following places, which have been settled by the Commissioner in consultation with the Collector and the sub-divisional officers, viz., Soopoole, Ekar, Simrahi, Nareedigar, Behwanipore, and Kamp.

2. There will be, if possible, an European officer stationed at each of these places, save Nareedigur, for which circle European supervision will be provided by the Court of Wards.

3. The Commissioner is authorised to have temporary accommodation constructed at each place where accommodation may not be already available, before the hot weather begins.

4. The Commissioner is requested to declare the places where, and the dates when clause *g* of rule 3, part 2, regarding sale of Government grain should be applied; also to determine the classes who should come under clause *f*.

R. TEMPLE.

Copy of the above forwarded to G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore division for information.

Durbhanga, 21st February 1874. C. E. BUCKLAND.

MINUTE, No. 27, by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Soopoole, the 19th February 1874.

I HAVE to record the following remarks regarding relief works in the Bhaugulpore district after carefully consulting the Commissioner, the Collector, and the sub-divisional officers of Soopoole and Mudhepoora.

2. The District Engineer, Mr. Grant, has presented a statement, hereto appended, of roads running through distressed tracts to a total length of 215 miles. These are recommended by him and the Collector as useful and practicable. But both he and the district authorities apprehend that the amount of work, which might be advantageously executed on these roads, cannot afford relief to more than a limited uumber of persons, and that a large number would still remain to be employed on other works.

3. The Commissioner and his officers consider that no more roads can be advantageously designed, and that the only class of works which they can recommend for the relief of distress consists of the tanks near the villages, on the road-sides, or in other places open to the public. They urgently request that they may be permitted to employ the distressed poor on these tanks, and they represent that there is no other way of fully employing the distressed people who are now seeking employment.

4. Looking to the tenor of the official correspondence on this subject, to the necessities of the case, and to the permanent benefit of the population, I authorise the Commissioner to cause relief labor to be employed on the tanks of the country, either in excavating new tanks or clearing out old tanks, care being taken to work at those relief roads which are included in the 215 miles mentioned above.

5. There are, I find, other lines of road designed by the Executive Engineer. But both he and the Collector affirm that these lines are worse than useless, and the Commissioner supports this view. The construction of these particular lines as relief works is not therefore to be attempted.

(Signed) R. TEMPLE.

Copy of the above forwarded to G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division, for information.

Durbhanga, 21st February 1874. C. E. BUCKLAND.

LIST of proposed Roads in the distressed portion of the Mudhepoora and Soopool Sub-Divisions.

			Miles.
	Pertabgunge	to Burpoor	16
Set out	Ditto	to Singhessar	26
Ditto	Peepra	to Soopool	17
Partly set out	Soopool	to Singhessar	16
Ditto	Pachgachia	to Buraoorir and on to Maheea	15
	Sookpoor	to Mahessir	17
	Bungaon	to ditto	4
	Mahessir	to the Monghyr boundary	7
Set out	Bungaon	to Patoria Ghât	22
	Mudhepoora	to Sonbursa	17
Ditto	Ditto	to Bailee	7
	Ditto	road repairs from 19th mile to Singhessur	27
	Soopool and Bhootia road		17
Ditto	Ditto	to Chundail	7
		Total	215

A. GRANT,
Executive Engineer.

MINUTE, No. 28, by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Soopole, the 19th February 1874.

THE Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division, Mr. Barlow, has shown me a careful and elaborate calculation, whereby he estimates that 6,50,000 maunds of grain will be required for the thannahs of Kusbah Amour, Bulrampore, Kudbah, Purneah (part), all thannahs in Arrareeah sub-division, all thannahs in Kishengunge, in the Purneah district. He reports that 1,00,000 maunds have arrived, and he desires my approval to his proceeding at once to provide carriage for the remainder 5,50,000 maunds.

2. I am not able myself to affirm the correctness of the estimate till I shall visit the district. But looking to the authority of an estimate proceeding from the Commissioner, and to the urgency of the case, I deem it necessary to authorise Mr. Barlow to go on with transport arrangements within the limits of his own estimate, and to constitute as many sub-committees in the thannahs above mentioned as will be required, according to the principle which I have agreed to for the north part of the Bhaugulpore district.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

Copy of the above forwarded to G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division, for information.

C. E. BUCKLAND,
On Special Duty.

Durbhanga, 21st February 1874.

No. 85, dated Bankipore, the 26th February 1874.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, ESQ., on special service with SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I AM directed to report that Sir Richard Temple, having visited the Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun districts of the Patna division, as well as the Soopole sub-division of the Bhaugulpore district, proposes to return to Calcutta for the purpose of conferring with His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal before proceeding to the other distressed districts, especially those of Purneah and Dinagepore. After visiting these, he can revisit the Patna division if that course shall be deemed desirable.

2. I have duly forwarded to you, for submission to His Honor, all the Minutes of substantial importance, recorded from time to time by Sir Richard, regarding the districts inspected and the questions submitted to his notice. Recapitulation of the facts therein contained is therefore unnecessary.

3. But Sir Richard cannot leave the Patna division for a time, without offering to the Lieutenant-Governor the expression of his sincere acknowledgment for the cordial approval so promptly accorded to his suggestions; and of his hope that his recommendations, submitted after personal investigation on the spot, may continue to coincide with the policy of Sir George Campbell.

No. 1236—S. R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL in the Statistical Department, to C. E. BUCKLAND, ESQ., on special duty with the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, 4th March 1874.

I AM directed to acknowledge your letter, No. 85 of 26th ultimo, in which you announce the completion of the tour in Behar which Sir Richard Temple was so good as to undertake, and his return to Calcutta for a time before undertaking another tour. The Lieutenant-Governor begs most heartily to acknowledge, as he has already acknowledged to the Government of India, the very great advantage to the public service from Sir Richard's most zealous and energetic labours in inspecting and supervising the relief operations in Behar, and settling, on the spot, very many things which could not have been so well or so promptly disposed of in any other way. The Lieutenant-Governor is much gratified to know that Sir Richard Temple feels that his action has been facilitated by the cordial support of this Government, and Sir George Campbell on his part, desires prominently to acknowledge that Sir Richard Temple's aid and co-operation have been rendered to him in a manner calculated to promote to the utmost, harmony and common effort for the public good.

2. In regard to the further tour which Sir Richard Temple is about to undertake, the Lieutenant-Governor, having fully conferred with Sir Richard, need say little in this letter. Copies of the most recent letters and reports from Purneah, Dinagepore, and the Sonthal pergunnahs, have been furnished to Sir Richard.

3. There has been so much variation in the accounts regarding Purneah, that, although the last accounts are on the whole favorable, it will be a great relief to the Lieutenant-Governor to have Sir Richard Temple's deliberate opinion of the needs of that district, formed after inquiry on the spot.

4. The demands made for assistance for the Sonthal Pergunnahs have till now been very indefinite and very insufficiently supported by proper information. The last account of a small portion of those Pergunnahs is however more precise, and so alarming that the Lieutenant-

Governor has thought it right to direct the immediate despatch of a small supply of grain. He trusts that Sir Richard Temple will be good enough to give him the opinion which he may be able to form after hearing the local officers, and making such inquiry as he deems requisite on the question whether further arrangements are necessary to secure the safety of the Pergunnahs.

5. As respects Dinagepore and Maldah, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes it will be found that the arrangements of the local officers are good; that relief work has been given promptly, judiciously, and in good time; that the transport arrangements are now sufficient; and that the provision for charitable relief is organised on a good plan, and is being brought into active operation as fast as the circumstances require.

6. The situation in Dinagepore and Maldah, and to some extent in Purneah, is somewhat different from that in the districts of North Behar, which contain a much denser and poorer population. The people generally are better off, and not so much accustomed to labor for hire. In certain tracts very extensive relief will be necessary, but it is hoped that more may be done by selling grain in places insufficiently supplied by private trade, and allowing the people to distribute it themselves, and that less gratuitous relief will be necessary than in those poorer districts where we may be obliged thus to feed a very large proportion of the population. The Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that, in considering the arrangements made by the local officers, Sir Richard Temple will give full weight to the circumstances of that part of the country.

7. The Lieutenant-Governor has expressed a hope that when Sir Richard Temple again visits Patna, he will be good enough to give a final opinion as to whether it is necessary to provide any further supplies of grain at present for Gya and Shahabad.

8. The district officers of several districts of the Burdwan and Chota Nagpore Divisions have made applications for supplies of grain. The Commissioner of Burdwan has not yet thought this necessary, and the Commissioner of Chota Nagpore has only recommended it for some very limited localities to a certain extent. Still prices must be high, and much of the population in the western districts is poor; and the Lieutenant-Governor would be glad if, returning by the Chord Line from Patna, Sir Richard Temple would take the opportunity to make such inquiries as he can, and favor the Lieutenant-Governor with his opinion on his return.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

APPENDIX D.

No. 67, dated Camp near Buhera, the 17th February 1874.

From G. H. R. HART, ESQ., on special service, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

SIR Richard Temple desires me to forward for submission to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of minute No. 22, dated 17th instant, containing Sir Richard's revised forecast of the requirements of grain for the Tajpore sub-division during the anticipated period of scarcity.

MINUTE by the HONORABLE SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I. (No. 22), dated Camp near Buhera, the 17th February 1874.

IN my minute, No. 1, of the 31st January I wrote as follows regarding the Tajpore sub-division:—

"There will be distress throughout the north-west corner of the Tajpore sub-division. The Collector thinks that 30,000 persons may here come on our hands."

I have since had the advantage of visiting this sub-division in company with the civil officer, Mr. Wace, and I fear that the estimate above given is too low.

2. Mr. Wace considers that the greater part of Sureysa, the principal pergunnah in the sub-division, and a pergunnah containing a population of 550,000 souls, will be distressed, the Indian-corn and murwa having yielded about half of the average, the rice having failed, and the spring crops promising only one-third of the average yield even after the recent rains. On the other hand, these last rains have enabled the people to sow the supplementary crops, moong, cheena, and the like. If these shall germinate and yield proportionately, they will do much to carry the people on till the new Indian-corn comes in during September. This however depends, Mr. Wace thinks, on another fall of rain a fortnight or so hence; and this view corresponds with what I have heard elsewhere.

3. At the best, however, I have to request that the Commissioner will provide for a much larger number than 30,000 persons, say 60,000 at least.

4. If the supplementary crops shall be poor, then looking to the population of Sureysa, and allowing for the advantages of this tract in its vicinity to the Gangetic tracts where the spring crops are good, I consider that we shall not be safe unless we provide for 150,000 persons, and this must be considered as over and above the provision of four millions of maunds stated in my minute of the 31st ultimo. This can, however, be better decided a fortnight hence. Had Sureysa been more remote, we should be obliged to decide now. But as it is so near succour, we may postpone decision for a fortnight yet.

5. Meanwhile not a bag of grain need be kept in Tajpore, but all that passes through the sub-division should be pushed on with all speed towards Durbhunga and Mudhoobanee. I have instructed Mr. Wace accordingly.

6. And if any indigo-planters in Tajpore sub-division be found willing to take up carriage contracts they should be invited to do so, not to the south of Poosa, but on the contrary to the north of Poosa towards Mudhoobanee.

No. 975—S.R.

Copy, with copy of Sir Richard Temple's minute, forwarded to the Commissioner of Patna for information and guidance.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, Scarcity and Relief Department,
24th February 1874.

No. 71, dated Durbhanga, the 22nd February 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., with Sir Richard Temple, on special service, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to submit for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of a Minute No. 29, dated Durbhangah, the 21st February, by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the state of affairs in the Mudhobunee sub-division of the Tirhoot district.

2. I am to add that Sir Richard has full confidence that his requirements will be carried out by the sub-divisional officer, Mr. C. F. Magrath, in an energetic and practical manner.

Minute, No. 29, by the Honorable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., dated Durbhangah, the 21st February 1874.

I have now passed through different parts of the Mudhobunee sub-division on three occasions, and observed the western, the north-eastern, the south-eastern, and the central portions; and I have seen and heard enough to convince me that wide-spread distress is imminent; indeed some distress exists already, though I hope I may say that it has not yet attained any large proportions. There are symptoms apparent which show that it is essential to the well-being, perhaps to the safety of the people in this sub-division, that additional facilities should be afforded for the obtaining of food. Private trade, however much it may be doing for other parts of Tirhoot, has done but little for this sub-division up to the present date, and at this period, which might prove to be the eve of famine unless aid were afforded, reliance could not be placed on trade in this comparatively remote and roadless tract.

2. Grain depôts are being prepared at the following places,—

Harlaki, Pheet, Deodha, Benipatee, Palee, Ureynd, Korohiya, Khagouli, Narhar, Ladnia, Patrahi, Bari Bazar, Lowkaha, Pirozghur, Parsa Dankhwa, Narahiya, Mathour, Mahadeomat, Andramat, Domra, Basdeopore, Madhepurah, Jhanjarpore, Sarso, Pandowl, Bachowr, Mudhubani; additional depôts can and probably will be fixed at the discretion of the sub-divisional officer.

3. Already there are within the limits of the sub-division—

	Maunds.
Government grain - - - - - - -	37,000
Durbhungah Raj grain - - - - - - -	24,000
Total - - - -	61,000

This would suffice at ¾ seer per head to keep about 200,000 persons alive for a fortnight which is about 25 per cent. of the population of 700,000 souls.

4. After carefully consulting the sub-divisional officer, Mr. Magrath, Colonel Burn, manager of the Durbhungah Raj, Mr. Llewhellin, and Mr. Stevens, I have to request that a supply of grain out of the 61,000 maunds above mentioned, be pushed on with all despatch to each one of the grain depôts above mentioned, and that at certain depôts the grain be sold under clause *g.*, rule 8, Part II., at the rate of 10 seers the rupee, that being the rate recognised in the orders of Government, and being the rate, which in the opinion of the sub-divisional authorities best fulfils the conditions of the said clause *g.* The depôts in question will be those situate within the pergunnahs of Bahera, Bachour, Alapore, Puchwi, and Jabdi, which are the most distressed portions of the sub-division.

5. The sub-divisional officer represents that he cannot at the outset find available trade-agency of a sufficiently trustworthy character to carry the arrangements out except under supervision. He wishes that a trader (village bunya) should be employed at the depôt to conduct the sales on behalf of Government, care being taken that the grain was sold only for the relief of necessity, and not at all for trading or storing.

6. If any ryot shall require sustenance, the sub-divisional officer is authorised to give advances repayable in a year, if the said ryot can give security, or if the zemindar shall agree to become security.

7. The foregoing orders apply to the pergunnahs above specified only. If Mr. Magrath shall find them needed for the remaining pergunnahs of the sub-division he should make official application for extension accordingly. Further, Mr. Magrath is requested to establish small depôts with a bunya near the places where relief works are being carried on, so that the laborers may be able to obtain grain easily. This order applies to the whole sub-division.

8. If these orders shall have the effect of exhausting the supply of 61,000 maunds, it is to be remembered that within a fortnight 60,000 maunds in addition of Government grain are expected from the direction of Chumpta Ghaut, and 12,000 maunds Durbhungah grain from the Monghyr route, and after a fortnight much larger supplies will be coming in weekly.

9. The sub-committees, as ordered in my minute, No. 2, of the 1st February, are being formed at the following places:—

Umgaon.*
Bela.*
Pirozghur.
Mahadeomat.
Madhepurah.
Kachra.*
Patrahi.
Narahiya.
Rudpore Damra.
Jhangharpore.

At those marked with an asterisk accommodation is available. At the rest the Executive Engineer is about to begin the construction of temporary accommodation for the European officers who are to preside over the sub-committees. The several circles, of which the above-mentioned places are centres, will comprise the whole area of the sub-division.

10. Until these officers arrive (which will, I hope, be very shortly) the distribution of gratuitous relief in every village where it may be needed can hardly be managed; meanwhile I observe with satisfaction that much relief is being afforded at Mudbuni, at Jharyharpore, at Mudepoora, and to some extent at the police posts on the frontier.

11. Meanwhile I hope that all officers concerned will be on the alert to watch for individual cases of severe distress, not only in large centres and in large villages, but also in villages scattered about in remote localities. I fear that ere long no village will be free from cases in which gratuitous relief must be promptly afforded in order to save life.

12. The object will be to so arrange the relief works that this form of assistance shall be within reach of every village; wherever there are tanks to be cleared out or to be made, they become relief works of the most effective kind, where they do not exist there are cross-country roads to be made.

13. I have agreed to the plan of such roads as formed by Lieutenant Wright in consultation with Mr. Cochran (late sub-divisional officer), the total length being 220 miles in all. I hope to hear next week that Mr. Magrath, in conjunction with Lieutenant Wright, has commenced work on many different points on these lines of road. I have made, some days ago, an urgent requisition for ten overseers to serve under Lieutenant Wright, and I have authorised him to employ Mr. Sherman, who is on the spot. But pending the arrival of the overseers, Mr. Magrath is requested to employ any qualified natives he can find temporarily, inasmuch as the work ought not to wait till the existing distress becomes worse.

14. The main line for the transport of grain supplies is that from the Durbhungah border to Peepra Ghaut on the Bolan viâ Jhunjharpore to Nuraya. Up to Peepra Ghaut it is in charge of the sub-divisional officer. From Peephra Ghaut to Narya, it is in charge of Mr. Stevens (Engineer of the Durbhungah Raj), and will be bridged before the rains, the screw-piles and other materials being on their way. The provision of water along this line as far as Junjharpore will be easy, but not so from Jhunjarpore to Nuraya, there being only five tanks between the two places. One or two more will be needed at intervals, and also, at Nuraya itself, the terminus of the main line of transport.

15. Mr. Magrath has gone through with Mr. Gale (manager of the Pundoul concern, and engaged in the transport contract) the branch routes of the transport, and given orders for clearing the way for carts.

16. I have ordered that relief labor may be employed as much as possible in cutting the small "doop" grass, which is sufficiently abundant all over the sub-division. In this way, very large quantities of grass ought to be received; when so received it is to be stacked at convenient places on the various lines of transport for fodder for the draught cattle. It will doubtless be taken over by the contractors at a valuation. The contractors attach importance to the collection of adequate quantities of this grass. I beg the particular attention of the sub-divisional officer to this, also of Colonel Burn and the officers of the Durbhangah Raj. Without this arrangement there will be difficulty about fodder, and the matter is one in which the whole agricultural community may fairly be called upon to help, and that, too, immediately.

17. I further beg the attention of Colonel Burn and the officers of the Durbhangah Raj to the facilities which the Raj rent-system, with its tuhsildars and naib tusildars, affords for the management of relief. In the sub-division there are eight such officials necessarily acquainted with members of villages in the midst of which they reside. I hope that Colonel Burn will make them understand the responsibility which attaches to them to search out and bring to notice all cases of distress.

18. On this, as on former occasions, I have received complaints from distressed Brahmins who will not work on relief works, and who would run the risk of starvation sooner than do so. The difficulty of those cases is so well known that I need not say more. But I find that in such cases (at least in those where application is made to me), the Brahmin is almost always a cultivator of land on a small scale, and may therefore receive some assistance by way of advance if he can give security, or if his zemindar will be security. In some cases I enquired into, I should think that such advance may be given; but it must be doled out bit by bit, so as to prevent the Brahmin from trading with it. I request the subdivisional officer's attention to this method of dealing with a very difficult class of cases.

19. A large part of the zemindaree of the sub-division belongs to the Durbhungah Raj. Some other zemindars known as as "the Mudhoobunnee Baboos" have done a little in the way of constructing tanks and subscribing; others, notably the Mirzapore Mohunt, and several native bankers have done nothing. I trust that Mr. Magrath will bring to bear such influence as he fairly can to induce these gentlemen to do their duty by their tenantry and dependents.

20. Some native traders have stated to me their desire to get grain from a distance. I have not much reliance on their request, as it comes rather late. But I have told them that they may

have advances to enable them to get grain from such places as Rosera and Kugurrea. The sub-divisional officer is requested to bear this in mind.

No. 1,035—S.R.

COPY forwarded to Commissioner of Patna and Collector of Tirhoot for information.

No. 1,036—S.R.

EXTRACT (paragraph 19) forwarded to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, and the Commissioner of Benares, with a request that, if deemed proper, the Mohunt of Mirzapore may be persuaded to do his duty by his tenantry on his estates in the Mudhoobunnee sub-division.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
R. KNIGHT,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta Scarcity and Relief Department,
25th February 1874.

No. 80, dated Bankipore, 26th February 1874.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, ESQ., with Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, on special service, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I AM directed to submit, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of a Minute, No. 33, dated 25th February, regarding the posting of the officers selected for sub-divisional committees and sub-committee circles in the distressed sub-division of the Tirhoot district.

2. His Honor will observe that a copy of this Minute has been given to the Commissioner of Patna.

MINUTE, No. 33, by the Honorable Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Bankipore, 25th February 1874.

THE Commissioner of Patna has, at my request, furnished me with the following list of officers now present or arriving for sub-divisional committees or sub-committee circles, in the distressed sub-divisions of the Tirhoot district.

I.—DURBHUNGA SUB-DIVISION.

Mr. A. P. Macdonnell, C.S., sub-divisional officer
„ Aikman, C.S., 2nd relief sub-division, Hatee.
„ Dempster, Judicial Officer at Durbhunga.
„ Henry, C.S., Durbhunga circle.
„ Harris, C.S., Dosowta circle.
„ Oranne, C.S., Buhera circle.
„ Doveton, Hirnee circle.
Ramakhoy Chatterjee, Singheea circle.
Mr. Tonnerre (under training at Durbhunga).

Thus five sub-committee circles are filled up out of eleven, leaving six to be filled.

II.—MADHOBANI SUB-DIVISION.

Mr. Magrath, C.S., sub-divisional officer.
„ Forbes, C.S., 2nd relief sub-division at Naraya.
Umbica Churn, Judicial Officer at Madhobani.
Mr. Marindin, C.S., a sub-committee circle.
„ Williams, C.S., ditto.
„ Paul, C.S., ditto.
„ Meiklejohn, C.S. ditto.
Ishree Persad, Jhunjharpoore circle.
Mr. Macfarlane, a sub-committee circle.
„ Collis, ditto.

Thus seven out of ten sub-committee circles are filled up, leaving three to be filled.

III.—SEETAMURHEE SUB-DIVISION.

Mr. O'Reilly, sub-divisional officer.
„ Beamish, 2nd relief sub-division at Pooprее.
„ Mackertich, Judicial Officer.
„ Campbell, a sub-committee circle.
„ Rattray, ditto.
„ Lorimer, ditto.

Thus three out of six sub-committee circles are filled up, leaving three to be filled.

2. Therefore the number of sub-committee circles remaining to be filled up stands thus:—

Durbhunga - - - - - - -	6
Mudhoobanee - - - - - -	3
Seetamurhee - - - - - - -	3
Total - -	12

3. On the 13th February I telegraphed to the Quartermaster-General for the services of twelve junior military officers for relief operations.

4. By resolution of the Government of Bengal of the 21st February, I find that the following officers will be available for relief work. Lieutenants Lyster, E. Money, and P. Buckland, and two officers from Meerut, *i.e.*, five in all. It appears thus that seven junior military officers still remain to be named for this work.

5. I have since learned that Lieutenant Buckland has been selected for the transport department under Colonel Macgregor. There will, therefore, be eight officers to name instead of seven.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

No. 79, dated Bankipore, the 26th February 1874.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, ESQ., on special service with SIR R. TEMPLE, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I AM directed to submit, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of a minute, No. 34, dated 26th February, recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the reserve carriage for transport of grain in the Patna Division.

2. Although the carriage contracts are working well and promise to continue to do so, yet, considering the importance of the issue at stake and the possibility of the contracts failing, Sir Richard has thought it absolutely necessary, after consulting with the Commissioner of Patna and Colonel Macgregor, to establish this reserve of 4,000 Government carts, and to place it at the disposal of the Commissioner.

3. Sir Richard trusts that this action will be approved by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

MINUTE No. 34, by the HONORABLE SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Bankipore, the 26th February 1874.

1. I DESIRE to record, for information of the Commissioner, an abstract of what I have done or ordered respecting reserve carriage for transport of grain in the Patna Division.

2. Two hundred carts were ordered to be made up at Patna, three hundred in the Tirhoot district, in all five hundred. For these bullocks were ordered to be purchased in Nepaul Territory by a Subadar under orders of the Resident: three hundred pairs have been already purchased. If on the completion of these purchases anything remains in order to make up the five hundred pairs, it is to be purchased by the Commissioner of Patna in the districts south of the Ganges.

3. Seven hundred and fifty carts and bullocks have been ordered to be hired in the North-West Provinces: of these, four hundred are reported by Mr. Rivett-Carnac to be on the way marching down; and the remainder, three hundred and fifty, to have been ordered and to be coming very shortly.

4. One thousand carts have been ordered to be made up in the Arrah district, through Mr. Fox: the bullocks to be purchased by the Commissioner of Patna at the cattle fairs of that district. This order is reported to be in due course of preparation.

5. One thousand carts were, on the 15th February, ordered to be purchased through the Government of the North-West Provinces, and Mr. Rivett-Carnac reports that most of this number have been purchased, and that the order is nearly completed.

6. I have just ordered one thousand carts, in addition, to be purchased in the North-West Provinces in order to complete the reserve, as Mr Carnac assures me that the North-West authorities will be able to effect this.

7. The numbers then stand thus:—

	Carts with bullocks.
Tirhoot and Patna	500
North-Western Provinces, hired	750
Purchased in Arrah	1,000
Already purchased in North-Western Provinces	1,000
Just ordered to be purchased in North-Western Provinces	1,000
Total reserve carriage	4,250

8. This reserve transport, which is of considerable strength, will be at the disposal of the Commissioner, who is requested to place them under the immediate executive orders of Colonel Macgregor. I leave their disposal to the discretion of the Commissioner, with the general proviso that a considerable portion be kept north of Durbhanga or in the Mudhobanee Subdivision.

R. TEMPLE.

COPY of the above given to S. C. Bayley, Esq., Commissioner of Patna, for information and guidance.

Bankipore, 26th February 1874. C. E. BUCKLAND.

No. 84, dated Bankipore, the 26th February 1874.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., with Sir Richard Temple on special service, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am directed to submit, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, copy of a minute, No. 35, of to-day's date, recorded by Sir Richard Temple regarding the contract arrangements for the transport of Government grain in the Tirhoot district.

2. It will be observed that these arrangements are irrespective of those recapitulated in minute No. 34, regarding the reserve carriage for transport of grain in the Patna division, a copy of which was forwarded to you under cover of my letter No. 79, also of to-day's date.

Minute No. 35, by the Honorable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., dated Bankipore, the 26th February 1874.

I desire to record an abstract of the contract arrangements for the transport of Government grain in the Tirhoot district.

2. The Western Company, represented by Messrs. Smith, Minden, Wilson, and Company, undertake to convey six lakhs of maunds from Bunkur Ghât, near Hajeepore, to Seetamurhee *viâ* Mozufferpore, and four lakhs to Contai on the west of the above-mentioned line to Seetamurhee.

3. The same Company further undertakes to carry from Bunkur Ghât five lakhs to Ottar and Poosa, places to the east of Mozufferpore, and five lakhs to Durbhunga.

4. Thus the total amount to be sent forward by this Company from Bunkur Ghât is to be twenty lakhs.

5. The two contracts in Eastern Tirhoot, one represented by Messrs. Meredyth, Lloyd, and Company, and the other by Messrs. Macjoon and Company, have been amalgamated into one called the Alliance Company. This Company undertakes to carry, from Chumpta Ghât, opposite Barh, eighteen lakhs of maunds to the various depôts in the Durbhunga sub-division.

6. A native Company, Neel Comul and Company, undertake to carry from the ghât opposite Mokameh four lakhs of maunds to Durbhunga.

7. The amounts to be sent forward from the north bank of the Ganges then stand thus:—

	Lakhs.
Western Company	20
Alliance "	18
Native "	4
Total	42

8. But it will be observed that these quantities will not be conveyed by these Companies beyond the following places:—

Seetamurhee and Contai.
Ottar and Poosa.
Durbhunga and places near it.

9. From Seetamurhee and Contai a considerable portion of the 10 lakhs (6+4) will have to be carried on to various depôts. For this a separate Company has been formed, represented by Messrs. Tripe, Begg, and Company.

10. The five lakhs conveyed to Ottar and Poosa, will have to be carried on to Kamtaul by an Association represented by Messrs. Studd and Wilson.

11. At Kamtaul this quantity will be taken over by contracts arranged under Mr. Llewhellin, Assistant Manager of the Durbhunga Raj, for conveyance into the Madhoobunee sub-division.

12. From Durbhunga 11 lakhs are to be carried on into the Mudhoobunee sub-division by contracts arranged under direction of Colonel Burn and Mr. Llewhellin of the Durbhunga Raj. These contracts arranged by the officers of the Durbhunga Raj, which represents the largest landed interest in Mudhoobunee, are managed by the indigo planters resident there, at the head of whom is Mr. Gale. A portion of the contracts is arranged in the Sarun district under the management of Mr. Llewhellin's brother.

13. Thus the amount for Madhoobunee will be—

	Lakhs.
From Kamtoul	5
" Durbhunga	11
Total	16

14. It has been seen, however, that Durbhunga is to receive—

	Lakhs.
From the Alliance Company	18
" Western "	5
" Native "	4
Total	27

15. Out of this 11 lakhs sent on to Madhoobunee leave 16 lakhs for Durbhunga.

16. Thus the apportionment of the 42 lakhs between the three distressed sub-divisions stands thus—

	Lakhs.
Seetamurhee	10
Madhoobunee	16
Durbhunga	16
Total	42

17. Besides this contract carriage there is the reserve of 4,250 Government carts with bullocks mentioned in my minute No. 34 of this day's date.

R. TEMPLE.

No. 90, dated Calcutta, the 2nd March 1874.

From G. H. R. HART, Esq., on special service, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I AM directed by Sir Richard Temple to forward, for submission to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of a Minute No. 36, describing an arrangement for supplementing the regular transport service in Tirhoot and Chumparun, by means of pack-bullocks at the various grain depôts.

MINUTE No. 36, by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Bankipore, 27th February 1874.

Subject to Mr. Bayley's directions, Colonel Macgregor is to have not less than 50 pack-bullocks at each grain depôt. Numbers of depôts not exactly known, and may slightly alter from time to time, but can hardly be less than 100. Thus 50 × 100 = 5,000.

2. For safety, I think that 6,000 pack-bullocks should be immediately purchased or hired south of the Ganges, or beyond the northern frontier of Tirhoot, through such agency as the Commissioner may select.

3. Colonel Macgregor is to arrange the pack-bullocks among the depôts in time, so that they may be ready to distribute grain among the villages.

4. It is to be understood that these bullocks must not be hired in Tirhoot for fear of interfering with our own carriage contractors, save perhaps in the Mudhobanee sub-division, but even there it must not be done without the consent of Colonel Burn and Mr. Llewhellin, who are responsible for the supply of transport carriage there.

5. This strength of pack-bullocks is not to be regarded as a part of the reserve carriage. On the contrary the bullocks will form a supplement at the end of the regular transport service.

P.S.—In the Chumparun district the same principle will apply, but in that district pack-bullocks may be hired.

No. 1,201—S.R.

COPY forwarded to Commissioner of Patna, with a request that orders may be given to all sub-divisional officers and relief superintendents as to employment of these bullocks.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
R. KNIGHT,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 3rd March 1874.

APPENDIX E.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

READ— Calcutta, 25th February 1874.

The under-mentioned correspondence on the subject of grain transport into the interior of the Rajshahye Division—

Commissioner of Rajshahye's letter No. 30, dated 11th February.
The Lieutenant-Governor's demi-official letters, dated 13th February, to Mr. Molony and Mr. Robinson.
Commissioner of Rajshahye's letter No. 45, dated 16th February.
Relief Commissioner's letter No. 283, dated 16th February.
Relief Commissioner's memorandum, and enclosure, dated 22nd February.
Report by Mr. Jenkins on his survey of the Mahanuddee, and further notes of his observations.

RESOLUTION.—Mr. Molony's letter No. 45, dated 16th February, gives in detail his plans for sending forward, storing in main depôts near rivers, and securing within the most distressed tracts the whole of 10,00,000 maunds of Government grain allotted to the Dinagepore district. Mr. Molony considers that Maldah, lying as it does close to the Ganges and on the road to Dinagepore, can be at any time supplied; sufficient grain to meet emergent needs has already been stored in the Maldah district. Rajshahye is not very necessitous; and its most needy tracts, which are in the north-east, can best be supplied by the Burrul and the lower Atrai. Bograh can be supplied from the Berhampooter landing places; and Rungpore can carry her comparatively small supply by carts and boats from Kaligunge at the mouth of the Teesta. The difficulty of transport in the division is thus, how to get the 10,00,000 maunds into Dinagepore before the 1st June.

2. Mr. Molony's scheme reckons that a large portion of the Dinagepore supply will come viâ Purneah. But the needs of Purneah have expanded, while its performances in the way of carriage have hitherto been disappointing; and therefore the Lieutenant-Governor has warned both Mr. Molony and Mr. Robinson, that they and their officers must do all they can to get their supply with as little reliance on Purneah as possible. Mr. Robinson's memorandum of the 22nd, which works on the basis of Mr. Molony's letter of the 16th, shows how it is proposed to meet the Lieutenant-Governor's views.

3. The first stage in the transport after the grain leaves the river is the crossing of the Ganges. Mr. Dawson of Kooshtea has stated that, if need be, he could with two steamers, three flats, and his native boats, put across the Ganges to Godagaree, Rampore Beauleah, and Dhaparee, from 2½ to 3 lakhs of maunds a month. The steamer and boats at Rajmehal can for the present sufficiently supply the requirements of Manick Chuck and the Hyatpore route. It has been settled that, in order to relieve the pressure on the East Indian Railway, the wants of Manick Chuck will, if possible, be met by steamer from Kooshtea. Mr. Toynbee will at once communicate with the Marine Department and the River and Eastern Bengal Railway Companies, and offer an opinion on what arrangements are required for this purpose, and also whether Hyatpore can be supplied in the same way. Mr. Molony will also be called on for an immediate expression of opinion. Meanwhile, until this is quite settled, the Rajmehal and Hyatpore routes will be fed by the East Indian Railway.

4. Mr. Robinson's scheme for Dinagepore is for three months' (ninety days') work; and he proposes to throw into the—

	Mds.
Raigunge tract (Western-Central Dinagepore)	2,40,000
Raneesunkool (North-Western)	1,40,000
Dinagepore town (Central)	1,50,000
Tambooloe tract (South-Central)	1,00,000
Neetpore tract (South-Western)	1,40,000
Putneetola tract (Southern)	1,80,000
Ghoraghât (Eastern)	5,00,000
Total	10,00,000

And Mr. Robinson proposes and hopes to carry all this amount by the following routes:—

	Mds.
(1.) From Sahebgunge, on the East Indian Railway, viâ Hyatpore and Khurbah; already 5,000 maunds a week is coming by this route. Mr. Robinson has arranged for carts and pack-bullocks which will raise the weekly despatches to 10,000 maunds a week. Small one-maund and 30-seer bags for pack-bullocks are to be sent up for this route. The grain will go all through from the Ganges to Raigunge by land carriage. 10,000 maunds a week, for twelve weeks, gives in all	1,20,000
(2.) From Manick Chuck, opposite Rajmehal, which is to be fed either from the East Indian Railway or by steamer from Kooshtea. Mr. Robinson calculates on working up to 2,000 maunds a day by cart. Already, though the route has not been at work for a month, the despatches of the last 14 days average 1,199 maunds a day; and the officer in immediate charge feels certain that by the 1st March 2,000 maunds a day will be got off. This rate for 90 days would give 1,80,000 maunds; Mr. Robinson has reckoned only upon	1,75,000
(3.) From Godagaree by boats up the Mahanuddy to Raigunge, at the rate of 2,000 maunds a day for two months. Mr. D'Oyly's report seems to show that he too thinks this rate possible. This route, therefore, for two months gives	1,20,000
(4.) From Godagaree by cart all the way to Dinagepore and Luckerhaut at 833 maunds per day	75,000
(5.) From Godagaree to the Neetpore tract, 200 maunds a day by carts, and 1,250 maunds by boat up the Poornababa, for 90 days gives	1,40,000
(6.) From Godagaree by cart to Putneetollah, 10,000 maunds a month for the three months	30,000
(7.) From Goalundo by the Oorasagor and thence by the Jaboona, and by the Atrai, at the rate of 50,000 a month	1,50,000
(8.) From Shahjeepoora on the Berhampooter, by cart to the Ghoraghat tract	50,000
(9.) Viâ Caragola, Purneah, and the Darjeeling Road	1,40,000
Total	10,00,000

5. About routes Nos. 1 and 2 by Hyatpore and Manick Chuck, the Lieutenant-Governor has little fear; he believes that the estimates for those routes will be worked up to.

6. Routes Nos. 3 and 5 require that 3,250 maunds a day should start up the Mahanuddee in boats; as yet this average has certainly not been worked up to. Still Mr. Jenkins' report of his survey of the Mahanuddee is very encouraging; he got up from Godagaree to Raigunge in six days, though he stopped often to survey the river and measure its breadth. If small boats are collected in large numbers by the offer of sufficiently liberal rates of pay to boatmen or contrac-

tors; if the river is properly looked after; if the snags and sunken boats are at once blown up and the passage cleared, and if an efficient patrol of the river for expediting the traffic and helping break-down is organised under an officer of the Quarter-Master-General's department, the Mahanuddee route ought certainly to become more rapid and more effective. A steam launch (the "Fanny" of Backergunge) is on her way to Godagaree, where she can be used by the patrol officer; and one of the steamers* from the Godavery might be able to tug native boats up to Maldah, or at any rate to the Bholaghat shoal. Mr. Jenkins appears to think that a steamer drawing 2½ feet could be warped over the Bholaghat sandbank, and that the channel would be much improved thereby.

* Three of these steamers are on their way to Kooshtea for orders.

7. Routes Nos. 4, 5, and 6 require that about 1,500 maunds a day (150 carts) should start from Godagaree with different destinations. More than half the carts will have to go through to Dinagepore, a lead of over ninety miles. If the journey to and from Dinagepore takes 18 days, and the other journeys (Neetpore and Putneetollah) take 14 days to and fro, then at least 2,500 carts will be required for the service. It is not clear whether this number has been provided, but Mr. Robinson seems confident that it will be done.

8. Regarding route No. 7, the Lieutenant-Governor has some misgiving whether arrangements have really been made to get 50,000 maunds a month through the Chullum Bheel to Nowgong and Sahebgunge. Mr. Molony and Mr. Clay will doubtless do what they can to secure this result, and Major Lindsay's engineers have already much improved the channel at the shallow points. Mr. Toynbee will, at any rate, be instructed to keep Goalundo supplied with grain at a rate of not less than 15,000 maunds a week.

9. The Shahajeepoora and Govindgunge route involves a comparatively short lead by carts, and has been arranged for. The cart routes from Rampore Beauleah and Dhaparee, up to Sumjhia, Teygatchia, and towards Sultanpore are left by these arrangements exclusively for the Northern Bengal Railway grain and for their material. The railway officers to carry up and store 2,00,000 maunds, if possible, and the further into the interior they can send it the better.

10. Copies of this resolution, and of the papers quoted at the top of this Resolution—

(*a.*) To the Commissioner of Rajshahye, with the request that he will report with reference to paragraph 3, whether he wants another steamer and pair of flats to feed Manick Chuck; that he will give such orders as may be required for clearing the bed of the Mahanuddee from snags, and collecting carts and boats, and acting fully up to the estimate now framed; and that he will give such orders as may be needed for preparing ample storage room on the rivers.

(*b.*) To the Relief Commissioner for attention and necessary action, and to the Engineer-in-Chief, Northern Bengal Railway.

(*c.*) To the Magistrate-Collectors of Rajshahye, Maldah, Dinagepore, and Bograh; to Messrs. Westmacott, Dawson, Reilly of Chanchul, and to Lieutenant Eliot of Sahebgunge for information, with a view to their carrying out such orders as Mr. Molony or Mr. Robinson may issue.

(*d.*) To Mr. Toynbee and Mr. Davis of Goalundo, in order that the required supply of 15,000 maunds a week to Goalundo may be kept up, and that Rajmehal and Sahebgunge may be supplied from Calcutta until such time as either or both can be fed by steamer from Kooshtea. Mr. Toynbee will be asked to report at once on the subject of paragraph 3.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Begal.

No. 1,034—S.R.

Copy, with copies of the papers named at the top of this Resolution, forwarded to the—

Commissioner, Rajshahye.
Relief Commissioner, Dinagepore.
Magistrate-Collector, Rajshahye.
" " Maldah.
" " Dinagepore.
" " Bograh.
Mr. G. Toynbee.
" E. Westmacott.
" F. Dawson.
" W. R. Davies, Goalundo.
Lieutenant Eliot, Sahebgunge.
Mr. H. R. Reilly, Maldah.
The Engineer-in-Chief, Northern Bengal Railway.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 25th Feruary 1874.

Dated Dinagepore, the 22nd February 1874.

Memorandum by W. LeF. Robinson, Esq., Relief Commissioner.

This statement is made out so as to agree as nearly as possible with Mr. Molony's scheme, as shown in his No. 45—S.R. of 16th February. The following remarks, will, I hope, show clearly how I mean to bring it in.

A. This 120,000 is identical with Molony's (1) 120,000 Godagaree to Raigunge, only he is to put it down at Old Maldah, and smaller boats are to take it on to Raigunge.

B. 120,000. Mr. Molony has only put down 50,000 maunds for this route. At present, by my latest information, 5,000 maunds are coming weekly this way, and I calculate that if I put 500 carts more on that line (and I can do so) it will double the amount, *i.e.*, make it 10,000 maunds weekly, or 120,000 in three months.

C. If Purneah will cart 40,000 maunds to Hurrypore on the border some 12 miles from their Raneegunge thannah, or about 30 miles, I think, from Dengraghât, and will put 100,000 maunds for us at Kissengunge, I will undertake to bring the latter amount into the Dinagepore district at the rate of 1,000 maunds a day.

D. 75,000 maunds. This is identical with Mr. Molony's (4) Godagaree to Dinagepore, 500 maunds per day by cart, and his (No. 5) by cart, Godagaree to Luskurhaut, 333 maunds per day.

E. 75,000 maunds. This corresponds to Mr. Molony's (3) Rajmehal to Dinagepore, 60,000; it may come either viâ rail or steamer to Manikchuck, or by boat Godagaree to Old Maldah. We will bring it in by carts or bullocks.

F. 100,000 maunds to Manikchuck either by rail viâ Rajmehal or Sahebgunge, or by steamer up river from Kooshtea or anywhere else. We will bring it in by bullock train.

G. 140,000 maunds. This corresponds with Mr. Molony's (No. 6) Godagaree to Neetpore by cart, 10,000 maunds, and (No. 7) Godagaree to Neetpore by boat, 60,000 maunds, and the Lushkerhat 20,000 maunds. Mr. Molony is 90,000 maunds for the three places in sixty days. We calculate 115,000 in 90 days, leaving a balance of 35,000 maunds, which I think can be managed from Godagaree to Neetpore by boats.

H. 180,000 maunds. This corresponds with Mr. Molony's Nos. (8), (9) and (10); he promises 70,000 under those heads in two months, equivalent to 105,000 in three months, viâ Godagaree, Oorasagur, and Atrai (Sahebgunge), and Oorasagur and Jaboona (Nowgong); there would be a balance of 75,000 maunds, which might be put down either at Nowgong or Godagaree, and be carted on to Putnitolla. I expect myself to have 600 or 700 carts for local transport in Putnitollah and its immediate vicinity.

I. This has been provided for viâ Bogra.

Name of the localities.	Former allotment.	Present allotment.	Total.	ROUTES TO BE BROUGHT BY					
				Godagaree.	Maldah.	Purneah.	Hyatpore.	Shahebgunge on Attrai.	Bograh.
Raigunge, Chooramun and others - -	102,000 +	138,000 =	240,000	—	*a* 120,000	—	*b* 120,000	—	—
Hureepore, Raneeshunkol and others - -	47,000 +	93,000 =	*c* 140,000	—	—	*e* 140,000	—	—	—
Dinagepore, Kallygunge and others - -	69,000 +	81,000 =	150,000	*d* 75,000	*e* 75,000	—	—	—	—
Tambooli and Dowlutpore - - -	45,000 +	55,000 =	*f* 100,000	—	*f* 100,000	—	—	—	—
Neetpore and others -	65,000 +	75,000 =	140,000	*g* 140,000	—	—	—	—	—
Patnitola and others -	55,000 +	125,000 =	*h* 180,000	*h* 100,000	—	—	—	80,000	—
Ghoraghat - -	20,000 +	30,000 =	*i* 50,000	—	—	—	—	—	50,000
Total -	—	—	1,000,000	315,000	295,000	140,000	120,000	80,000	50,000

W. LEF. ROBINSON,
Secretary, Relief Committee.

APPENDIX F.

STATEMENT of the quantities of Government grain arrived at final destination up to date of latest returns.

	Mds.	Mds.
Patna - - - -	49,292	
Gya - - - -	123,144	
Soane Canal - - " -	108,576	
Shahabad - - " -	62,880	
Tirhoot Northern - " -	156,325	
Tirhoot Southern - -	54,648	
Sarun - - -	189,534	
Chumparun - - -	191,972	
		935,871
Bhaugulpore - -	117,496	
Monghyr - - -	184,721	
Purneah - -	195,280	
		497,497
Northern Bengal State Railway - -	23,376	
Dinagepore - -	131,490	
Maldah - -	25,728	
Rajshahye - -	18,637	
Rungpore - -	44,747	
Bogra - -	20,129	
		264,107
Total -		1,697,475

C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 4th March 1874.

APPENDIX G.

No. 613, dated Calcutta, the 23rd February 1874.

From ARTHUR HOWELL, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Bengal, the enclosed schedule of letters disposed of at the conference held at Government House, in accordance with my No. 566 of the 20th instant.

2. The record of instructions issued to the Central Relief Committee referred to in the last paragraph of the schedule is awaited.

SCHEDULE of Letters and Subjects disposed of, February 21st, by the Governor-General of India in Council, at a Meeting at which His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal attended.

I.—Letters from the Government of Bengal—

January 31st	No. 334, S. R.
February 3rd	„ 166, P. S.
„ 3rd	„ 415, S. R.
„ 9th	„ 555, S. R.
„ 12th	„ 641, S. R.
„ 20th	„ 856, S. R.
„ 20th	„ 860, S. R.

transmitting weekly transport returns in forms ordered in letter No. 82 of 12th January.

The Government of India will not make any observations upon these returns, believing that the deficiencies have been adequately noticed by the Government of Bengal, and that all concerned are now making every endeavour to organise sufficient transport.

The returns may, in future, be sent in fortnightly in lieu of weekly as originally directed.

II.—Letters from the Government of Bengal—

February 13th	No. 664, S. R.
„ 14th	„ 689, S. R.
„ 16th	„ 708, S. R.
„ 17th	„ 178, P. S.
„ 18th	„ 835, S. R.
„ 21st	„ 876, S. R.

on the subject of the transport of grain to the distressed districts.

The Viceroy had an interview with the Agent and the Consulting Engineer of the East Indian Railway Company on the 18th instant, and was assured by the Agent that the Company could convey 2,500 tons a day, besides 200 tons a day, consisting of materials for the Chumpta Ghât and Durbungha Railway, and required no assistance from Government, and that, if after a week's experience it was found that wagons were not detained at the up-country stations, the Company could carry a larger quantity.

Further inquiry leads the Government to believe that 2,500 tons a day is rather more than the present facilities for loading, &c., enable the Company to carry. Yesterday nearly 2,000 tons were carried, and it would be unsafe to calculate as yet upon a larger quantity as the daily average.

The present requisitions are—

	Mds.
Arrah for Sarun	35,000 a week.
Patna for Chumparun	50,000 „
Patna for Tirhoot	100,000 „
Barrh for Tirhoot	100,000 „
For Bhaugulpore (estimated)	50,000 „

Supplies for Dinagepore viâ Rajmehal, and some further demands since received, make a total of 380,000 maunds, or say 14,000 tons a week, or 2,000 tons a day. Although this quantity may be conveyed, Government consider it to be more safe to relieve the strain upon the transport from Calcutta. The Government of Bengal are, therefore, authorised to instruct the Commissioner of Patna to arrange for part or the whole of the supplies required for Sarun in such way as may be best through the local grain-dealers, and arrangements should be made, as far as possible, to supply Dinagepore viâ the Eastern Bengal Railway and Kooshtea, instead of viâ Rajmehal.

Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor, Consulting Engineer for the East Indian Railway Company, has been directed to visit the Howrah Station daily, and report the progress of the transport, with full authority to take any measures he may think necessary to facilitate the despatch of the Government grain. He has arranged that the weighing of rice should be omitted as causing delay; this is one of the suggestions contained in No. 876—S.R., of 21st February. The other suggestion contained in that letter, that the different consignments of rice need not be kept separate, is approved.

The Government of Bengal are mistaken in supposing that there is any deficiency in the supplies of Government rice in Calcutta, there being at the present time about 15,000 tons either stored or afloat in Calcutta.

The demand for transport has been largely and suddenly increased, but the Government of India believe that, although there may be some temporary difficulties, the requirements will be met both in Calcutta and up-country.

III.—Provision of rice in 30-seer bags.

Letters from the Government of Bengal—

February 9th	- -	No. 546, S. R.
„ 18th	- -	„ 825, S. R.

It was arranged that all rice re-bagged in Calcutta shall be bagged in 30-seer bags; that endeavours should be made to obtain 35,000 tons of rice expected in April in 30-seer bags, and some of the rice from Burma in one-maund bags, but that the shipments should not be delayed, in order that the size of the bags may be changed.

The Government of Bengal to arrange to re-bag rice, if necessary, at local depôts.

IV.—The Government of Bengal are requested to cause the returns of the exports of food-grains given in the appendices to the special narratives to be furnished by the Collector of Customs, as the return in the last narrative differs from that received by the Government of India from him.

V.—Orders have been given for the supply of Veterinary Surgeons and Public Works Overseers asked for by Sir Richard Temple. The latter should be trustworthy men. The Secretary in the Public Works Department is instructed to see to this.

An additional Commissioner is authorised to be employed in North Behar, and also to act in conjunction with Mr. Barlow in the Bhaugulpore Division. Allowances to be settled in the Financial Department.

VI.—Letters from the Government of Bengal—

February 16th	- -	No. 705, S. R.
„ 17th	- -	„ 766, S. R.
„ 19th	- -	„ 737, S. R.
„ 20th	- -	„ 864, S. R.

Explanations and instructions were given to the Central Relief Committee, which will be recorded by Mr. Bernard. Copy of record to be submitted to the Government of India for approval.

VII.—Letter from the Government of Bengal—

February 11th	- -	No. 616.

Mr. Geedes to act as Secretary to the Central Relief Committee in addition to his other work connected with the scarcity, and at no charge upon the funds of the Committee.

Arthur Howell,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

No. 782, dated Calcutta, the 4th March 1874.

From A. P. Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I am directed to forward, for the information and guidance of the Government of Bengal, the accompanying schedule of letters and subjects disposed of by the Governor-General in Council at the conference held on the 28th ultimo.

Schedule of Letters and Subjects disposed of, February 28th, by the Governor-General of India in Council, at a meeting at which His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal attended.

I.—Read letters No. 1038—S.R., from the Government of Bengal, of the 25th, and No. 1070—S. R., of the 26th February, and the summary * by Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor of the last week's operations in the despatch of Government grain from Howrah.

* Appendix A.

The estimate of proposed daily despatches during the week beginning on Monday, the 2nd of March, enclosed in letter No. 1070—S.R., of the 26th February, was examined in detail and considered to be sufficient to keep up the supplies to the places named. 2,500 tons are to be the maximum of the daily despatches for the present.

The decision arrived at last Saturday with respect to the supply of the grain required for Sarun through the local grain dealers was re-considered and confirmed, and extended to any supplies that may be required for Shahabad and the Soane canal works.

With reference to paragraph 2 of letter No. 1038—S.R., the Government of India have never received any information as to the insufficiency of the supplies of rice in Calcutta to furnish the quantity required to be sent up-country by the East Indian Railway, and it is believed that any difficulty which may have arisen was in consequence of the arrangements at Howrah necessary to provide for the increased traffic not having been completed. It is impossible to be quite certain that ships will arrive in such order that there will never be a temporary check in the supply; but up to the present time it is believed that there has been no such check.

In order to prevent any risk of delay in the transport arrangements, the Commissioner of Patna should be directed to buy, as soon as possible, and store at Bunkur Ghât, opposite Patna, sufficient grain to load the contractors' carts, which start from that place, for two days, and report by telegraph when one day's supply is stored, and when the two days' supply are stored. This should be the first object to which the Commissioner of Patna should apply the grain he was authorized to purchase locally for the supply of Sarun, if he has made any such purchases at Patna. When this arrangement has been made, in the event of any temporary check or unexpected demand elsewhere, the consignments to Patna might be stopped for two days without inconvenience.

N.B.—This was arranged with the Lieutenant-Governor on the 2nd instant.

The Lieutenant-Governor arranged to request Sir Richard Temple to see the fulfilment of the orders issued. In the meantime the supplies to any district, except those in which severe distress is expected, to be reduced to the lowest possible amount.

II.—Letter No. 1071½—S.R. of the 26th February.

The objects to which the funds furnished by the Central Committee to the District Committees might with advantage be applied in the very distressed districts appear to be proper.

Questions relating to the responsibility of local officers, and whether more precise rules should be given to the Local Committees, were considered, as well as the observations on the subject of the distribution of cooked food contained in the 3rd paragraph of Mr. Mackenzie's circular of the 16th February, and letter No. 1090—S.R., of the 26th of February, on the subject of advances to cultivators. It was decided that a letter should be addressed to the Government of Bengal explaining the views and instructions of the Government of India on those important subjects.

III.—Sir Richard Temple and General Norman to arrange for the assistance to be rendered by the Military Department in sundry particulars. The requisition for cavalry sowars was withdrawn.

The orders issued in consequence were as follow:—

1. Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, No. 644, dated 25th February, asking that officers appointed to famine districts may be allowed to take their horses with them at Government expense.

Sanctioned to the extent of two horses each by Military Department No. 1598, dated 28th February.

Copy to the Government of Bengal, No. 1598A., dated 28th February 1874.

2. Commissary-General's No. 1330, dated 25th February 1874, asking if Commissariat Serjeants are to be given on the application of civil officers for employment on famine relief works.

Ordered to be complied with when no serious inconvenience will arise. In such case previous reference to be made to the Government of India. Letter to the Commissary-General, No. 1599, dated 28th February 1874.

Copy to the Government of Bengal, No. 1601, dated 28th February 1874.

3. Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, No. 691, dated 27th February, forwarding communication from the Government of Bengal urging the necessity for re-enforcing the native troops at Bhaugulpore.

The Quarter-Master-General requested, by Military Department No. 1603, dated 28th February 1874, to arrange for the relief of the detachment, 4th Native Infantry, at Berhampore, to enable it to rejoin its head-quarters at Bhaugulpore, and to enable the Officer Commanding to furnish the guards requisite for local and central jails at Bhaugulpore.

Copy to the Government of Bengal by Military Department No. 1605, dated 28th February 1874.

4. Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, No. 704, dated 27th February, forwarding request of the Government of Bengal that two companies of sepoys be sent to Mozufferpore, and one company to Bankipore, to relieve the district police and the guards on jail and treasury at those places, in order that the police may be available for transport duties.

The Quarter-Master-General requested by letter No. 1607, dated 28th February, to arrange for detachments of native infantry of sufficient strength being sent to the two places, and for the duty indicated.

Copy to the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, No. 1608, dated 28th February 1874.

Copy to the Government of Bengal, No. 1609, dated 28th February.

5. Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, No. 626, dated 24th February 1874, forwarding application from the Government of Bengal for 100 sowars for service in the Patna district, and 30 to 40 in the Bhaugulpore division.

Replied to by Military Department No. 1611, dated 28th February 1874, that, after consideration, it was decided on the whole to be unadvisable to employ the native cavalry at Segowlie in the manner suggested by the Government of Bengal.

Copy to the Government of Bengal, No. 1612, dated 28th February 1874.

6. Quarter-Master-General's Nos. 103C and 157C, dated 24th and 27th February, regarding Sappers and Pioneers for the Railway at Durbhunga.

The Public Works Department informed that two companies of Sappers had been previously ordered down; that was supposed to be enough; that the head quarters of the 32nd Pioneers would be at once sent for employment on the railway at Durbhunga; and that any further requisitions awaited an expression of the wishes of that Department.

Copy to the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, No. 1614, dated 28th February 1874.

Copy to the Government of Bengal, No. 1625, dated 28th February 1874.

7. Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, No. 681, dated 26th February, forwarding communication from the Government of Bengal, asking for 40 Non-Commissioned Officers and 163 sepoys from the Pioneer Regiment to enable Lieutenant-Colonel Macgregor to maintain a cooly train on the main lines of road over which grain is carried.

The Quarter-Master-General requested by Military Department No. 1616, dated 28th February 1874, to send down 200 men of the 32nd Pioneers at once to Patna for employment under Lieutenant-Colonel Macgregor, and also the remainder of the Regiment to Durbhunga for employment on the railway now in course of construction there.

Copy to the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce by Military Department No. 1617, dated 28th February 1874.

Copy to the Government of Bengal by No. 1618, dated 28th February 1874.

8. In addition to the above, letters are now about to issue to Bombay and Punjab, saying that the river and other small steamers stated to be available will not be required, and the Government of Bengal will be informed.

IV.—Letter No. 1038—S.R. of the 25th of February, paragraph 3, on the packing of rice in small bags.

The supply of one-maund bags for re-bagging rice in Calcutta will be obtained by the Government of India, if possible, without indenting upon the Government of Bengal's supply of bags made in the local jails. This will give about 6,000 tons in one-maund bags. Besides this amount, 10,000 tons of Saigon rice, to arrive in March and April, will be in bags of 30 seers, and arrangements have also been made to have 14,664 tons of Burma rice sent up in one-maund bags; thus the total quantity of rice in small bags will be about 30,500 tons. Beyond this the arrangements already made for the supply of Burmese rice in two-maund bags cannot be altered, and the Government of Bengal must arrange to re-bag the rice, when necessary up-country.

A. P. Howell,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Appendix A.

Memorandum.

The following summary of the week's operations in the despatch of Government rice from Howrah is submitted agreeably to orders:—

	Tons.
Friday, the 20th, about	2,000
Saturday	1,800
Sunday	2,700
Monday	2,200
Tuesday	3,000
Wednesday	2,250
Thursday	2,300
	16,250
Deduct 3 trains still on hand	700
Total	15,550

being a daily average of 2,220 tons.

2. But, omitting the two days' despatches before operations were properly organized, the daily average may now be taken at over 2,400 tons.

3. Messrs. Bird & Co. landed a daily average of 2,580 tons, a part of which was sent to the Eastern Bengal Railway. Their operations were not sufficient to keep the East Indian Railway fully supplied, and the reserve stock in the engine shed, amounting to 5,000 tons, has been used up during the week. This result will be brought to their notice, in order that suitable arrangements may be made for the future.

The reserve stocks in the railway premises are to-day almost "nil," say 446 tons.

4. The week's reports began with a supply of about 12,000 tons on board 13 ships, and about 5,000 in store on the railway premises; 6,496 tons have arrived in port during the week. Of the above amounts, 6,800 tons are still on board ships, and 16,250 have been loaded up for despatch.

5. During the week ending 5th March 18,000 tons are expected to arrive, which, with the 6,800 tons now in the river, will leave a reserve margin of 8,000 tons (or rather less than three days' supply) after providing for the week's despatches at the rate of 2,400 tons per diem. The reserve must be judiciously distributed amongst the several loading places so as to be immediately available:—

Say 3,000 tons at Sulkeah.
„ 3,000 „ at Goods Shed.
„ 2,000 „ at Engine Shed.

and this shall be arranged for.

6. On Monday, with the approval of His Excellency the Viceroy, the Government Agents were instructed to discontinue the attempt to keep the various consignments and qualities of rice separate, and a marked improvement was at once perceptible in the loading.

7. On Wednesday, the 25th, I brought to the notice of His Excellency the Viceroy that the agreement of the 18th instant, regulating the daily despatches to 2,400 tons, had been departed from by the Government of Bengal without due notice, and instructions prohibiting loading more than the fixed maximum of 2,500 tons were issued on the 26th. The attempt to raise the daily average disorganized the working arrangements of the terminus, and showed that the limit of the present carrying power of the line had been reached.

8. The sheds which are being constructed by Government at the Sulkeah branch are already in partial use, and several new sidings and cross-over roads have been put in to facilitate the despatch of trains during the week.

F. S. Taylor, Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
Consulting Engineer to the Government of India
for Guaranteed Railways.

February 28th, 1874.

APPENDIX H.

No. 380, dated Dinagepore, the 25th February 1874.

From W. LEF. ROBINSON, Esq., Relief Commissioner, Rajshahye Division, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

IN reply to your No. 663—S.R. of 12th February, I have the honor to state that hitherto the district of Dinagepore has been divided into the following circles for relief work:—

1. North-West.—Raneesunkol as head-quarters, with Mr. Scanlan in charge, comprising thanna Raneesunkol and the bad parts of thannas Peergunge and Thakooragon.

2. Raigunge Circle.—Mr. Jones in charge; head-quarters at Raigunge, comprising the whole of thanna Hemtabad; and a portion of thannas Kalliagunge and Bungshiharee.

3. Gungarampore.—Head-quarters at Gungarampore, comprising the whole of thanna Gungarampore and parts of Bungshiharee and Poorsha. Sub-Deputy Collector Baboo Hurree Mohum Chunder in charge.

4. Patiram.—Head-quarters at Patiram; Mr. Finucane, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, in charge, including the whole of thannah Patiram and parts of Chintamon and Putnitolla.

5. Ghoraghat.—Baboo Poorna Chunder Gupta in charge, comprising the whole of Ghoraghat thannah and part of Nawabgunge and Chintamon.

6. Kalliagunge.—Head-quarters at Kalliagunge, comprising part of Kalliagunge thannah and part of Bungshiharee and Rajarampore thannahs; Baboo Hurro Kallee Mookerjea being in charge.

The Magistrate of Dinagepore wishes (and I myself fully agree with him) to retain the general management of all relief business in the hands of those officers who have most of them been now for some time actively employed in road-making, import of grain, and other relief work; who have acquired the confidence of the people: and who know where the greatest distress exists, or is likely to show itself.

I propose therefore to have mat bungalows built at all those places at once in anticipation of sanction.

But besides these, I think, and the Magistrate, I may add, agrees with me, that such bungalows should also be built at (1) Chooramun, (2) Bindole, (3) Tamboolee, (4) Lushkerhat, (5) Poorsha, (6) Badooria, (7) Putnitolla. This gives a total of 13 centres at which bungalows would have to be built, and this number we hope will be sufficient, though each centre will certainly comprise a greater radius than eight miles.

It is however very difficult to find a suitable place everywhere to select for the residence of a relief officer, and in some cases I feel convinced that I can trust to the charity and right feeling of residents to supply the wants of their poorer neighbours if we supply the means. For instance, I should have put an officer at Kordoho, but the Dinagepore Rajbaree has a cutcherry there with local knowledge of everybody's wants, and I know I can depend on the manager, Baboo Khetter Mohun Sing, to afford every assistance in his power. So, again, at Moheepaldigee, half way between this and Tamboolee, I might have put a bungalow there, but there are many well-to-do mundals in that part of the country, and they have themselves come forward with a subscription Rs. 3,000. I am told by the Magistrate, and the officer at Tamboolee will, I think, be able to manage this tract through the agency of the mundals without any difficulty, and one of the local zemindars, Mahomed Ali Khan, will, I know, assist.

It is, I think, in every way desirable that where possible we should get as much relief work done by the people themselves, giving them of course every assistance and passing leniently over unintentional mistakes. At the same time I am of course quite ready, if the Government think I should make further provision for relief operations, to do so.

The bungalows I should propose to build would be sufficient to contain two rooms, 12 by 16 feet each, a 6-foot verandah on three sides, with bath rooms at two corners, a cook-house, and a couple of huts for servants, and I estimate the cost of each roughly at about Rs. 300.

To occupy the bungalows and look after relief works of all sorts in the vicinity I have, as at present, advised the following officers:

Raneesunkol - - - -	Mr. Scanlan.
Raigunge - - - -	Mr. Jones.
Gungarampore - - -	Sub-Deputy Baboo Hurree Mohun Chunder.
Patiram - - - -	Mr. Finucane.
Ghoraghat - - - -	Baboo Poorna Chundra Goopta.
Kalliagunge - - - -	Baboo Hurrokally Mookerjee.

The last-named officer has only lately gone there, and I propose to send him on to Chooramun, as soon as possible, to work under Mr. Jones.

The following officers have been ordered to join, and I propose to locate them as follows:—

Bindole - - - -	Mr. Fasson.
Kalliagunge - - - -	Mr. Pollen.
Tamboolee - - - -	Mr. Horsley.
Lushkerhat - - - -	Baboo Jadav Chunder Gosvami.
Poorsha - - - -	Mr. Livesay.
Raigunge - - - -	Mr. Jarbo.
Putnitola - - - -	Mr. Brown.

I have not a man at present for Badooria, but if Mr. Westmacott, after the transport is thoroughly working on the Manikchuk to Dinagepore line, is available for such work, I should propose to put him at Putnitola, Mr. Brown at Lushkerhat, and Baboo Jadav Chunder Gosvami at Badooria.

The officers must, I am afraid, in some instances build their own houses, living as best they can in the meantime, for there is not an unoccupied house in Dinagepore, or even a spare room.

Where there is a thannah in the vicinity, they must rough it in the one room available, or in such tent accommodation as we can afford, unless they bring their own tents with them. I have requested the Magistrate to commence these bungalows at the places indicated at once, but every officer has his hands so full of work of one kind and another just now that I am quite sure the bungalows will not be run up so quickly as is desirable, unless the officers are on the spot to look after their own accommodation, and I shall, as soon as the officers join, send them out to the various places named with the best accommodation in the way of tents I can afford them, unless I receive orders to the contrary: but I think it right to say that in my opinion each officer sent should be provided with a tent; it would, I believe, be less expensive to furnish each one with a tent and put a roof of thatch over it than to build everywhere.

No. 1238—S.R.

From A. MACKENZIE, ESQ., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the RELIEF COMMISSIONER OF RAJSHAHYE.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR,

Calcutta, 4th March 1874.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 380, dated the 25th ultimo, reporting on the circles for relief works organised in the Dinagepore district, the officers posted to each, and the accommodation provided for them.

2. In reply, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor approves generally of the arrangements made, and authorises the building of mat bungalows at the places noted by you, including accommodation for two or three officers at head-quarters. Meantime the Government of India will be addressed to supply more tents for the officers employed on famine work in the Rajshahye Division.

3. His Honor requests that you will be good enough to hurry as much as possible the officers posted to the distressed districts under your supervision. I am also to say that the Lieutenant-Governor considers that you have done very well indeed for the Dinagepore district so far.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1239—S.R.

COPY of above, and of letter to which it is a reply, forwarded to L. A. Abbott, Esq., for submission to Sir Richard Temple, with the intimation that the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that Sir Richard Temple will kindly examine the arrangements referred to when he goes to Dinagepore.

No. 1240—S.R.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioner of Rajshahye for information.

No. 1241—S.R.

COPY of paragraph 2 forwarded to the Accountant-General, and Deputy Comptroller-General, Department of Scarcity and Relief, for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 4th March 1874.

APPENDIX J.

RETURN showing the progress in the organization of Local Relief Committees and Relief Centres, and in the distribution of Charitable Relief.

Burdwan.—Six committees have been formed. No regular charitable relief has been found necessary, but each sub-committee has been put in funds to meet urgent cases. Sheds are ordered to be ready near the Grand Trunk Road at Raneegunge. The Maharajah of Burdwan has arranged to relieve all distress in his zemindary.

Bancoorah.—Has a general committee and small committees at each thannah and outpost. No actual relief is yet required.

Beerbhoom.—Has seven committees in all. No actual relief is yet required, save for some villages of weavers for whom work is being found.

Hooghly.—Has one district and five sub-committees. More are being formed; actual relief not yet required.

Howrah.—Has one district and two sub-committees. A small quantity of rice was being imported by one of these, but actual relief had not been required.

Rungpore.—Three relief committees are appointed; ten relief centres are in operation, and by the last accounts, 1,146 people daily were receiving relief. At private alms-houses maintained by zemindars in the interior several hundreds of paupers are being relieved daily.

Moorshedabad.—Sixteen committees have been formed; money and grain have been placed at their disposal; isolated cases of distress are relieved. But matters are not yet bad. Exact returns of the number of persons relieved have not yet been received.

Dinagepore.—Six relief sub-divisions have been established, and most of them are already officered. Relief centres under these officers will be managed for the present by the local residents, zemindars, and village headmen. Returns of persons receiving charitable relief are not yet received, and it is believed that such relief is not as yet much required.

Maldah.—One additional relief sub-division has been established, and eight relief centres are open at which, up to the last reports, about 200 persons a day were receiving charitable relief.

Rajshahye.—Two relief committees are in operation and sub-committees are being organised. Superintendents have been appointed to make local inquiries in tracts where distress may hereafter be severe. As yet the few cases of sickly and infirm people who are in want are being relieved by local charity under the Magistrate's instructions.

Bograh.—Two relief committees have been appointed; as yet it has been necessary only to aid cases of individual distress; this has been done. Regular relief centres are not yet wanted.

Patna.—Four relief committees have been constituted, and at Patna and Dinapore, houses for relief centres have been prepared. Other relief centres have been selected in the tract around Patna. As yet regular charitable relief through the Government officers has been neither required nor given. Zemindars have established private alms-houses in the worst tracts.

Gya.—Relief committees have been appointed at the four sub-divisions; relief houses are prepared; professional beggars and weakly people have been relieved at four centres to the number of 181. The number of persons receiving daily relief has not been precisely reported. Regular relief circles are not yet required.

Shahabad.—Four relief committees have been organised; no charitable relief has ye been given. Arrangements are being made to give light work, and food or gratuitous relief to those who require it.

Tirhoot (Head-quarters Relief Charge).—Three committees and one sub-committee have been appointed. No charitable relief operations had been begun. But recently there had been a report of threatening distress in the head-quarter sub-division, and sub-committees, with one or more relief circles, are being formed for the ascertainment and relief of distress.

Tirhoot (Durbungah Relief Charge).—Three extra relief sub-divisions have been opened and officered. Twenty-seven relief circles have been formed, out of which fifteen have been manned, and the rest are being manned. Meanwhile, until the new special organization is fully at work, charitable relief is being given through the managers of factories, through special Government officers on tour, and through the superior and inferior officers in charge of police posts. Complete returns of the numbers of persons receiving gratuitous relief have not yet been received.

Sarun.—The persons in charge of the 18 grade relief centres have been placed in funds to enable them to relieve casual distress. The officers of Government in the interior in all departments (and there are many such officers) also distribute casual relief. Two regular relief centres have been opened, and more will be opened when necessity arises. Numbers of persons receiving relief have not yet been submitted.

Chumparun.—Five relief sub-divisions have been arranged, of which four are officered. In one of these sub-divisions there are three circles, all of which are already manned by special superintendents. The rest of the circles will be managed by indigo planters and zemindars. At one circle 200 to 300 people daily were receiving relief; returns of the other circles have not yet been received.

Monghyr.—Four committees have been formed; in the worst or Jamooee sub-division three special officers are engaged in searching for and relieving distress; thirteen relief centres were in operation, at which 1,005 people were being relieved.

Bhaugulpore.—Six relief circles have been opened in the two distressed sub-divisions; at one of these a special officer is already in charge, and for the rest special officers are on the way. Charitable relief is now being distributed at seven centres, at which 330 people were receiving daily relief by the latest accounts.

Purneah.—Seven relief centres have been opened in the worst tracts; at one centre a special Government officer is in charge; the other centres are as yet managed by planters and zemindars. Returns of the people receiving relief at each place are not yet complete.

5th March 1874.

Enclosure No. 3.

RESOLUTION.

Scarcity and Relief Department.

Read— Calcutta, 3rd March 1874.

The district narratives of the Patna division for the fortnight ending on the 21st February 1874.

The Sarun narrative was not received until the 28th February, and the Tirhoot narratives until the 1st March. The Lieutenant-Governor must beg that narratives be sent in punctually.

2. *Patna.*—Supplies in the local markets are sufficient; prices in Patna itself are low, though at Behar and Barrh common rice is as high as 11½ and 12 seers per rupee. 6,956 labourers were on the relief works, but the numbers were decreasing, as hands were wanted for the rubbee harvest, which promises to be very good. The transport and storage of Government grain in the Patna district is sufficiently forward. Advances are still being taken to considerable amounts for the

purchase of grain by zemindars, who send to the North-West Provinces for their supplies. Charitable relief centres are fixed for the two head-quarter sub-divisions; but it is expected that no systematic relief of this kind will be required for the other sub-divisions. The Lieutenant-Governor considers that for Patna city, Bankipore, and Dinapore relief houses and relief organization must be kept quite ready; for if things get bad across the Ganges there will certainly be an influx of paupers into these large centres of population.

3. *Gya.*—The supply of food in the bazars is sufficient; prices have slightly fallen, though coarse rice is still ten seers per rupee at Jehanabad. Mr. Palmer explains that there was nearly half an average rice crop, and that the spring crop yield will be good; he says also that half the usual area of spring crops was sown, and that there is a great deal of food of many kinds to be had in the jungles. Private trade brings rice into the worst tracts on the Trunk Road. It is no doubt the case the people of the wilder tracts do eat a great deal of jungle produce for several months of the year in ordinary seasons. But if the rice crop of Gya was below half an average crop, and if (as separately reported by Mr. Palmer) the total yield of the spring crop will, owing to short sowings, be only half the yield of average years, then there must be risk of distress breaking out in parts of Gya later in the year. Relief works are as yet not much required, but should be kept ready, as well as full and efficient means of charitable relief for the very poor and helpless, who must suffer from protracted dear times in a very poor district.

4. The transport and storage of Government grain appear to have, so far as the Gya authorities were concerned, gone on well. The failure in arrivals of rice was due to the inability of the railway to carry the very greatly increased quantities which were being despatched during the last few days for Tirhoot. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that either demurrage was paid to the carters, who were kept waiting (paragraph 38), or that the carts were made over to private traders.

The Lieutenant-Governor will be ready to relax the rules so far as to permit such other classes of officers as the Commissioner may recommend (see paragraph 51 of Mr. Palmer's report) to inquire into applications for land improvement loans within defined money limits. But final orders on such a subject cannot be passed in a review of the district narratives. It is not clear whether the figures of persons relieved (paragraphs 54, 55) show the total number relieved during the fortnight, or the daily average.

5. *Shahabad.*—Supplies in the Shahabad bazars are sufficient; food is somewhat cheaper; rice is nowhere dearer than 11 seers to the rupee, while barley and maize are quoted much cheaper. The spring crops are good, and some of them are coming into market. Few people come to the relief works, which, however, are ready in many parts of the district. Charitable relief committees are ready for operation, but as yet only a very few people who are unable to labor have come upon the committee's charity. No anxiety is felt by the Magistrate about any part of the district, except a small tract south of the Grand Trunk Road.

6. *Tirhoot Mozufferpore relief charge.*—Supplies of grain in the local markets are sufficient, except in some few out-of-the-way villages. Prices have on the whole fallen somewhat; the spring crops continue to promise well on the whole, though in special tracts less than one-third of an average outturn is expected. The Lieutenant-Governor is particularly glad to see notice of fine rubbee crops in fields given up on account of the failure of the opium sowings. No cases of starvation are known to have occurred. Only 2,270 persons are shewn as being upon the relief works; but the narrative states that there are no returns available for road-works under planters. The Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have some kind of fortnightly return of all the laborers employed as has been already directed. He cannot suppose that the gentlemen who employ laborers will have difficulty in sending a simple statement of the numbers employed. He considers that arrangements must be made to open other works in the Toorkee direction, if the embankment scheme (paragraph 3 of Mr. Halliday's letter) is condemned. The Lieutenant-Governor approves Mr. Gordon's action (paragraph 15) in regard to the distressed village of Chajun. He trusts that since the works proposed will not benefit the people but only the factory, the manager of the factory will contribute. In any case, however, work must be found for those who would otherwise starve.

7. Private trade in grain would seem, from Mr. Gordon's report, to be very slack, even in the head-quarters sub-division. But 1,06,000 maunds of Government grain appear to be already in store.

8. Charitable relief arrangements, in the parts where distress is expected, must be put on a more systematic footing, even though it may not be necessary to appoint circle Superintendents everywhere.

9. *Durbhanga relief charge.*—Supplies of grain are sufficient in the larger bazars, and prices have slightly fallen. In the worst parts ot Durbhanga grain is said not to be procurable at the village bazars. It seems that in Bahera, Hathee, and Singhya of the Durbhanga sub-division, the condition of a larger number of the people is very near to absolute famine; but the Lieutenant-Governor believes that the arrangement made and making will arrest the evil.

10. The number of people on the relief works is said to be,—

Durbhanga sub-division	- 26,279
Seetamurhee -	- 14,212
Madhobunnee	4,462
Total -	44,953

But the returns from Madhobunnee seem to be wholly incomplete. The Lieutenant-Governor looks to Mr. Magrath, Mr. Forbes, and Lieutenant Wright to make up, by very special exertions, for the shortcomings of the previous Madhobunnee staff. The occurrence whereby 7,000 work-people on a single road close to Durbhanga were left without wages for four days shows how very much supervision is required. But at the same time the Lieutenant-Governor does not think that the difficulty can be met by turning on to the works a dozen Public Works overseers. In

Sarun, where 82,000 people are employed daily, no extra overseers are asked for; headmen of gangs (mates) are employed from the better classes of the people; each gangman has a few score laborers under him; he pays them daily, and the officer in charge of the work sees that this is done, and that some work is got out of the laborers. The Lieutenant-Governor can see no reason whatever why the same should not be done in Tirhoot. With regard to paragraph 16 of Mr. Worsley's report, where it is said that 60,000 kodalees are wanted in Durbhanga, the Lieutenant-Governor has ascertained that 7,000 tools are being sent up from Calcutta to-day (4th March), and that the rest of the indent will be for the most part complied with during the next ten days. Until the receipt of Mr. Worsley's narrative, no intimation of this large requirement had reached Calcutta, and a telegram asking for 60,000 tools was received by the Chief Engineer some hours after he had been informed of the contents of paragraph 16. The Lieutenant-Governor must beg officers to forecast their requirements with more care and consideration.

The private trade in grain is extremely small. The grain finally stored in the three subdivisions was—

	Mds.
Seetamurhee sub-division - - -	70,885
Madhobunnee „ - - -	38,493
Durbhanga „ - - -	41,992
Total - -	1,51,370

Next narrative should, if the carriage contracts work well, show large increases in these figures.

11. Charitable relief is as yet given through the sub-divisional officers, the indigo planters, and a few special officers in special tracts. No returns are given of the persons actually receiving charitable relief, and this omission should be supplied in future narratives.

12. The Lieutenant-Governor desires to observe that he is satisfied both by what he has learned from Sir Richard Temple and by Mr. Halliday's own account of his operations, that he, as Magistrate-Collector of Tirhoot, has actively and well directed the operations now going on in so many parts of his great district.

13. *Sarun.*—In the Sarun district private trade is still very brisk, and more than 1,20,000 maunds of private grain are known to have come into the district during the fortnight; supplies in the local bazars are sufficient; prices are nowhere dearer than 10½ seers a rupee for coarse rice, or 14 seers for maize; the spring crops continue to promise well, and the Magistrate-Collector expects to have two-thirds of an average yield from the spring crops all round. The general condition of the people seems to be improved, owing to the fall in prices and the abundance of relief works opened throughout the district.

14. The Lieutenant-Governor concurs in Mr. Drummond's view (paragraph 16) that the payment by cowries (petty job work) should not be too universally adopted in all cases, lest the weakly laborers should be kept off the works, or should be unable to earn enough to support themselves. But as far as is possible to use it the cowrie is an excellent system and much liked by the people. Probably gangs of incapables might be employed separately. The relief works provided in this district continue to be most ample; an average of 82,820 persons are employed daily, of whom about one-third are men, one-third women, and one-third children. The rate of daily wages is mostly 1½ anna for adult males, 1 anna for women, and under 1 anna for children. The works are roads, tanks, drainage cuttings, and village tracks; and Mr. Drummond says that though in some cases the work may be expensive owing to the short tale of labor given by the work-people, still a very great deal of lasting good will have been done. The relief work arrangements are most creditable to Mr. Drummond and his subordinates.

15. 1,71,858 maunds of Government grain had been stored in the district, besides 52,448 maunds belonging to the Hutwa Ward's estates. The transport arrangements appear to work well, the only hitch as yet has been the irregular arrival of Calcutta despatches at Arrah. The Commissioner has now been authorised to arrange for the Sarun supplies from the North-Western Provinces through Patna dealers, if possible, and it will probably be possible for him to arrange to have four or five days' supply always stacked on one or other side of the river, so as to prevent inconvenience to the cartmen.

16. The advances made for land improvements have already reached Rs. 51,853, and the advances taken by zemindars to assist their ryots have now reached the considerable amount of Rs. 1,34,879. In this respect also Mr. Drummond and Mr. Hudson have been successful.

17. The persons in charge of the 18 first grade relief centres have been placed in funds to enable them to relieve casual distress, and so also have most of the Government officers on duty in the interior, and regular relief centres have been opened at two places on the Hutwa estate. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts the Magistrate at once to open centres similar to that at Hutwa in the parts of the district where any of the inspecting officers report signs of actual distress.

Chumparun.—Supplies of food appear to be fairly sufficient except in the Ramnugger bazars. Prices are somewhat lower than they were; the prospects of the spring crops are good except in the south of the district, regarding which tracts there had heretofore been less anxiety. There has not been much grain-stealing, and the people are coming to the relief works, especially to tank works, in large numbers. Mr. Howe reports that there was much distress in Rumnugger, but that it is being met and relieved. No cases of starvation are reported. The Opium Department officers have been directed to assist in distributing advances of grain or money to opium ryots in anticipation of the ordinary advances.

As Sir Richard Temple has been so recently in the district and most of the arrangements now reported were made with his sanction, it will suffice for the Lieutenant-Governor to observe that on the district relief works 25,787 people are employed daily, besides 7,900 on the Gunduck embankment works, that the grain transport contract is said to be doing well, and that 1,76,890 maunds had actually been stored, mostly in the northern and most distressed tracts. At the five circles into which the district has been divided for charitable relief purposes, relief is now being given under the supervision of responsible people. At one of the sub-centres in the 5th or worst circle, "two to three hundred persons daily are receiving gratuitous relief."

19. In future narratives the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have statements of the average number of persons receiving gratuitous relief at each centre during the fortnight. But meanwhile Sir George Campbell is satisfied from Mr. Kean's and Mr. Howe's reports that distress is, with the help of the indigo planters of Mr. Gibbon, being adequately met in Chumparun.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1139—S.R.

COPY with copies of district narratives forwarded to the Commissioner of Patna, and to the Magistrate-Collectors of Patna, Gya, Shahabad, Tirhoot, Sarun, and Chumparun whose attention is drawn to the instruction given at paragraph 19 above; to the Relief Officer, Durbhanga; to the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Bhaugulpore; to the Relief Commissioners Rajshahye, North Behar, and Bhaugulpore.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Calcutta, 3rd March 1874. Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. A, dated Patna, the 22nd February 1874.

From A. C. MANGLES, ESQ., Collector of Patna, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit the following narrative for the fortnight ending the 21st instant.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. The supply of grain in the several bazars of the district is abundant and especially so in the markets adjoining the line of railway. But I am afraid that should the grain merchants or Government advance-holders on the other side of the river avail themselves of the concession recently accorded to them, and export grain from the Patna city market, the stock will be considerably lessened and rates rise proportionately, the consequence of which will be that we shall have some distress which would otherwise have been averted by the abundance of grain in the market and the harvesting of the spring crops.

3. The following are the prices of food-grain obtaining in the principal bazars of the district—

Patna.

	Seers.
Rice, best	11
Rice, common	13
Wheat	16
Barley	19
Jowar	19
Maize	17
Gram	19

Barrh.

Rice, common	10½
Wheat	12
Gram	12½
Maize	12½

Behar.

Rice	11½ to 12
Maize	17
Gram	15
Wheat	12

Dinapore.

Rice	11 to 11½
Khessarie	16 to 17
Wheat	13 to 15
Gram	16 to 17
Maize	15 to 16

The high prices of grain in Barrh, which has every advantage for supplying its wants by rail and water, as compared with the other sub-divisions is surprising. The Deputy Magistrate has been called upon to explain the cause of this extraordinary difference.

The sub-divisional officer of Behar is confident that "prices will fall considerably within the "next fortnight, *i.e.* as soon as the new wheat, barley, and massoor come into the market."

4. In connexion with this subject, I have again to bring to the notice of Government the fact

that several complaints have been received during the fortnight with regard to the block at the Loodhiana railway station, whereby a large quantity of grain bought up for Patna by the private traders and the Government advance-holders is lying in the bazars of that station, or on the railway platform, there being no available carriage to bring it to its destination.

5. There was no rainfall during the fortnight except in Behar where the Deputy Collector reports that he had ·51 inches, but in this I think he makes a mistake, and is referring to what fell as reported in my last. The weather has been clear and cool, and in fact all that could be desired for harvesting the crops ready to cut, and bringing to maturity those not yet ripe. From all accounts the prospects of the spring crops continue quite as good as reported in my last, some of them, such as massoor, gram, and other pulses have been reaped and are now finding their way into the local markets.

The Barrh sub-divisional officer says—"The harvesting of rubbee crops has commenced. The crops in every place I have lately visited appeared excellent, and as far as this sub-division is concerned I fear no distress." The Deputy Collector of Behar writes—"I was lately out and I can assure you that I never saw such splendid crops since 1870. The ears are full of well-developed grain and the plant reaches almost up to one's breast. Poppy, too, is excellent this year."

In the greater part of the sudder and Dinapur sub-divisions the crops are as good as in any ordinary year.

6. No case of misery or starvation was reported during the fortnight. The harvesting of the rubbee has given the people employment in the fields, and the consequence has been that the number of laborers employed on our roads has fallen off considerably. Owing to the prevailing high prices and the consequent inability of the working classes to give alms, the number of professional beggars in the city and the larger bazars is increasing, they flocking there to obtain the relief which in ordinary years they obtained in their own villages. But for the present I trust that the alms-houses started by the rich native gentry, such as Baboo Brother Sing at Paleegunge, Baboo Gujadhun Pershad at Nasrigunge, and Baboo Nownidh Lall in the city, will be sufficient to afford relief to all those seeking it without any interference on our part. All those seeking work can find it in abundance, and it is only the professional beggars and those unable to work who are in want of gratuitous support.

7. No case of grain robbery was reported during the fortnight, but there were 40 cases of theft mostly of a very petty nature, and none of them worthy of comment.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

8. The latest returns of local fund and relief works received from the Executive Engineer are those for the week ending the 14th instant. They show an average daily number of 6,956 laborers employed on the several works, but as I have already observed, the numbers are daily decreasing owing to the work in the fields and may be expected to continue to do so for the next month and a half.

No special grant of relief-fund money was applied for during the fortnight, though there are some 20 roads in different parts of the district on which work is given to all those seeking it.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

9. The following figures will show the transport of food-grains into the district between the 1st and 14th instant, as per latest information furnished—

	Rice.	Wheat, oats, and barley.	Genara.	Other grains.
By rail - - -	326,047	24,369	61,354	160,708
By river - -	1,565	50	3,500	1,900
Total -	327,612	24,419	64,854	162,608

Or a grand total of 579,493 maunds, whereof 250,575 maunds were belonging to Government, and 328,918 maunds to private individuals.

10. The means of transport continue to be sufficient in this district.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

11. Out of 67,500 maunds of grain assigned to this district in the first and second allotments, I have received 53,497 maunds, whereof 46,256 maunds have reached their final destination as detailed in column 7 of statement No. II. for the week ending 20th instant, forwarded to Government.

All the interior golahs in the sudder and Dinapore sub-divisions have been supplied with grain varying in quantity from 500 to 3,000 maunds, and in most of the Barrh ones grain has also been stored. I would have sent more grain into the interior of the sudder sub-division had it not been for the large demand for carts for transporting treasure and tools across the river.

E.—ADVANCE TO PRIVATE PARTY.

12. During the fortnight Rs. 30,000 were advanced under the Commissioner's sanction to three of the leading zemindars of this district, under clause A, paragraph 4, of the Government Circular No. 80. They have sent their men to the North-west Provinces and the Punjab for the purchase of grain.

The zemindars who got their advance in past months continue to sell their grain in the south and south-west of the sudder sub-division as already reported in previous reports.

13. Only one application for an advance of Rs. 200 for agricultural improvement was complied with during the fortnight, though I was obliged to reject others, the security offered being insufficient. From enquiries made it would appear that the public being generally aware of the Government's willingness to grant loans, any petty landholder, no matter how small his share may be in a joint undivided estate, puts forward his claim to a sum of money being lent him free of interest, on the pretence that he wishes to make an embankment or clear out a tank when he knows that he has not the power to do the one or the other without the consent of his co-sharers, and whose real intention is either to pay off his mahajun who he is paying at a high rate of interest for some previous loan, or to pay the marriage expenses of a son or a daughter. Considering our favorable prospects I think it necessary to exercise considerable caution in granting these loans, and only do so on satisfactory information received that they are to be used bonâ fide for the purposes stated in the application.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

14. In the sudder and Dinapore sub-divisions, houses have been fixed upon for charitable relief centres, and where no houses can be obtained sheds will have to be built in case they are required. In the Barrh and Behar sub-divisions no step has been taken in this direction, the sub-divisional officers being of opinion that owing to the abundant harvest no gratuitous relief will be necessary.

On my return from camp in the course of the next fortnight or three weeks, I intend sending or the zemindars owning estates in the south and the south-west of the district, and see what an be done towards increasing the number of the private alms-houses and will, if practicable, have one such started for every two or three villages so as to avoid as much as possible the connecting together of the decrepid and the diseased in our larger towns and markets.

No. 340 C, dated Gya, the 23rd February 1874.

From A. V. PALMER, ESQ., Collector of Gya, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Famine Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit my report on scarcity and relief in the Gya district, for the fortnight ending Saturday, 21st February.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. The bazars continue to be fairly supplied. There is no lack of food for those who are able to pay the prices asked. Most of the agricultural population are living on their own produce. It is a fact that the more remote and insignificant a village is, the better are the terms on which food is procurable. The high prices in Jehanabad and Gya, that have for some weeks obtained, are entirely due to a combination amongst the banyas. As regards Gya, I know the prices at which the beparees purchase and at which they sell to the banyas, and am consequently in a position to pronounce the banya's profits on rice as altogether inequitable.

3. The following table will show the reported price-currents during the past fortnight in the principal bazars:—

—	Wheat.		Barley.		Rice, 1st Sort.		Rice, Common.		Millet.		Indian Corn.		Gram.	
	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th February.	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th February.	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th February.	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th February.	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th February.	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th February.	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th February.
	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
Gya	10 8	10 6	14 8	14 6	8 4	8 0	10 0	9 12	14 0	—	13 8	11 8	13 0	12 0
Nowada	11 0	11 0	13 0	15 0	—	—	11 4	11 4	13 0	13 0	12 0	12 0	12 8	13 0
Jehanabad	13 0	12 8	14 0	15 0	9 0	9 0	10 0	10 0	—	15 0	13 12	14 0	13 12	13 0
Aurungabad	13 0	10 13	14 0	14 0	10 0	9 12	11 0	10 4	13 0	13 8	13 8	13 8	13 14	13 3
Daoodnuggur	11 6	11 0	16 0	15 0	10 8	10 0	11 0	11 0	—	14 0	14 0	13 8	13 0	13 0

4. This table speaks for itself, and shows that there has been a very slight improvement in the prices of food-grains.

5. Now that the dhan crop has been threshed, the outturn of which, as far as I have been able to ascertain, has been a 6 or 8-anna crop, there is food in every agriculturist's or field laborer's house. There are more small stocks of food all over the district than were first anticipated, and I have no reason to think that any general distress will show itself until after the rubbee crops have been harvested.

6. There has been no rainfall during the past fortnight, nor is any required. The rubbee crops are as good as could be desired, and there is every expectation of a full crop of rubbee being yielded on all the lands thus sown.

7. The benefits resulting from the rain, followed by a keen drying west wind, were, as I anticipated, very great.

8. The poppy suffered slightly, but a good average outturn of this is anticipated. It appears strange that the prices in the chief markets should still remain so high, and should have been affected to so small an extent (especially in the case of barley, wheat, and gram) by this rainfall, and the fact that agriculturists anticipate twice the crop they did of these food-grains before the rain fell. It would appear that circumstances, which ordinarily affect the markets elsewhere, do not do so here, and this I believe to be in a great measure due to the cliquedom of the banyas. The district being a Bhowlee tenure district, the bazar prices do not affect the majority of the population, and this enables the three or four banyas to fix their own prices and dictate their own terms.

9. The condition of the people remains good, but I cannot expect this to last much longer.

10. During the fortnight I have had one case of distress reported from Aurungabad and five from Jehanabad.

11. In Aurungabad the case was of a Gwalla, who had been suffering from fever for upwards of 20 days. He had no relatives or friends to look after him, and had become incapacitated. Under the instructions previously issued he was fed by the abkary daroga for four days to recruit his strength and then sent to an adjacent relief work.

12. In Jehanabad four persons in one village and one in another to the north-east of the sub-division were found to be in a distressed condition. These men were sent in to sub-divisional head-quarters where they have been cared for and light work given them.

13. The sub-divisional officers report that grain thefts and robberies have not increased to any appreciable extent.

14. I wish to say a few words with respect to the condition of the people to the south of this district. To the south-east and south-west of the district the rice crops have been excellent. There remains then the centre portion, which I may call that part of the old Sherghotty sub-division lying south of the Grand Trunk Road. The rice crop here was very poor, the bhadoi crop was not good, and the rubbee is not harvested.

15. The fact is that both from Palamow and Hazareebaugh rice is brought across country by pack-bullocks.

16. The latest information shows the price at which rice is procurable at Palamow to be 17 seers pucca per rupee, and it is a matter of fact that at all the smaller villages rice and food generally is to be had on easier terms than in the larger marts.

17. At Imamgunge, to the extreme south; at Raneegunge on the Grand Trunk Road, and at Bodh Gya, to the north-east, rice has been during the fortnight selling at 19 seers (kutcha weight) per rupee.

18. But apart from the price of rice not being as high as it had been elsewhere, there is another reason why, notwithstanding short crops, distress or want is not apparent here.

19. The old Sherghotty sub-division is nearly all composed of jungle lands, especially to the south of the Grand Trunk Road.

20. The cultivation here at all times is very small, the soil is sandy and poor, and the sub-division in no year produces sufficient food for its own consumption.

21. The people are what may be termed "junglee." Their chief occupation is the herding of cattle in the jungles, and the result of this is that the herdsmen become acquainted with the different jungle fruits, roots, and berries, and I may say that the majority of the poorer classes find a subsistence from this source.

22. It may not be out of place to state briefly the food that the jungles afford.

23. First of all, there are the roots of three creepers called the tayna, doorareh, and gaintee. The two former are long in shape, measuring about one to one-half hâths in length, and about one-half to two inches in diameter.

24. The third is a bulb about the size of a large potato. These, I am informed, are boiled and then eaten. They are procurable all the year round, except when the jungle is burnt.

25. Secondly, there is the byre tree, which grows very profusely in these parts. The fruit of this is now ripe.

26. Thirdly, next month there will be the mohooa, the goolar, doomur, kaind, and bail fruits.

27. Fourthly, in July the following herbs are procurable.

28. The mutee sag, the leaf from a large tree, chukwah, pyla, a creeper, and kunwa.

B.—Relief Work.

29. The marking out of works has been already reported; no others are required at present. The return, which will be submitted three days hence to the Department of Public Works branch of the Secretariat, will show at a glance the information required on this point. There is a relief work now open in every sub-division. The daily average of coolies thus employed is 1,125.

30. 2,700 tools have been received from the Commissioner, but I fear they are unsuitable. The picks are too heavy and the kodallees of very bad quality. In all contract work the contractor, if possible, supplies his own tools. If unable to do so, and we have tools available, we ordinarily allow him the use of them.

C.—Transport of Food Grains.

31. The following table will show the reported importations during the past fortnight in the principal bazars:—

Bazars.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, 1st sort.	Rice, 2nd sort.	Millet.	Maize.	Gram.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Gya - - - - -	457	218	184	1,648	26	412	209
Jehanabad - - - - -	153	52	43	135	148	100	185
Aurungabad - - - - -	30	4	85	—	—	40	—
Daoodnuggur - - - - -	148	60	360	225	70	70	65

32. This gives a total of 5,105 maunds against 4,237 imported in previous fortnight, an increase of 868 maunds imported.

33. I annex also a comparative statement showing the private importations to Sudder bazar Gya alone, as compared with previous fortnight:—

—	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, 1st sort.	Rice, 2nd sort.	Millet.	Maize.	Gram.	Total.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
This fortnight - - - - -	457	248	184	1,648	26	412	209	3,154
Past fortnight - - - - -	460	81	199	1,171	9	265	261	2,446

34. The means of transport, both for private and Government purposes, are sufficient. Captain Taylor has been sent to Aurungabad to assist the sub-divisional officer in transporting grain to his subordinate storehouses, but I have not heard from him what he is about. (Since writing this I have heard from Captain Taylor.) The transport has worked smoothly. The Jehanabad sub-divisional allotment has been completed, and it only now remains for the sub-divisional officer to distribute it in the localities where it is required.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

35. In my last report I enumerated the places that had been selected for storage of Government grain, and I further reported that storage houses had been arranged for at each.

36. The return submitted on the 21st will show the amount of food actually stored in the district. This is 1,20,752 maunds against 1,21,799 maunds received at the railway stations.

37. It is very much to be regretted that the consignments indicated by the Government have not been despatched.

38. At Bihta and Bukteearpore there have been a large number of carts waiting since the commencement of the month. To the former no grain whatever has been sent, and to the latter only 3,732 maunds during the month. At Bihta 10,000 maunds and at Bukteearpore 12,000 maunds were expected by the 15th instant.

39. Advantage has been taken to push on the supplies in the interior, and the last fortnight's transactions in this respect are thus detailed:—

Grain stored at interior store-houses.

Store-houses.	As intimated in last fortnightly Report.	During fortnight under Report.	Total.
Bela - - - - - - - -	2,006	1,006	3,012
Sherghotty - - - - - - -	—	4,279	4,279
Uttree - - - - - - - -	—	3,745	3,745
Borachutti - - - - - - -	—	808	808
Urwul - - - - - - - -	13,876	—	13,876
Erkee - - - - - - - -	—	—	—
Gundhar - - - - - - - -	—	1,034	1,034
Wor - - - - - - - -	964	1,094	2,058
Ruffigunge - - - - - - -	—	240	240
Kootoomba - - - - - - -	—	2,285	2,285
Kadigunge - - - - - - -	2,884	—	2,884
Pukreeborwan - - - - - - -	—	1,872	1,872
Rujowlee - - - - - - - -	—	3,401	3,401
Total - -	19,730	19,756	39,494

40. I believe the stock assigned to us to be sufficient for all our purposes. We are quite able to carry our grain. We only require that it should be sent us to carry.

E.—ADVANCE TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

41. For the purchase and storage of grain no application has, during the past fortnight, been made.

42. The following is an account of advances to private parties for land improvements:—

Advance for Land Improvement.

Name of Applicant, and rights held by him.	Nature and Locality of Works.	Amount of Advance.			Period within which work is to be completed.
		RS.	A.	P.	
Hunooman Mahto, servant (ryot)	For repairing a well, and to dig a new well in Mohunpore.	50	0	0	Six months.
Shugwan Mahto, servant (ryot)	For two pucca wells in Muthair, Pergunnah Sunont	200	0	0	Four.
Gungar Ram, zemindar	Embankment and repairing Pyne in Mouza, Nujunna Hazaree, Pergunnah Kootoomba.	225	0	0	June 1874.
Maharajah Joy Purkash Singh, Bahadoor.	Pucca dam	2,000	0	0	
Pirthee Nath Singh and Rasbehary Singh, zemindars.	Embankment, repairing tank in Mouza Pokbraha in Cherailee.	150	0	0	Within one year.
Gunesh Narain Singh, zemindar	Embankment in Mungra Kurma, Pergunnah Kootoomba.	249	0	0	June 1874.
Ditto ditto	Embankment and repairing tank in Dhobdiha, Pergunnah Kootoomba.	153	0	0	One year.
Roy Het Narain Singh, Bahadoor	Embankment and repairing tank in Pipra, Pergunnah Kootoomba.	249	0	0	31st July 1874.
Musst. Imamum	Embankment and well in Kirpa Bigha, Pergunnah Summai, Zillah Gya.	500	0	0	May 1874.
	Total	3,776	0	0	

43. In Aurungabad there have been altogether 11 applications to deal in grain. Of these 10 have been granted and one is under inquiry.

44. Of 74 applications for land improvement—

20 have been complied with and money paid.
7 have been rejected.
10 reported for sanction.
20 further security called for.
5 inquiry finished.
12 pending.

74 total.

45. In Nowada there have been no applications to deal in grain, and only two for land improvement.

46. Of these two one has been granted and cheque sent, and the other has been rejected owing to the insufficiency of the security.

47. In Jehanabad there has been no fresh application to deal in grain, but there have been 27 applications for land improvement.

48. Of these 27, four have been granted and the rest are pending.

49. Mr. Bourdillon mentions, and with reason, the difficulty experienced by local enquiry not being deemed sufficient, unless made by an officer not below the rank of canoongo.

50. He represents that his canoongo has been employed in receiving grain at Patna, and that his sub-deputy, whose services are otherwise required in housing grain, &c., is the only officer he can employ in these enquiries. He suggests that distillery darogas and sub-divisional nazirs are in the habit of testing securities, and that it would be a great boon if these were permitted to report on the applications.

51. I concur in Mr. Bourdillon's suggestions. I have already brought to notice the delay that must necessarily ensue under the existing system, and have recommended that officers might be permitted to select competent persons for this duty.

52. In the Sudder sub-division there have been two applications for advances to purchase grain, one has been withdrawn and the other has been granted.

53. For land improvement there have been 21 applications received. Of these three have been transferred to Jehanabad, nine have been rejected, two withdrawn, one granted and six pending.

F.—Charitable Relief.

54. No special operations beyond the construction of roads have been undertaken. At Nowada, Jehanabad, and Aurungabad, it has been found necessary to assist some professional beggars as per margin.

Nowada	24
Pukreeborwan	20
Aurungabad	50
Jehanabad	50

55. In addition to these there have been some 15 indigent persons sent into Jehanabad and 23 to Aurungabad. Those who are capable of doing light work are made to do it and receive five Goruckpooree pice, or one anna daily.

56. At Urwul, the Jehanabad sub-division officer had a meeting during the fortnight, but nothing decisive was done. He proposes to raise subscriptions at next meeting, and also will shortly convene a meeting for that purpose at Jehanabad.

57. At Nowada a meeting was held on 10th, and a subscription list opened; Rs. 4,750 and 1,000 maunds of rice were promised.

58. At the Sudder station a meeting has been convened for 7th proximo for the same purpose.

No. 2Ct.F, dated Camp Gurani, the 23rd February 1874.

From H. W. ALEXANDER, ESQ., Collector of Shahabad, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit my sixth fortnightly report for this district.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

1. The supplies of grain in the principal marts of the district are said to be ample. The smaller marts to the east, on the bank of the Soane, are reported to be importing less, but this is accounted for by the grain finding its way to the Gya markets, where prices are higher.

2. The annexed statement (Appendix A) gives the kind and prices of grain selling at one or two of the principal marts in the district. It will be noticed that, whilst the price of wheat and rice has generally risen at most places to a slight extent, the price of barley, peas, maize, and gram has fallen; the latter may be attributed, I think, to the peas crop, which is now being cut and harvested. On this point the sub-divisional officer of Buxar reports very decidedly "that the peas are coming into use, and the price of rice in the Buxar sub-division yesterday (19th instant) had fallen to an appreciable extent, good rice being one seer cheaper." This Mr. Armstrong attributes, as well as the fall in the prices of nearly all kinds of grains in the Buxar bazar, to the decrease in the number of purchasers on the commencement of the pea harvest.

3. I have nothing to add to my last narrative in regard to the quantities of grain in the hands of zemindars and others.

4. During the fortnight there has been no rainfall, excepting in Bhubbooa, where ·22 inches is reported to have fallen.

5. The rubbee is reported everywhere to be looking well; this no doubt is due to the rain which fell at the beginning of the month, which did material good to the wheat, barley, and other backward crops. In many places "cheena" has been sown in the moistened lands, more especially in pergunnah Rohtas. Peas, mussoor, and kerao are being generally harvested, and in some places wheat, barley, and gram are very nearly ready to be cut.

6. There is plenty of employment for able-bodied men in gathering the crops which are ripe. Pressure is being felt by the more indigent of the high castes and by those who ordinarily subsist on charity, and who from bodily infirmities are incapable of work. Arrangements for giving light labour and gratuitous relief are in progress. Steps have been taken to obtain, through the police, chowkeedars, planters, zemindars, and others, immediate information of the cases of all such persons which call for succour.

7. The sub-divisional officer of Buxar reports that money has been advanced to a member of the sub-divisional committee from funds in hand to provide with food five persons who have heretofore lived on charity, and are unable to work for their living.

In accordance with instructions conveyed in letter No. 202—S. R., dated 21st January 1874, the Manager of the Court of Wards has submitted a full report in regard to each village under his management. In one village, Basawana, one unfortunate man, leprosy-stricken, is reported to be in a distressed state, and totally incapable of all work. I have directed the Manager to arrange that he receives a daily meal sufficient to keep him alive. In the village of Mithaba, two Brahmin women of good family, dependent entirely on charity, are reported to be in bad circumstances; work will be provided for them in the way of spinning cotton, for which they will receive payment at the ordinary rate. The money expended in charity in these cases should be debited to the estate of the adopted minor Despati Singh. No cases of starvation have been reported.

8. In the Arrah sub-division six cases of theft of grain are reported to have occurred, the total amount of grain carried away being 17 maunds 21 seers. In one case 4 maunds 5 seers of Government grain was said to have been stolen, on the night of the 19th, from outside the central depot at Gurani. From inquiries I made myself yesterday in regard to this case, I am fully convinced that it was not the work of bonâ fide thieves; the cartmen from whose carts it was taken are no doubt the guilty parties, and I shall hold the cart contractor answerable for the amount.

In the Buxar sub-division there has been no remarkable increase in grain-thefts and robberies.

Eleven cases of grain-thefts are reported in the Bhubbooa sub-division; the grain stolen was mostly peas and mussoor from crops on the ground. Four cases of burglary are also reported in which rice was stolen, but the amount was not correctly reported.

In the Sasseram sub-division thirteen cases are reported, all, with one exception, petty thefts of crops, peas, mussoor, and wheat, on the ground.

9. I have nothing to add to my last narrative in regard to the condition of special tracts.

In the Arrah sub-division that part especially alluded to in previous narrative is being carefully watched. I am at present out in camp in this direction making inquiries in regard to the condition of the people. Relief works have been commenced here.

In the Buxar sub-division work has been commenced in the west of Chousah, and in Sasseram and Bhubbooa. The vicinity of Chand, the Rohtas pergunnah generally, and the country between Chennary and Bhugwanpore, require attention.

B.—Relief Works.

Full details in regard to all such works in progress will be furnished in the statement called for in Circular No. 5718, dated 3rd December last, due on the 25th instant.

During the fortnight in the Arrah sub-division work has been commenced on the Arrah and Sahar, Arrah and Kaimnuggur, Arrah and Peroo roads.

In the Buxar sub-division the roads from Khyree to Poorunda, and from Chousah to Jumooaon, have been started as relief works in the Chousah pergunnah.

In the Sasseram sub-division money has been made over to the sub-divisional officer for commencing relief works on the roads between Chennary and Mulhipore, and Akherpore and Juddonathpore.

C.—Transport of Food.

Private importation by rail during the fortnight will be submitted in a separate statement which will follow. I never receive the return of exports and imports for the fortnight from the Traffic Department, East Indian Railway, in time to embody it in my narrative. Large quantities of grain are being daily sent from the Arrah railway depôt to Burahra on the Ganges for storage in the Sarun district. A number of the carts belonging to this district are employed in the transport of this grain; and as they are paid at a higher rate than has heretofore been given for carrying grain to be stored in the central depôts of the Arrah sub-division, this may create an unwise competition. At present, as very little grain has been received for this district at the Arrah station, no inconvenience has been felt, but in all probability will arise when more grain arrives for this district, as I certainly hope ere long it will. At present there is no block, and the means of transport are sufficient to meet the demands of Government and private importers.

By river, during the fortnight under report, some 1,650 maunds of wheat, gram, bajra, and janera have been imported in the Arrah sub-division.

In the Sasseram sub-division 1,821 maunds have been imported from outside, not including private imports by rail, and in the Bhubbooa sub-division 364 maunds.

D.—Storage of Government Grain, &c.

For the Arrah sub-division advice was received of 340 bags having been despatched, instead of which 777 bags were delivered at the Arrah station, said to contain 771 maunds, but which were found on re-weighment to hold only 725 maunds 19 seers. This confusion and discrepancy has been separately reported; it is probably attributable to the large consignments of grain coming daily to the Arrah station for the Sarun district. In all then, up to date, of 21,633 maunds said to have been despatched, 21,509 maunds 15 seers have been received and actually stored in the central depôts.

In the Buxar sub-division Mr. Armstrong reports: "The return submitted yesterday (the 19th instant) shows 20,263 maunds of grain as received, of which 18,529 maunds have been stored at the central depôts, some 800 odd bags of wheat and barley being still at the Doomraon delivery depôts. At Buxar all has been cleared out, and the second consignment is awaited, of which only 2,424 maunds have been received up to date.

In regard to the Sasseram and Bhubbooa sub-divisions, Mr. Eyre reports: "The total amount of grain received up to date at Zumaniah and Doomraon is—

	Mds.	S.	C.
At Zumania - - - - - -	18,706	30	6
" Doomraon - - - - - -	4,013	10	6
Total - -	22,720	0	12

"The whole of this had been despatched by the 16th February. I learnt this to-day from a report transmitted by the despatch clerk. The details of weights and quantity in transit are not given, and I am unable therefore to give more than a general amount on this head.

	Mds.	S.	C.
Grain received at delivery stations - -	22,720	0	12
Quantity stored - - - - - -	20,230	1	10
" in transit - - - - -	2,489	39	2
Total - -	22,720	0	12

In regard to the sufficiency of stocks for Government purposes, I trust that the further requirements I have asked for in a separate report, and as mentioned in my last narrative, may be early complied with. Presuming that this further amount will be supplied, grain golahs have been completed and are being constructed to store it in.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

1. For purchase and storage of grain in the Arrah sub-division, one advance has been made of Rs. 500 to one Jowahir Lal of Kori, and an application has been made for Rs. 3,000 by another zemindar, and if there is nothing against it the advance will be made to him.

In the Buxar sub-division Mr. Armstrong reports that "for advances for the purchase of grain five petitions have been presented. In the case of one petitioner the security offered has been found insufficient; in the case of a second no security is forthcoming; while a third has changed his mind, and now says he does not want the loan: the loan in the remaining two cases will be recommended on the applicants registering a deed of security, which they are expected to do to-day. - -

2. *Advances to municipalities for works and description thereof.*—The Arrah municipality has sent up a formal application for a loan of Rs. 8,041 for the two works alluded to in my last narrative. No other municipality have come forward.

3. *Advances to private parties for land improvements.*—In the Arrah sub-division five applications have been made for a sum aggregating Rs. 2,350 for digging wells, &c., and the canoongoe has been directed to make inquiries with a view of ascertaining whether the sums may be properly advanced in each case.

In the Buxar sub-division Mr. Armstrong reports: "There have been eighteen petitions for advances for improvements, of which three have been sent to the Arrah Collectorate for necessary inquiries concerning the security offered, and one to Sasseram for a general inquiry. In one the security offered has been found insufficient, and in the remainder the inquiries are not yet complete so as to admit of my formally applying for the advances. Nearly all the applications are for the construction of pucka wells, the making of which will not give work to the sort of people who really want it, and, except where required for irrigating poppy, the expenditure would seem to be unwise with the prospect of canal-water in every direction."

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

No actual relief operations have been commenced further than what has been already mentioned under heading A of this report. District and sub-divisional relief committees have been formed and reported on separately. Sub-committees in connection therewith have been nominated, and are being selected. Arrangements are being made to collect at each relief centre stores of bagaye grass and fibre for making rope and string, and uncleaned cotton will also be stored to be spun by women of high and low caste who cannot engage in out-door labor of other kinds.

A meeting was held at Arrah on the 19th instant, and collections promised to the amount of Rs. 11,500, besides a monthly subscription of Rs. 255 during the time that charitable relief is given. I expect to be able to realize more than this, however, as many zemindars and mahajuns did not attend the meeting, and subscriptions remain to be obtained from the canal, police, and opium departments.

At Buxar a meeting was held on the 10th instant, and a sum of Rs. 1,195 subscribed, and it is expected that more than this will be ultimately collected.

In the Sasseram and Bhubhooa sub-divisions subscriptions are being collected.

APPENDIX A.

PRICE-CURRENT at the principal Marts in the District.

Name of Sub-Division.	Name of Marts.	Wheat.		Rice.		Barley.		Bajra.		Peas.		Maize.		Gram.	
		Sr.	Ch.	Sr.	Ch.	Sr.	Ch.	Sr.	Ch.	Sr.	Ch.	Sr.	Ch.	Sr.	Ch.
ARRAH -	1. Arrah - -	14	8	11	8	17	0	16	0	—		17	0	17	8
	2. Bindwabah -	13	8	11	0	—		—		—		13	8	15	0
	3. Sabar - -	14	6	12	0	—		—		—		15	0	16	8
	4. Jugdispur -	12	0	11	0	17	0	—		—		16	0	13	8
BUXAR -	1. Buxar - -	14	0	12	8	19	0	17	0	—		17	0	18	8
	2. Doomraon -	14	0	12	0	18	8	16	0	22	0	16	0	18	8
	3. Rughoonathpore	14	8	12	8	18	4	16	8	22	8	16	8	18	8
	4. Chousa -	14	0	12	4	18	4	16	4	17	4	16	4	17	0
SASSERAM -	1. Sasseram -	13	8	11	8	—		—		18	0	—		17	0
	2. Chenari -	13	8	11	6	—		—		16	0	—		16	8
	3. Nasrigunge -	12	0	11	4	—		—		15	0	—		14	0
	4. Akberpore -	11	0	11	0	—		—		13	0	—		13	0
	5. Dhungain	14	0	11	8	—		—		15	0	—		15	0
BHABOOAH -	1. Bhubhooa -	13	0	11	0	—		—		14	8	—		15	0
	2. Jehanabad -	12	0	11	0	—		—		15	0	—		15	8
	3. Chynepore -	12	8	11	0	—		—		16	0	—		15	8
	4. Doorgaoti -	14	0	12	0	—		—		16	0	—		15	0
	5. Hatta - -	13	0	10	8	—		—		18	0	—		15	0

H. ALEXANDER,
Collector.

ABSTRACT STATEMENT of Men, Women, and Children employed on public works in the district of Shahabad during the 14 days ending Saturday, the 21st February 1874.

Name of work—Filling Kanah tank.

Total number of persons employed during the 14 days - - -	Men - - - - - - -	2,061½
	Women - - - - -	2,779
	Children - - - - -	2,390
	Total - -	7,230½
Mean daily number of persons employed during the 14 days -	Men - - - - - - -	147
	Women - - - - - -	198
	Children - - - - - -	171
	Total - -	516

Number of persons employed on the last of the 14 days	Men	158
	Women	172
	Children	185
	Total	516
How long work is likely to give employment		By the end of February 1874.
		Srs.
Rate of food-grain per rupee	Rice	11½
	Dâl	13
	Gram	17½
	At what distance obtainable from the work	Food-grain obtainable at the work.

Remarks.—The labouring classes of men are 74 per cent., and non-labouring classes 26 per cent. The work is done chiefly by *Cowreeah Khap ;* the—

	Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
Earning of each man is from	0	1	6	to	0	2	0
Ditto of „ woman „	0	0	9	to	0	1	6
Ditto of „ child „	0	0	9	to	0	1	0

The total amount expended during the fortnight under report is Rs. 641-7-3.

H. Alexander,
Collector.

No. 391 F., dated Mozufferpore, the 26th February 1874.

From F. M. Halliday, Esq., Collector of Tirhoot, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to submit by to-day's post the accompanying fortnightly report received from Mr. Worsley late yesterday evening.

2. With regard to what Mr. Worsley writes of the requirements for the Madhubani sub-division, the original estimate was for something over 12 lacs. The Government has since been informed of Sir Richard Temple's subsequent calculations putting the requirements at 16 lacs, and this no doubt is a sufficient provision. The fact that the Nepaulese subjects along the border will probably flock to our relief works and depôts, was a point necessary to take into consideration in calculating for additional requirements, and this was probably thought of in increasing the provision.

3. On the subject of Mr. Worsley's 13th para. I beg to state that the Commissioner has advised me of the despatch of 320 kodalees and 1,000 picks. These will be distributed on arrival.

I cannot but think, however, that the Executive Engineer of the Northern Division could make more use of the local supplies of kodalees available in every village, and a little tact and energy would result in the required tools being forthcoming on the spot.

4. With regard to para. 24 of the report, I have to add that Mr. Llewhellin who has, under Sir Richard Temple's instructions, been placed in charge of the transport arrangements of the Madhubani sub-division, passed through Mozufferpore a few days ago under orders from Sir Richard Temple, to see what supplies of carts could be obtained from Sarun, where, as I understand, the demand for carriage for Government transport is very far below the capabilities of the district to supply. Mr. Llewhellin informed me that he hoped shortly to make the Madhubani arrangements satisfactory.

4. On the transport of grain to Seetamarhee through the Hajeepore and Sudder sub-divisions I have already reported through Mr. Gordon. It will be observed that the storage in the Seetamarhee sub-division considerably exceeds that of other sub-divisions.

5. I have to report that telegraphic communication has now been opened between Mozufferpore and Durbhanga, Mozufferpore and Seetamarhee, and Mozufferpore to Moteeharee and Soogowlee. The line between Mozufferpore and Hajeepore has been also permanently constructed and opened. Captain Mander, Assistant Engineer, writes from Bazeedpore, opposite Barrh, that the new rail works to Darbhunga are proceeding rapidly.

6. In conclusion I would beg to submit the following with regard to the remarks recorded in the last Government resolution on Mr. Worsley's fortnightly report for the period ending 7th February 1874, in connexion with the delay in submitting that report. When that report was under preparation by Mr. Worsley, Sir Richard Temple had arrived at Mozufferpore, and I accompanied him to Durbhanga, the Commissioner being then at Seetamarhee on his tour from the Chumparun district. When Sir Richard Temple left Durbhanga for Seetamarhee and Moteeharee, I proceeded with Mr. Bayley to the Allahpore Pergunnah, and visited the extreme corner of my district with him at Andramuth. Thence I accompanied him back through Durbhanga to Nagarbusto and Chumpta Ghaut, where we met the gentlemen who had undertaken the transport contracts which had been negociated during our visit at Durbhanga. From Chumpta I proceeded by rail (this being the quickest way) from Barrh to Bankipore, and across to Hajeepore, where I visited and inspected the transport arrangements at Bunkhur Ghaut, and finally returned to Mozufferpore to carry on the negotiations with the planters of this side of Tirhoot for the transport arrangements from Hajeepore to Seetamaree sub-division, and other parts of the district in that direction.

This will account for my not having been able to prepare the report submitted by Mr. Worsley. I would further submit that my own personal exertions and action in connexion with famine relief operations have not been prominently before Government, simply from the fact that hitherto the reports of all actions taken, have been submitted direct by Mr. Worsley. Under the Commissioner's instructions, and on this point I have purposely interfered with him as little as possible; but I would beg to submit that the direction and superintendence of all matters have been in my hands as they were before, and the responsibility of the whole has been and remains on my shoulders. The Commissioner is aware of this, and I trust His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will not suppose that I have been sitting at the Sudder station with folded hands.

No. 34, dated Durbhangah, the 23rd February 1874.

From C. F. WORSLEY, Esq., C.S., on Special Duty, Tirhoot, Northern Division, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit my Narrative of Scarcity and Relief for the fortnight ending Saturday 21st February 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. In Seetamarhee sub-division the prices of grain, which fell slightly for a few days after the rain in the early part of the month, have again risen.

3. In Madhoobanee sub-division it is reported that there is no actual scarcity at present; prices continue very much the same, but "makai" has slightly fallen.

4. In Durbhangah sub-division the supply of all sorts of food-grains has been sufficient at the Durbhangah and Rowserah bazars. In the Bahera and Singhiya markets the high prices previously reported still prevail, and though the price of rice is quoted, the grain itself is not procurable in these markets. Maize and millet are the chief grains sold, and they are very scarce. The produce of the newly gathered mustard crop is being rapidly and recklessly bartered for food.

5. The subjoined statement shows the kinds and prices of grain selling at some of the principal marts.

Name of Mart.	Wheat.	Barley.	Common Rice.	Lesser Millets.	Maize or Indian Corn.	Gram.
Seetamarhee - - -	11¼	14	10	14	13¾	12½
Jalleh - - -	—	—	10½	11½	11½	—
Madhoobani - - -	10	16	10	12	12	10
Khijowlee - - -	10½	15¼	10½	12	10½	13
Durbhangah - - -	11	—	10	13	13	—
Bahera - - -	11¼	—	9½	12¾	9½	—
Singhiya - - -	10⅓	—	9	11½	13½	—

The fall of prices in the town of Durbhangah is attributed to the enormous importations which Government has commenced to make.

6 There is no further information to report regarding stocks. The late sub-divisional officer of Madhoobani Mr. Cochran) writes that he "still adheres to his previous estimates," and this notwithstanding that he has now reduced his estimate of the dhan out-turn from more than 2 annas to less than 1 anna. He observes: "I think it right to place on record that I am of opinion fully 2 millions of maunds will be wanted if all the people are to be kept alive. I would point out that when our estimate of the stocks was made it was early in November, and the Mozufferpore and Seetamarhee estimates agreed with mine; three months have passed since then, and sufficient allowance must be made for the amount consumed during that time. The Ughani harvest, I am inclined to think, was less than one anna on the whole; I formerly said two annas, which having to trust at first to native reports, was a fairly close guess, but whether it was half anna or two annas, the original stock supplemented by the late harvest, must have dwindled down to a very little; any one can work out the sum." If Mr. Cochran had himself proceeded to work out the sum, he would have seen that the stocks originally estimated (*i.e.*, five lacs of maunds), supplemented by what he considered to be the out-turn of a 2 to 3 annas dhan crop (*i.e.*, one lac of maunds, vide my narrative No. 1 F, dated 15th ultimo, paragraph 4) must have been already quite exhausted, the rate of consumption in his sub-division being at least three lacs of maunds per month. I informed Sir Richard Temple, who was at Durbhangah yesterday, that Mr. Cochran had increased his demand to two millions of maunds, but Sir Richard stated that the new sub-divisional officer, Mr. Magrath, had reported the allotments already made, viz., 16 lacs, to be sufficient. It is very difficult for me, having no extensive knowledge of Madhoobanee sub-division, and no reliable data on which I might ground an opinion (for Mr. Cochran has not only been unable to give the areas of land under dhan and rubbee crop respectively, but has submitted three different estimates of the out-turn of the dhan harvest), to say how large an allotment ought to be made, but so far as I am in a position to judge, I believe that a 10 months' supply for half the population is an adequate allotment.

7. In the early part of the fortnight some rain fell in Seetamarhee, and there has been a total fall of ·29 in Durbhangah. In Madhoobanee there has been no rain at all.

8. In Seetamarhee sub-division the state of the crops is better on the whole than it was a fortnight ago. The damage done to the rahar by frosts has been found not so great as was at first supposed, and it is believed that the rubbee crop may be rather more than 6 annas. Cheena, moong sama, and kowni are reported to have been sown since the 6th instant.

9. In Madhoobanee sub-division there has been no improvement in the state of the crops, and though the police report cheena and moong dhan to have been sown in large quantities, Mr. Cochran remarks that "from his own observations and from the information of persons who are in a position to know, he is convinced the total area so sown is small."

10. In Durbhangah sub-division the only good crops are rahar and mustard, each of which is estimated at 10 annas. The mustard crop is now being gathered, and rahar is approaching maturity. The other rubbee crops will not afford the people much assistance. Cheena, dhan, and moong have been sown to a considerable extent, but how the sowings may turn out can scarcely be determined at present. Tobacco is under the average of good years.

11. In parts of the Seetamarhee sub-division, especially at Kamtoul, Jellah Cheerout and Shahpore, the condition of the people is bad. At Jalleh and Cheerout, rice has been selling at times at 8½ seers per rupee, and the middle classes who refuse to go to the relief works clamouring for advances either of grain or money. I have authorised the Deputy Collector to sell Government rice in small quantities at these two places, and have directed him to provide light employment for the higher classes without delay. I have no reason to think now that the number of relief works for the laboring class in this sub-division is insufficient for present wants.

12. In Madhoobanee sub-division "the poorer and laboring classes" are said to be "getting pinched" and to be of wretched appearance here and there. Gratuitous relief in the shape of cooked food is being given at Jynugger, Madhoobanee, Beejwan, and Pandoul. At Jhunjharpore there is a good deal of distress, but ample work on tanks is provided by the Court of Wards. The worst pergunnahs of the sub-division are Jabdi, Alapore, Bachour, parts of Hathee, Dharur, and Pachahee. Mr. Cochran considers that "the whole sub-division is almost equally badly off for crops, and the distress when it does come will be general.".

13. In the Durbhangah sub-division, the Bahera and Singhiya thannahs will be treated as one special tract. In Rowserah thannah, there has been no change for the worse, but in Durbhangah town and to the north-west and east of it distress is increasing.

Special Tract of Mahind and Kanhowlee. No. 1, Seetamarhee Sub-Division.

14. The Deputy Collector has recently visited many villages in this tract. At Kachore in Kanhowlee Pergunnah he found that seven families had deserted their houses on the day before his visit; at another place he met six families migrating from Radhao, a Court of Wards' village, to Majhowhlia; at Pursa he found several persons on a tank work in bad condition. In Pergunnah Mahind the people were all busily occupied in ploughing their fields and sowing cheena. Since the Deputy Collector's visit, more works have been opened in this tract which has been formed into a special relief circle, and pending the arrival of the gentlemen who has been appointed Superintendent it will remain under the immediate charge of the Deputy Collector and the Manager of Dyne Chupra Factory.

Special Tract of Singhiya and Bahera, Durbhangah Sub-Division.

15. Distress prevails throughout this tract, and crowds of beggars who have deserted their villages are congregated at Hathee, Singhiya and Bahera; some of these are so weak and emaciated as to be wholly incapable of doing work and the sub-divisional officer has arranged for their being temporarily relieved by police officers and Mr. May of Hathee factory. By degrees we hope to send back all beggars to their own villages, but until our relief circles are filled by Superintendents, it will be necessary for us to provide shelter for destitute vagrants at two or three central places. The question is not whether beggars are to be attracted to certain centres, but whether we are to take the only means in our power of saving a large number of most destitute paupers. The immediate effect of providing shelter will of course be to attract beggars; but this is an evil that cannot be avoided. The fact is, the famine has got a short start of us, but I have no doubt that we shall quickly overtake it, and that under our arrangements no real harm can arise in the meantime. The sub-divisional officer writes.—"I have during my visits into the interior, come on scores of men, women and children engaged in cutting on the chours a sort of grass which runs to seed, and extracting the seed for food. They were all more or less suffering, as much from unwholesome food as from want of wholesome diet. Those people I sent to our work. About Hathee in all directions there is great distress, and cases of emaciation are not unfrequently met with, but generally, it must be remembered, among the pauper class alone, until quite recently.

"From Hathee up to Bahera east and west, distress is prevalent among the laboring classes, and most shows itself here as elsewhere among the women and children."

16. The want of tools is now being felt very greatly. Local supplies have proved insufficient, and as the number of laborers is increasing by hundreds every day; it is very necessary that a large allotment of tools should be made to this district from the Public Works Department. The Executive Engineer has endeavoured to buy tools in Calcutta, but they are not procurable. He requires 60,000 kodalees.

B.—Relief Works.

17. The number of relief works in the Seetamarhee sub-division is as follows:—

	Public Works.	
21 Road works - - - - -	3,599	laborers daily.
35 Tank „ - - - - -	2,756	„
Total -	6,365	
	Private Works.	
61 Roads and tanks - - - - -	5,036	
	Court of Wards' Works.	
Tank works - - - - -	2,82	
Grand total -	14,212	

Of the public works no less than 42 are under the charge of private gentlemen; the rest are under the Executive Engineer. The list of public works is shown in a separate statement.

18. From Madhoobanee sub-division returns have only been received for three road works—

Motipore road	99 laborers.
Beniputtee road	293 „
Sarsoo road	556 „
Total	948

An overseer has been deputed to lay out roads in the east of the sub-division, and Lieutenant Wright who has now been placed by Sir Richard Temple's orders in separate charge of Madhoobanee and Durbhangah sub-divisions will also proceed to Madhoobanee, for the purpose of opening more works.

No return of Raj works in this sub-division has been received.*

19. In Durbhangah sub-division the returns are as follow:—

Public Works.

Hathee Mangalgar viâ Singhiya road	4,226
Durbhangah, Behera road	12,000

Court of Wards' Work

3 Tanks 4 Embankments 5 Road bridges	10,053
Total	26,279

For two public works, viz., Bahera, Peepra road and Hathee, Hirnee road no returns have been received.

19. The above figures have been mainly obtained from the sub-divisional officers' narratives, the Executive Engineer's returns not having yet arrived.

20. The sale of Government grain at the Durbhangah end of the Durbhangah, Bahera road has commenced, but laborers are not much inclined to buy it. At present they can buy Marûa at a cheaper rate. I regret to report that on visiting this road on 20th instant, I found some 7,000 laborers at work, several of them being in a very bad condition indeed, and all suffering from want of pay, which they had not received for four days. The overseer who had previously been in charge of the work had been transferred suddenly to Madeypore in Madhoobanee sub-division, and no proper arrangements had been made for drawing money from the treasury for payment of the laborers, nor had any intimation been given to the sub-divisional officer of the transfer of the overseer. I directed Mr. Assistant-Magistrate Henry, who was with me, to get money at once from the treasury and pay the laborers the same evening for the last day's work, and to pay off all arrears amounting to some Rs. 2,300 on the following morning. This was promptly done by Mr. Henry, and the work has remained under his immediate charge from that date.

21. There is no doubt that this very grave blunder might have been avoided by ordinary care; but though it cannot be excused on the ground of want of overseers, I feel that it could not have occurred under a more perfect system. I think that no work of such magnitude as the Durbhangah Bahera road should be liable to be placed for a single day under sub-overseers of the class that we are obliged to employ in these parts, men upon whom we have no hold, and who cannot be safely trusted with larger sums of money; and I cannot help feeling much anxiety regarding the management of works in the interior of the Durbhangah and Madhoobanee sub-divisions, when I consider that the only officers under me having real responsibility are one engineer and two overseers, and that the present blunder as well as the abuses mentioned in paragraph 16 of my narrative, No. 98 F., dated 16th ultimo, have all been committed within a few miles of Durbhangah itself.

22. I have received this day a comprehensive scheme of relief works for Seetamarhee sub-division. It is, of course, impossible to say to what extent the number of laborers may increase, but I expect that the works proposed for this relief district will give employment for at least two months, the total estimate being upwards of ten lacs of rupees.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

23. There has been a slight increase in the grain traffic between Rowserah and the districts south of the Ganges, the imports being about 200 maunds a week. Small quantities of grain have found their way up to Madhoobanee from the south.

24. I have nothing further to report about transport arrangements, which are complete so far as Durbhangah sub-division is concerned, but at present inadequate as regards Madhoobanee. Further efforts are being made under Sir Richard Temple's immediate orders, the purport of which has not been notified to me. The transport of grain to Seetamarhee is carried on under the Collector's directions.

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* Since this was written a return has been submitted showing the daily number of laborers to be 3,514.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

25. The quantity of Government grain already stored is as follows :—

	Maunds.
Seetamarhee sub-division - - -	70,885
Madhoobanee „ - - -	38,493
Durbhangah „ - - -	41,992
Total - -	151,370

26. I have not received complete lists of all the golahs recently selected by each sub-divisional officer, or of the grain to be stored in each golah. This information will be supplied in my next narrative. All the golahs in Durbhangah sub-division are near completion, and the construction of golahs in the other two sub-divisions is being pushed on rapidly.

E.—ADVANCES.

27. Applications for advances are increasing in number, especially in Seetamarhee and Durbhangah sub-divisions. In the former sub-division, six large zemindars have just applied for advances aggregating Rs. 47,700 to lend to their ryots, which will be at once recommended for sanction.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

28. In Seetamarhee sub-division funds have been placed in the hands of the managers of the chief factories who have been giving relief partly in money and partly in grain to "those actually in great want." The sub-divisional officer has also made advances to village headmen at Soorsund, Shewhur, Jalleh, and in the special tract of Kanhowley and Mahind for employment of people in spinning and weaving. The total amount spent under this head up to date is Rs. 1,172-4. A relief meeting was held during the fortnight at which Rs. 5,000 were collected.

In Madhoobanee sub-division charitable relief is given through the managers of Jynugger and Pandoul factories, through a Deputy Collector at Jhunjharpore, and through all police officers in charge of thannahs and out-posts.

In Durbhangah sub-divisions Rs. 12-10 have been advanced to members of the Relief Committees in the distressed tracts for employment of respectable women in spinning, and 220 maunds of grain have been issued for sale to persons so employed on the same terms as those on which grain is sold to our own laborers.

Each sub-divisional officer is now specially employed in maturing arrangements for administering charitable relief, and I need only add here that as our Relief Superintendents are now arriving every day, the ensuing fortnight will show great progress in this direction. Meantime I think all precautions are being taken to prevent the occurrence of deaths from starvation.

29. Each superintendent on his arrival is posted to a circle and directed to visit every village in his jurisdiction without delay, to prepare lists of the headmen through whom he will work, and to collect all information that he can obtain regarding the condition of the inhabitants. Up to the present time three superintendents have been posted to circles in Seetamarhee, two to circles in Madhoobanee, and two to circles in Durbhangah sub-division. I have directed each sub-divisional officer to cause translations and extracts to be made of the manuscript census village registers in his office, and to supply each superintendent with particulars of castes and population for all villages in his circle.

LIST of PUBLIC WORKS in Seetamarhee Sub-Division.

Name of Works.	Average daily number of laborers.	Rate of wages.	Name of persons in charge.	REMARKS.
ROADS.				
1. Seetarmarhee and Sonbursa road.	301	Men at As. 1-6. Women at „ 1-3.	Sergt. O'Farrel.	
2. Cheerout to Poopree -	301		Ditto.	
3. Nanpore to Jalleh -	133		Chowdhry Roodur Persad.	
4. Jalleh to Baghoul -	52		Sergt. O'Farrel.	
5. Poopree to Bhugwanpur -	100		Mr. Shortt.	
6. Thahar to Gaighat -	74		Mr. Morton.	
7. Ghograha to Seebnugger	24		Sergt. O'Farrel.	
8. Bairugnia to Andhouri -	400		Mr. Carlisle.	
9. Majorgung to Sonbursa -	522		Mr. J. Tripe.	
10. Panchore to Jumooah -	522		Sergt. O'Farrel.	
11. Doomra and Kooma -	370		Ditto.	
12. Sonbursa to Bela -	230		Mr. MacFarlan.	
13. Shenhur to Mainari -	100		„ A. Tripe.	
14. Whasar to Nanpore -	150		„ R. Wilson.	
15. Majorgunge to Maniari -	60		„ J. Tripe.	
16. Soorsund to Madhowapur	70		„ Doveton.	
17. Cheerout to Madhowapur	100		Sergt. O'Farrel.	
18. Pooma to Soorsund -	90		Ditto.	
19. Chundiha to Jynuger -	—		Mr. Beamish.	
20. Ghograha to Jalleh -	—		Sergt. O'Farrel.	
21. Jalleh to Latkhan, *vid* Chekonti.	—		Ditto.	
Total -	3,599			

Name of Works.	Average daily number of laborers.	Rate of wages.	Name of persons in charge.	Remarks.
Tanks.				
1. Hanumannuggur -	40	Men at As. 1-6. Women at ,, 1-3.	Mr. MacFarlan.	
2. Rounda -	34		Chowdhry Roodur Persad.	
3. Bandhowli	69		Ditto.	
4. Katya	221		Mr. A. Tripe.	
5. Bulwa	42		,, Collis.	
6. Mussa -	63		,, G. Anderson.	
7. Deurah -	60		Ditto.	
8. Pupree -	94		,, R. Wilson.	
9. Gararee	61		,, Anderson.	
10. Kurwa	138		Ditto.	
11. Pursa	104		,, MacFarlan.	
12. Dostea -	197		Ditto.	
13. Kathour -	209		,, Shortt.	
14. Khoorowa	61		,, Beamish.	
15. Khooma -	250		,, Morton.	
16. Gobindpore	130		Baboo Deonundun Singh.	
17. Madhesra	106		Mr. MacFarlan.	
18. Bishenpore	160		,, J. Tripe.	
19. Bela	59		Ditto.	
20. Bhaluahia	193		Ditto.	
21. Manik chuck	106		,, Morton.	
22. Sahar -	209		,, Collis.	
23. Kachore -	50		,, J. Tripe.	
24. Basahia -	100		Ditto.	
25. Kamoul -			,, Anderson.	
26. Balasath			Chowdhry Roodur Persad.	
27. Indoorah			Mr. J. Tripe.	
28. Futtehpore			Rajshenhur.	
29. Moorsund			Mr. Morton.	
30. Bungra -			,, Doveton.	
31. Gangour			,, Collis.	
32. Andouli -			Ditto.	
33. Baghoul -			,, Anderson.	
34. Magraheta			,, Collis.	
35. Mirzapore			,, Anderson.	
Total -	2,756			
Roads -	3,599			
Grand total -	6,355			

No. 904 F, dated Sarun, 26th February 1874.

Memorandum by J. S. Drummond, Esq., Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Sarun.

Forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, Calcutta, for information, with reference to his circular, No. 80, of the 17th November 1873.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in Sarun district for the fortnight ending 21st February 1874.

A.—State of the Country.

Abundance or Scarcity of Supply in the Bazar.

1. Some scarcity of supply in the bazars of the Bussuntpore, Mashrakh, and Parsa thannahs is reported; but the district marts generally are sufficiently supplied with grain, and importations continue.

2. The private importations in the sudder sub-division during the fortnight were to Revelgunge, 1,16,962 maunds, of which 88,000 were maize, 16,600 rice, 12,300 barley and wheat, and the rest other grains; to Dooreegunge 6,348 maunds, of which 2,928 were rice; and at Maharajgunge 2,392 maunds; while the imports at the Gunduck ghâts from Tirhoot and Chumparun were 474 maunds. The exports of grain to Tirhoot and Chumparun amounted to 3,577 and 200 maunds respectively.

3. Of the Sewan sub-division, the following is Mr. Wright's account:—

"Grain still continues to be imported into the division, and the pea crop, which is now being gathered, is being brought into the markets; there is therefore no scarcity of supplies in the bazars. Mr. Rattray, in writing from Pasnowlee, says that the importations of grain to the mart at Pasnowli are said to exceed six hundred carts a week, principally Indian corn from Revelgunge.

"The private importations of grain during the past fortnight at Sewan, Darawli, Guthani, and Siswan amounted to 18,439 maunds. Of this amount 4,258 maunds was rice, 10,700 maunds

Indian-corn, 1,288 maunds paddy, and the rest consisted of small quantities of wheat, kodo, gram, urid, rahar, and peas. The importations were principally from Goruckpore, Azimgurh, and Revelgunge, and a small quantity, consisting of 175 maunds of rice and 150 maunds of wheat, from Bhaugulpore."

4. Of the Hatwah estate, Mr. Hodgkinson writes:—

"The bazars continue to be sufficiently supplied; small sales of grain have been made in the western zillahs: but now the earlier spring crops are ripening, there will be no further demand for our imported rice for the present. The small importation, which still continues from Goruckpore and the south, is entirely of makai for immediate use."

The kind and price of grain.

5. The kind and price of grain at the principal marts, and at the thannahs and outposts, are given in the annexed statement.

6. Peas of this year's crop are now coming into the market, and are selling at 18 and 16 seers for the rupee at Chuprah and Sewan respectively.

Stock of food in the hands of the people.

7. I have nothing to add to what has been reported under this head, but the following from Mr. Hudson's report may be quoted:—

"I have occasionally come across carts laden with grain belonging to small traders of the district, and observe a good supply of grain in the substantial buneahs' shops in the large bazars; but the zemindars and ryots almost invariably assert that they have no grain in stock at all. I found carts at Bussuntpore, which had brought grain for sale from Maharajgunge, and on other occasions have observed some circulation of supplies going on through the hands of petty traders. The kinds of grain are always the same—rice, makai, gram, wheat, and a little kerao, khesaree, and rahar dall."

Rainfall.

8. There has been no rain during the past fortnight, and in certain quarters apprehensions as to the water supply for cattle exists. Old tanks are, however, being deepened for the purpose at the cost of Government, wherever private enterprise holds back, and a real necessity is shown to be likely to arise. The addition of drinking troughs to existing wells is also contemplated as a cheaper method of supplying the want.

State of the Crops.

9. With the favorable weather since the rain, the improvement in the crops already reported has continued constant; but it would, I think, be unsafe to estimate the yield for the entire district at more than eight annas, or two-thirds of an average crop all round.

10. Mr. Hudson writes as follows of the Bussuntpore and Mashrakh thannahs:—

"The crops about Bussuntpore are not generally good, and there is a great deal of partee and rice land; but in this neighbourhood, and especially about Ranipore,* near Gajadhar Persad Narain's factory, they look remarkably well; west and north-east of Bussuntpore to Rajaputty in Mashrakh the crops are thin and bad."

* Western borders of Mashrakh thannah.

11. The following is Mr. Wright's report of the Sewan sub-division:—

"The weather during the past fortnight has been all that could be desired for the crops. This fine weather following the rain we had at the beginning of this month has done the crops an immense amount of good. The crops are now ripening fast, and if the weather continues favorable, the out-turn of the crops will, on the whole, be very fair, averaging from an eight to ten annas crop. In the Barawli thannah, excluding the jurisdiction of the Gopalgunge outpost, the crops will not average above four to six annas; but in Gopalgunge they promise to give a twelve to fourteen annas out-turn. In nearly the whole of Darawli thannah the crops are excellent, and will yield very little, if anything, short of a full crop.

"Mr. Rattray, in writing of the crops in pergunnah Dangai, says: 'Fully two-thirds of the land in the northern part and half the land in the southern part of the pergunnah is under paddy cultivation. The harvest to the south is said to have been a total failure; in the northern half, the out-turn is estimated as having been from five to ten maunds per beegah. Wheat and barley promise an out-turn of eight to twelve annas, and rahar and other pulses about eight annas in the southern part of the pergunnah. To the north the rubbee will not exceed six annas. The average for the whole pergunnah may be put down at six to eight annas.

"'The Indian corn harvest is said to have been a very good one in the pergunnah, from twelve annas to a full crop, and the bulk of the poorer classes have been almost entirely dependent on it for their daily meal. The out-turn of the paddy crop in the northern part of the pergunnah, small as it was, has been of some help to the people.'

"I have not as yet received Mr. Rattray's report for last week, but in his diary for that period, he estimates the rubbee crops of wheat and barley in the southern portion of the Barawli thannah as a four to six annas crop, and the same crop in the eastern portion of the Sewan thannah at six to eight annas. The rahar in both the above-mentioned tracts of country he estimates as an eight anna one.

"Of the probable out-turn of the poppy crop in this division, Mr. Tytler tells me that he expects it will be about one-sixth less than what it was last year."

12. Mr. Hodgkinson writes as follows regarding the crops on the Hatwah estate:—

"The past fortnight has witnessed a great improvement in the standing crops, the result of the rain which fell at the beginning of the month. In some parts, such as Puchdearee in the north, and Gopalgunge to the north-west, fully a six or eight annas crop may be expected; but in others, the rain came too late to do more than make up for the severe damage done by the frosts of January, and on the whole, more than a four anna crop can hardly be expected. The opium will (except to the north of Sreepore) be a fair 10 or 12 anna crop at least."

Condition of the people.

13. With the somewhat lower prices that may be expected to prevail as the result of the rubbee harvest now soon to be reaped, it may be hoped that the condition of the people will, for a time at least, improve; meanwhile the provision of relief works has been found to remove distress wherever reported, and the result has been that the people have been able to tide through the past period of high prices until the advent of the harvest and the season for agricultural operations, and I have little doubt that widespread and general distress amongst the laboring classes has thus been avoided. Our relief works also have supported many as mates who, from considerations of caste, would not have worked themselves; though, as will appear from the returns, many persons, too, of castes who would not labor on the public roads in ordinary years, are now to be found on the relief works.

14. Mr. Hudson, who has been steadily employed in the interior of the sudder subdivision, writes as follows:—

"As yet I have not remarked any great extent of distress in any neighbourhood; nor have I met with any absolute scarcity of food in any of the chief bazars, whence the villages, within any given radius, obtain their supplies. The prices seem to keep pretty steadily at 12 seers pukka weight for rice, and 15 or 16 for makai and gram, wheat a little less.

"The village of Rampore near Bussuntpore, is the only one in which I have met with any loud outcry about distress. Often as I ride through the villages, if I get into conversation with the villagers, they complain of distress and of the bad prospect for the crops; but the people never looked famished or anxious, and I generally remark how very much things appear to be going on as if there had been no failure of harvest at all. I have spoken of the special case of Rampore in a former summary. Since then I have met the brother of Deega Singh, of Nahranpore, the mahajun who has been in the habit of making advances to the ryots of Rampore, and I have been told that he has resumed making advances. In Rampore itself, also, I was told that he was supporting the Brahmins who are the chief sufferers. The Chuttrees will go to the relief work."

It is satisfactory to learn that some mahajuns are resuming advances to the ryots, but I fear that the mahajuns generally are not making such advances.

15. The sub-divisional officer of Sewan reports as follows:—

"Prospects are becoming more cheering for the people since the rubbee crops have been commenced to be gathered. Prices of food grains have fallen somewhat in the bazars, and agriculturists are again giving employment to numbers of people in preparing and cultivating their lands. Ample relief works have been provided throughout the division for the poor laboring classes. Large numbers are flocking to these relief works, but I think that the fact of people crowding to these works is no good test by which to judge of the amount of distress amongst the people, as they come to the works in crowds under the idea that orders have been issued by Government that money sanctioned for relief works is to be given away to people, whether they work for it or not, and consequently large numbers of able-bodied persons are to be seen daily at relief works doing little or no work, but merely putting in an appearance, so as to secure payment of daily wages for themselves. The cowrie system, *i.e.*, that of paying a certain amount in cowries for each basket of earth carried from a tank or ditch to the place where it is to be thrown, is a very good test. By this means, people cannot scheme from work, else they make nothing, and as soon as the cowrie system is introduced at a relief work, half the people who crowded to labor before leave the work, shewing clearly thereby that they are not in distress.

"It must not be supposed that the people leave because the work required to be performed by them to earn an ordinary day's wages is more than they can easily do. On the contrary, they can, if they like to work, earn more by the cowrie system than the ordinary day's hire.

"I found the above the case at the tank I am having dug at Sewan; since I introduced the cowrie system, numbers of the laborers have left, but yet a greater amount of work is done by the smaller number of laborers than used to be done before, when there were a large number at work.

"In case of persons coming to work who are weak and unable to do full work, arrangements could be made to have them employed separately, and they could be paid at a higher rate for each basket of earth that they carried, so as to enable them to get a full day's hire for even a short amount of work. No such persons have, however, as yet come to work."

The Sub-Deputy Collector says under this head:—"Laborers commonly are not now in want of labor, works having commenced in agriculture, particularly in indigo plantations. Extracting juice from sugar is still going on, and sugar plantation also is now widely carried on."

Of the condition of the people, Mr. Rattray writes as follows:—"Distress prevails among the laboring classes, but not to an alarming extent, and the worst of the pressure has been removed by the relief measures in hand;" and again in a subsequent report he says, "The laboring classes are said to be finding work in the ploughing of fields and on the roads."

16. The cowrie system advocated by Mr. Wright has been introduced to some extent on minor works under my immediate supervision; but it would be utterly impossible without a largely-increased staff to carry out the system generally on the extensive works in progress throughout the district, nor do I think that the system is one which is suited to relief works in time of general distress. Neither is it possible on such works to discriminate between the able-bodied and the weak in the manner proposed in the fourth paragraph of the above extract. Mr. Wright has

failed to perceive that the object of the Government, that persons should only earn a bare subsistence on relief works, would be entirely defeated if the strong and able-bodied laborers were permitted to earn enhanced wages at the expense of those who are old, weak and sickly, or of tender age. If there is one thing more than another that should be insisted on at relief works, it is that, whatever the work performed, the wages in return should be sufficient for subsistence in all cases and no more in any. It is for the persons in charge of the works to see that the proper amount of labor suited to physical condition, age, or sex, is exacted from all who come, and with proper supervision this end may to a great extent be secured; though even if it were not altogether secured it seems to me a mistaken view to suppose that the fact of persons coming to the relief works is not a test of their requiring relief, as neither the rate of wages nor the work itself is so attractive as to be likely to induce people to leave their homes in large numbers to labor on the public roads unless a demand for work as a means of subsistence really existed. Of course, in times of distress, and under the daily labor system, there must be considerable waste of power and greatly enhanced cost, but nevertheless much useful work has been and is being done throughout the district, and the view of Mr. Wright that the people on the works do nothing is certainly not borne out by the results. If it be generally the case anywhere that " large numbers of able-bodied persons are to be seen daily at relief works doing little or no work, but merely putting in an appearance so as to secure payment of daily wages," Mr. Wright will perform a more useful office if, instead of placing on record vague and general statements of this sort in his fortnightly narratives, he specifics from time to time the particular works on which such general inaction is observed to prevail, with a view to the prompt dismissal of the overseers thereon, and he will be desired in future to act in the matter himself by furnishing precise and definite information on all such points and not to imagine that his function is discharged by criticising, on imperfect grounds, the system very properly adopted by the Executive Engineers as best suited to the exigencies of the time, and in accordance with the views of Government.

17. Of the people on the Hatwah estate, Mr. Hodgkinson writes as follows:—

"I have met with no bad cases of starvation, except among professional beggars, some of whom stand in need of treatment which will be given them under orders which I have issued at the dispensaries. Small-pox is very prevalent in some villages; and although it is not generally of a bad type, many deaths will undoubtedly occur if the outbreak continues amongst a people already weakened by a deficiency of food. Looking at the persons who come to our relief works, I do not consider that their physical condition is up to date worse than in ordinary years."

18. And the General Wards' manager reports thus:

"To my last and previous narratives on this head, I may only add that the distress is being felt really by the poorer classes only, and among them no more caste prejudice is observed in seeking for employment and earning a livelihood."

Known cases of misery and starvation.

19. I have only met with one case of a ryot in really bad condition, and he was at once granted an advance on the authority of Sir Richard Temple's recent orders. Amongst the middle classes, two boys also of the Kaistho caste were found in an apparently starving condition consequent on the desertion of the father of the family. These as well as other isolated cases of distress among the lower classes and among beggars from time to time reported, have been sufficiently provided for.

20. Under this head, Mr. Wright reports thus:

" One or two cases of persons who were professional beggars suffering from distress have been reported and steps have been taken to provide for them.

" Mr. Rattray says that there has been no case of death from starvation brought to his notice during his movements in the interior, nor has he met with any cases of destitution or misery in the villages visited by him."

Grain-thefts or robberies.

21. There have been 12 grain-robbery and grain-thefts during the fortnight.

Condition of any special tracts.

22. The western and northern portions of the Hatwah estate, and the Bussuntpore, Meshrakh, and Pursa thannahs continue to be the worst tracts. There is, however, nothing special to report about these tracts.

B.—Relief Works.

Progress of relief works, &c.

23. The annexed statement show the relief works in progress and the number employed thereon. The average number daily employed during the fortnight has been 82,820, but with the commencement of agricultural operations these numbers will now probably decrease. On the works under Captain May, the proportion of non-laboring classes has increased from 13 to 15 per cent. of the total number employed, while of the persons at work in the town about a third belong to such classes.

24. Under this head, Mr. Hodgkinson reports thus:—

" The bulk of the persons engaged on the relief works continues to consist of the women and children of the ordinary laboring classes; but the wages offered would only attract a small proportion of them in ordinary years. The cowrie system is almost universally adopted now. A small proportion of the laborers, however, perhaps one-twentieth, is of the higher castes."

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

Approximate account of private food-supplies.

25. All the information procurable under this head has been given in paragraphs 2 and 3.

26. Regarding the Hatwah grain-supplies, it appears from Mr. Hodgkinson's last weekly grain return, that of the 1,20,000 maunds engaged for the Raj, 57,925 maunds had been received into the district, of which 52,448 maunds had arrived at final destination, and 5,477 maunds were in transit from points of receipt.

27. The General Wards' manager reports that an advance of Rs. 50,000 has been made to Choonee Lall, the banker, for purchase of grain to be advanced to the ryots, as well as for distribution among the persons employed on relief works. The Commissioner has objected to Government loans for this purpose in the case of involved estates, but as, failing the funds of such estates, the necessary expenditure on this account would have to be met by Government in some form or another, it seems to me that Government assistance by way of loan recoverable at some future period, however distant, is at least preferable to an unconditional grant from public funds. It is hoped, therefore, that the steps already taken in anticipation of sanction may now be approved.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

Place of storage and amount of grain received.

28. The accompanying statement shows the storage places, the distribution thereat of the grain allotted, and the amount of grain received at the different storage places as per last weekly grain return. It will be observed that the total allotment for the district has been increased, on the basis of Sir Richard Temple's estimate, from 2½ to 5 lakhs of maunds. The total amount of grain received had been 1,97,423 maunds, of which 1,71,858 maunds had been finally stored, and 20,155 maunds were in transit. Constant complaints are received from Major Jackson, at Arrah, that the grain for this district is received in broken consignments. It will be of very little use despatching the fixed quantity daily from Calcutta if the railway authorities continue to cut it off en route and send it up in broken portions according to their convenience.

Construction of golahs and arrangements for custody of grain.

29. The subjoined statement shows the storage arrangements made at the different places of storage, and extra establishment for the custody of the grain is being entertained as from time to time needed.

Names of places where golahs have been or are being constructed at Government expense.

	Rs.	As.	P.
1. Pursa	160	0	0
2. Manjhi	114	12	0
3. Bussuntpore	100	0	0
4. Pygamberpore	100	0	0
5. Sewan	242	11	6
6. Barawli	157	11	0
7. Gopalgunge	115	0	0
8. Darawli	25	0	0
9. Mirzapore	100	0	0
10. Amnour	7	0	0
For constructing Sheds.			
11. Dighwara	9	0	0
12. Goldengunge	9	0	0

Names of places where existing Government or private houses are being made use of for storage places.

1. Chupra	Banwaree Lall's Serai.
2. Garkha	House of Rai Shawgholam Sah Bahadoor.
3. Buniapore	Abkaree godown at Pygamberpore.
4. Maharajgunge	House of Mathoora Kalwai.
5. Bussuntpore	" Ramgholam Singh.
6. Amnour	" Baboo Ootem Singh.
7. Mirzapore	" Goona Doobey.
8. Dighwara	" Ramnoorah Sing.
9. Mashrakh	" Debi Pershad and the Government Bungalow at Sarungpore.
10. Pursa	Indigo Factory of Moulvie Abdool Hai.
11. Sewan	Opium godowns.
12. Darawli	House of Beharee Shaw and the Government Serai.
13. Raghunathpore	Indigo Factory of Golam Abas.
14. Barawli	Sarya Bungalow.
15. Barragaon	Sreepore Factory.
16. Gopalgunge	Olipore Bungalow.

17.	Barharria	Indigo Factory of Karimbux and others.
18.	Maharanee	Banawli Bungalow.
19.	Manjhi	Government golah.
20.	Ekma	House of Sheogholam Roy.
21.	Sonepore	„ Begoo Sing Sen and others.

With reference, however, to the largely-increased allotment, it will now be necessary to revise all the storage arrangements, and regular golahs on a large scale will have to be constructed at most places. Immediate measures for the purpose are being taken.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

Advances for purchase of grain and for land improvement.

30. Rs. 2,000 have been advanced during the fortnight for purchase of grain for sale, and Rs. 1,07,473 to zemindars for grain or money advances to their ryots, making up the total as yet advanced on these accounts to Rs. 1,26,500 and Rs. 1,34,879, respectively; and for land improvement Rs. 21,650 have been advanced, bringing up the total on this account to Rs. 51,853. The sum of Rs. 40 has also been advanced to a person for the support of his family.

NOTE.—The figures given in the last narrative for advances to zemindars for money or grain advances to their ryots, were incorrect.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

31. With reference to the remarks of Government in the resolution on the last narrative, it should have been stated that, besides every thanna and out-post in the district being supplied with a sum of Rs. 50 for expenditure on charitable relief where needed, arrangements were being made to supply all the 1st grade relief centres with sums of Rs. 100 for a similar purpose, and that the superior Government officers employed on duty in the interior were also about to be furnished with funds on this account for the relief cases coming under their notice. The following statement shows the sums actually advanced from relief funds for this purpose:—

List of gentlemen to whom money has been advanced from the relief funds for gratuitous relief.

To whom remitted.	Amount. Rs.
Rev. C. Banmour	30
D. C. Reid, Esq., Moniarah	100
Executive Engineer, Sarun	50
„ L. G. Division	50
G. Grant, Esq.	50
Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, Chupra	50
W. H. Hudson, Esq.	50
Manager of Ramcollah Factory	100
„ Burhoga „	100
„ Arrah „	100
„ Arrah „	100
„ Rajaputty „	100
„ Hurpore „	100
„ Bala „	100
„ Garkha „	100
„ Rampore „	100
Moonsiff of Pursa	100
Manager of Bansghat Factory	100
Total	1,480

32. Mr. Wright reports as follows under this head:—

"As I before reported, a subscription list has been opened and names have been entered in it to the amount of Rs. 874, of which Rs. 429 have been realized. Fifteen first, six second, and twenty-one third grade relief centres have been selected, but no operations have as yet been commenced at them, nor do I think, as I have already on several occasions stated, will there be any necessity for charitable relief operations to be commenced, if it be at all required before the end of May or in June. The few cases that may require charitable relief will, I feel sure, be provided for by private charity. However, a hundred rupees is going to be sent, according to the instructions of the Magistrate-Collector of the district, to each of the first grade relief centres for expenditure on charitable relief.

"A large number of the zemindars of this division have now agreed to lay in stores of grain for the benefit of their ryots, and many of them have, I believe, already done so."

33. And the following arrangements have been reported by Mr. Hodgkinson in connection with charitable relief in the Hatwah estate:—

"The following are the orders issued in regard to a charitable relief centre at Hatwah; they have also been extended to Bhorey:—

"A relief centre will be opened at Hatwah under the superintendence of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, who will be authorized to give charitable relief under the conditions following:—

"(1.) Only persons who are suffering from physical infirmity or sickness which totally incapacitates them for work, will be allowed charitable relief.

"(2.) Professional beggars should not be encouraged; but assistance will not be withheld from them, if they are found to be really suffering from hunger to an extent which affects their health.

"(3.) Old and infirm persons who are capable of light labor, such as spinning thread, &c., will not be entitled to any relief unless they perform a task which, in consideration of the circumstances of each individual, may seem proper; arrangements for carrying out this task-work will be made as soon as it is found necessary.

"(4.) Tickets similar to those used in the dispensary should be given each person who is passed by the Sub-Assistant Surgeon as a proper recipient of charitable relief. The names and circumstances of the persons will be recorded in a register, and the tickets will be available for one week from the date of each inspection, which will be recorded on them.

"It must be distinctly understood that total and utter incapacity for work is an absolute condition for gratuitous relief; and no exception from this rule must on any account be made."

These arrangements, as well as the rules framed by Mr. Hodgkinson, are approved by me.

34. For the relief of purdah-nushin women, arrangements are being made for the purchase of 2,000 maunds of cotton, and a supply will be sent to each of the first grade relie centres; notifications that relief of this nature can be obtained at such centres, being at the same time widely issued, and the assistance of zemindars and village headmen being invited. Any attempt to make preliminary lists of such women, by means of official agency, would, it is believed, occasion widespread distrust of the motives of action.

No. 540F, dated Chumparun, 23rd February 1874.

From H. KEAN, ESQ., Collector of Chumparun, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

I HAVE the honor to submit the fortnightly narrative of scarcity and relief for this district for the fortnight ending Saturday, the 21st February.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Grain is still tolerably abundant at any rate in all the larger places. The accompanying statement will show the rates at which food-grains are selling. The prices have been pretty stationary. The average rate of coarse rice is 11 seers per rupee and of maize, &c., about 14 or 15.

From the Bettiah sub-division I have received the following cheering accounts: "The rubbee crops south and west of Bettiah promise a 12-anna outturn, and the opium is magnificent. The price of grain remains steady, and the people are wonderfully free from panic. Confidence has been completely restored by the knowledge that Government will not sell unless grain falls below 10 seers the rupee. Day laborers attend the works in large numbers, and ryots are anxious to take advances to enable them to support their families at home. The timely measures adopted to afford relief, and the wide publicity given to them, will enable us to keep the famine at arm's length throughout the year." From the north-east portions of the district (Adapore and Gherasahm) I have also received favorable accounts of the prospects of the rubbee, which in some places will, it is said, yield a 16-anna crop. Very large quantities of "cheena" (millet) have also been sown. The same may be said of the eastern portions of the district. From the south and south-west the reports are not so favorable. From Madhoobun Mr. Kilby reports that the rubbee and opium crops will be a failure, and Mr. Weekes, that in thannahs Gobindgunge and Kesariah, with the exception of villages near the Gunduck (in which an 8-anna rubbee crop is expected), the rubbee and poppy is bad, and will not yield probably more than a 2-anna crop; many fields have been ploughed up and sown in "cheena." The poppy here is also said to be still worse off. I have not yet received * the latest accounts from Ramnugger, but there is no great extent of "rubbee" or poppy grown in those tracts. In thannahs Modhoobun, Kesareah, and Gobindgunge (south-east, southern, and south-west portions of the district) the condition of the people in some of the less-favored villages is becoming very bad. They still seem very hopeful and willing to incur all risks to obtain a crop. All express confidence in Government, and thankfulness for the efforts made to relieve distress. They are at the same time eager to help themselves. "Those who have no work in the fields, and are not fit to work on the embankment, flock to the other relief works." They say, "it is these relief works that keep them alive. The excavation of tanks pleases them most. People of all classes (Brahmins, Rajpoots, Babhans, Kayesths, &c.) are seen on such works, but the greater proportion are of course, Dosadhs, Chamars, and other low castes, who, badly off at all times, are especially so now, and it is gratifying to see that they prefer work to stealing." The instructions lately received sanctioning a grant of Rs. 50,000 to this district for the re-digging of old tanks will be taken advantage of as much as possible, but it is found difficult in practice to induce the native landowners, &c., to take their share of the duty. Advances have been, however, and will be, made to the European residents for this purpose, and the Opium Department (a very ready agency for measures of this sort) has also been taken advantage of, Mr. Cooper, the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, having given me much assistance, both by placing his subordinates at my service, and by personally aiding with his local knowledge and experience.

It is the better class of agriculturists who do not in ordinary times do any manual labour, and who will not do so now, on whom the pressure is beginning to be felt, and it will be necessary to assist these persons with grants of grain or money. Large sums have already been advanced to the European residents for this purpose, and further sums are being applied for, so

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* Since received.

that no fear may be entertained for the welfare of planters' ryots; but there is a large class of course which do not come under this category, and measures are being taken to reach them. The Sub-Deputy Opium Agent has also represented that the opium assamees are in need of special relief; their credit is exhausted, the mahajuns will not assist them, and their opium advances will not be paid them for another month or more; under these circumstances they must receive relief to enable them to tide over that period, and Mr. Cooper suggests that they receive at once a sufficient quantity of grain from the Government stores per man, the price of which will be deducted from their advances a month hence.

If relief was afforded in money it would be seized by the mahajuns! This form of relief appears to be not only feasible but immediate in its action. I have therefore intimated that I am, with the sanction of the Commissioner, prepared to carry it out. Grain thefts are on the increase. There have been sixteen such thefts during the fortnight.

The subjoined statement shows the number of robberies and dacoities during the same period:—

Dacoity - - - - - - -	1
Robbery - - - - - - -	0

B.—Relief Works.

The subjoined statement shows the principal relief works in progress, and the number employed thereon. From this it will be seen that 361,027 persons found relief during the past fortnight:—

Statement showing the Number of People employed on Relief Works on each Road during the last fortnight.

Sudder Division.

	Men.	Women.	Children.
Chuprah to Phoolwariah - - -	824	812	344
Moteeharee Station Road - - -	44,261	10,633	8,947
Semra to Burna Ghat on the Kutkenwa Road -	28,927	11,993	4,805
Tituria to Mozufferpore Road - - -	2,670	151	821
Dhaka Road - - - - -	3,834	395	400
Choita „ - - - - -	7,841	4,330	1,868
Mudhoobunee Road - - - -	7,238	2,729	1,234
Dhaka to Kutkenwa - - - -	21,880	10,202	11,341
Ghorashan to Tilhara - - - -	3,787	3,673	2,701
Dhaka to Poornahia - - - -	7,986	4,422	3,530
Ramgurwa to Adapore - - - -	10,071	5,994	5,750
New road from Tircowlea straight to Sangrampore	3,546	2,454	898
Sukhwn factory to Burhurwa opium factory -	259	251	148
Kullyanpore tank - - - -	3,587	2,810	3,050
Surrutpore „ - - - -	1,277	897	1,077
Kesseria „ - - - -	407	465	118
Total - -	148,400	62,311	47,032
Total of men, women, and children - -		257,743	

Bettiah Sub-Division.

	Men.	Women.	Children.
Bugha road - - - - - -	700	1,376	373
Bethah to Gobindgunge - - -	22,220	18,769	12,921
„ to Tangraghat - - - -	18,973	7,360	2,610
Lowriah to Bhowsa - - - -	517	392	244
Shikarpur to Ramnuggur - - -	519	444	170
Lalsereah to Bulthur - - - -	2,016	3,343	1,001
Total - -	44,945	31,684	17,319
Add total of sub-division - -	148,400	62,311	47,032
Grand total - -	193,345	93,995	64,351
Lower Gunduck embankment - - -	8,519	179	638
Grand total of all - -	201,864	94,174	64,989
Daily average - - - - - -	14,412	6,727	4,642

Total of men, women, and children in Sudder division -	257,743
„ in Bettiah sub-division - - - -	93,948
„ in lower Gunduck division - - - -	9,336
Total - -	361,027

Daily average of all people employed, 25,787.

This does not include the upper Gunduck embankment works, on which 110,500 persons were employed during the same period. Thus 471,527 persons found employment during the fortnight under review. The Executive Engineer in charge of upper Gunduck works informs me that the workmen prefer mixed grain to rice, and that it would have been better if more of the former had been imported. The poorer classes are living on Indian-corn, gram, suttoo, &c. The Indian-corn, he anticipates, will last for another month, or till the end of March, when most of the rubbee will be coming into the market. The rate of wages paid are—for able-bodied men, average 9 pice, women 6, children 4 [6 pice equal to one anna].

The numbers on all roads are increasing enormously, and difficulty is found sometimes in coping with them.

A grant of 5,000 kodalees and 5,000 picks has been made by the Commissioner to this district.

C.—TRANSPORT OF GRAIN.

The arrangements now finally concluded (and which have been found to work most satisfactorily) for the transport of grain for this district are these:—Mr. Lethbridge conveys the whole allotment of 50,000 maunds per week; 20,000 of this goes to Govindgunge for the embankment works, 10,000 to the Bettiah sub-division, and 20,000 to Motihari for the sudder division. This amount of grain will continue to be received till the end of May.

D.—STORAGE OF GRAIN.

The total amount of grain received into the district was, on the 21st February, 325,034 maunds. Of this 176,390 had actually been stored—

In Ramnuggur circle - - -	59,607 maunds (approximate).
„ Bettiah circle - - - -	78,912 „
„ Sudder division circle - - -	39,871 „

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PERSONS.

The following sums were advanced during the fortnight:—

(1) For storage of grain - - - -	27,000
(2) Assistance to ryots - - - -	28,650
(3) Land improvement - - - - -	3,368

The total amount expended up to date under the heads are—

(1) - - - - - - - -	87,000
(2) - - - - - - - -	30,000
(3) - - - - - - - -	8,157

In addition to this about 50,000 have been sanctioned under head No. 2.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

The district, which comprises 3,781 square miles, has been divided for relief purposes, into 5 circles, each of which has been put under the management of a European relief officer, having under him a special establishment.

These circles are—

		Villages.	Houses.	Population.
Circle No. 1.	Thannahs Motihari and Adapore - -	303	41,449	249,182
„ 2.	„ Dhaka and Modhubun - -	424	47,686	315,387
„ 3.	„ Gobindgunge and Kesseria -	422	45,088	292,849
„ 4.	„ Bettiah and portion of Lawriah -	495	58,449	322,212
„ 5.	„ Bugha - - - -	654	48,241	242,949

The average number of villages to each circle will thus be 459, and the average population 286,509. The following officers have been deputed to these circles:—

Circle No. 1, not filled up.
„ 2, Mr. Kilby.
„ 3, „ Weekes.
„ 4, „ Samuells.
„ 5, „ Howe.

Under each of these officers will be employed two native inspectors, one writer, and one mohurir. Each inspector will thus have about 230 villages under his special charge, each of which he will visit and be responsible that relief is afforded. In most of the circles there will be sub-committees.

The following have already been selected:—

In circle No. 5 { Bugha. Harnatour. Balthur.

The head-quarter being at Ramnuggur, Colonel Boulderson superintends Bulthur and Mr. Joakim will be posted at Harnatour. Temporary bungalows have been ordered (under Sir Richard Temple's authority) to be erected at all these places.

In circle No. 4 no special sub-committee will be necessary, but the following arrangement has been made by Mr. Samuells :—

Bettiah town and suburbs have been placed in charge of Mr. T. M. Gibbon.
Pubjirwa circle has been placed in charge of Thakur Mado Singh.
Manpoor „ „ „ „ of Sarnam Rai.
Pursa „ „ „ „ of Mr. W. B. Hudson.
Lohurya „ „ „ „ of „ W. A. MacDonell.
Dakraha „ „ „ „ of „ H. Fraser.
Lalseraya „ „ „ „ of „ J. MacLeod.
Burhurwa „ „ „ „ of „ J. Dixon.

"By this means," he writes, "the people of the division are told off to eight relief centre. Each centre is under the supervision of a responsible and respectable person, to whom all applicants for charitable relief within the circle are referred. Each supervisor has a list of people requiring assistance, and he makes his own arrangements for having them supplied with food, either from his head-quarter or through some subordinate agency in the applicant's own village. Vagrants who are not residents of any circle will be collected at the centre of the circle in which they are found, and either made to work or fed gratuitously; should the numbers increase, they will be collected in a poor-house under proper supervision."

The chief feature in this system is the placing the people under those who know them best, and who are consequently less likely to be imposed upon. Another advantage will be the freedom from disease which must be the inevitable consequence of an opposite system. The Native Christian portion of the town of Bettiah is placed under the Roman Catholic priest. This system is already in force; the exact number of persons relieved is not reported as the lists in some circles are incomplete. The incapable, &c., are divided into those who can do work and those who cannot. The latter are fed gratuitously, and the former are chiefly widows and women who have children in arms. This class are paid in grain as for daily labor, and are supplied with material for sewing and weaving. A sum of Rs. 10,000 has been subscribed to this sub-division by the Rajah of Bettiah.

Circle No. 5.—In Mr. Howe's jurisdiction, the Rajah of Ramnuggurh as subscribed Rs. 2,000 to the charitable relief fund; this, with the Government subsidy, will be sufficient to begin with. Colonel Boulderson is collecting statistics village by village in the tract under his care, and distributing relief. Mr. Howe is doing the same for Ramnuggur; 200 persons have already been relieved; these are almost all cripples and men who from sickness or other cause are unable to work. A relief-house and dispensary are also being erected at Ramnuggur. At Bagha, Messrs. Chritien and Moore distribute relief to about 200 to 300 persons daily.

In Circle No. 3, the head-quarters have been fixed at Sangrampore, near Gobindgunge. There will be a sub-committee probably at Kessurea.

In Circle No. 2, the head-quarter will be at Puckree near Seeraha, with sub-committee probably at Dhaka.

The following arrangements have been made for medicel relief:

Hospitals are being established at Harnatour, Bugha, Ramnuggur, Balthur, Ramgurwa (Adapore), Pakri (Seeraha), and Tituriah, and native doctors have been sent to Harnatour and Ramnuggur, and one will shortly go to Ramgurwa. Appropriate accommodation for patients and the native doctors have been directed to be constructed, sums of money have been forwarded to most of the police stations and to European residents for the relief of persons who require immediate assistance, and a large number have already been relieved.

The telegraph has been constructed as far as Bettiah.

The condition of the people under Mr. Howe's charge is thus described by him :—

"The greatest distress has for a long time been experienced by all classes except a small and wealthy minority. The cultivators of the better class had little or no grain in store, while the Rajah of Ramnuggur, their natural protector, gave them no relief; the laboring classes could get but little work, famine prices, or all but famine prices, prevailed in the bazars, and the poor lived on bad and insufficient food, or fruits, roots, and everything they could get. There was, indeed, plenty of grain in the tract, but it was kept back from the market, and but little could be obtained even at the high prices which prevailed. Such was the condition of the people up to the present fortnight, and a great part of the description still applies. But our various relief measures, which have now for some time been in existence, are making rapid progress, and are becoming a practical reality to the people, so that a material and already perceptible improvement in their condition has been caused." Having thus described the previous condition of the people, Mr. Howe proceeds to notice the natural causes that have during the present fortnight increased and also those which have tended to mitigate the general distress. He says: "Besides the increase in the severity of the distress, naturally caused by its now lengthened duration, there has been much sickness. Fever has been prevalent, and the outbreak of small-pox, which I before reported, has, as I then anticipated, become general throughout the sub-division. Many have died, and the state of weakness to which those who recover are as a rule reduced, render them incapable of work. A large number of persons have in this way during the last fortnight been reduced to the greatest distress. Much suffering has also been caused by the large number of fires that have occurred, by which sometimes an entire village has been burnt down. Those fires are partly the result of accident, and partly the act of incendiaries. Almost all the houses in the tract are covered with thatch, and the reckless way in which fires are lit in these

Circumstances which have increased the sufferings of the people.

generally low-roofed buildings is astonishing, and quite sufficient to account for most of the fires that occur; others again are intentionally caused, the motive generally being revenge. I have come across two *bonâ fide* cases of arson, in which the owners of the village were wealthy and unpopular, and who had large quantities of grain, which were destroyed in the fire." He adds: "In estimating the degree of distress prevailing, these cases must not be overlooked, as frequently the inhabitants of an entire village are ruined in one night, their household property, their littte savings, destroyed, and their families reduced to begging and starvation."

Circumstances which have tended to diminish the general distress.

Mr. Howe describes these as follows:—"No rain has fallen during the present fortnight, but the good effect of what fell in the preceding week is becoming more and more apparent. 'Cheena' has to a considerable extent been sown, while the 'rubbee' in the south of the division has much benefited. In the north there is hardly any 'rubbee,' but even there the late rain has done much good, by enabling cultivators to prepare their fields for the early rice crop, and thus afforded employment to a considerable number."

Regarding payments in kind, Mr. Howe reports: "Sanction for payments in kind under rules A., Resolution No. 5,718, has been given by the Honorable Sir Richard Temple, but, owing to the necessity for European supervision, I have at present commenced on three roads only, one at Ramnuggur, and the two roads at Shikarpore, where Colonel Boulderson is stationed. I have not yet heard from Colonel Boulderson, but here at Ramnuggur, the system is very successful, and affords a great relief to the laborers. Prices are highest towards the north-west and at Ramnuggur, and the most immediate necessity for payments in kind is at Hurnatour, where, however, it cannot at present be started." . . . "Rice is now selling at 9 seers the rupee."

With reference to the sickness reported by Mr. Howe, native doctors, as already stated in this narrative, have been deputed with the necessary medicines to Hurnatour and Ramnuggur, and the police force has been greatly strengthened in the Ramnuggur tract, that station having been formed into a first-class thannah. The frequent occurrence of arson cases will therefore, it is hoped be checked, a few cases detected and successfully prosecuted will probably put a stop to them. Regarding storage of grain, Mr. Howe states: "The greater part of the grain allotted to this sub-division has arrived, and all the golahs are ready, and now that a sufficient force of police has been sanctioned, and most of the men arrived, the more remote golahs will be filled up." Mr. Howe considers the amount of grain allotted sufficient.

Mr. Howe gives the following account of the advance of grain given by orders of Sir Richard Temple to the Rajah of Ramnuggur, or rather to his asamees on the Rajah's security: "In the beginning of January the Rajah applied for an advance of Rs. 15,000 cash and 5,000 maunds of grain. When the Commissioner came to Ramnuggur, on the 23rd January, the Rajah had done nothing whatever to assist his ryots, and the Commissioner, seeing the urgency of the occasion, gave me instructions to the following effect: If (the Commissioner wrote) the Rajah satisfies the local officer that he has done something practical towards importing grain; if for instance, he has deposited Rs. 10,000, writes Mr. Gibbon, or some trustworthy person, for the purpose of importation, Mr. Howe is authorised to advance 5,000 maunds to the Rajah from the Government stores. This was on the 23rd January, the day on which I took over charge at Ramnuggur. Between this and 7th February, when Sir Richard Temple visited Ramnuggur, the Rajah did nothing, except make petty crop advances on my earnest representations. These advances, however, amounted to Rs. 1,200 only, which, considering the size of his "illaka," was comparatively of little use. By the time that Sir Richard Temple arrived it was but too manifest that the Rajah did not realize the importance of the crisis, and that he did not intend to assist the "asamees" on anything like an adequate scale. Sir Richard Temple then determined that advances should be made direct to the "asamees" by Government, and the Rajah finally agreed to be security for repayment of the advance. Authority was given me to make such advances in grain from the Government stores, and the Rajah signed a deed of security,—for the present for 5,000 maunds, for the money value of which he agreed to be security. He also agreed to be security for any further advances that might hereafter be required. Under this arrangement I am making advances of Government grain to all villages in which such are required. In order, however, to work through the Rajah as much as possible, I persuaded him to draw up a statement showing in a certain column what advances he approved of. This entry I treat as an advance for three or two months, during which time I shall carefully collect statistics with reference to all these villages. After this I shall be in a position to determine exactly how much more is required, or whether the advance made according to the Rajah's proposals is sufficient. The Rajah is satisfied with this arrangement, and agrees at the expiry of the time to be security for any further tuccavee advances that may be required. Under this arrangement about 50 villages have already received their first instalments, and in a few days I shall be able to complete the distribution. I will then submit a full report on the subject." Mr. Howe adds: "The question of advances for the purchase of seed grain is important, but not of such immediate urgency, and after two months, before further "tuccavee" advances are required, I shall be in a position to report." Before Sir Richard Temple departure, the Rajah of Ramnuggur purchased 500 maunds of grain at Beteiah. Mr. Howe concludes in these words: "We have now ample food supplies at all our 'golahs' which are so situated that every part of the tract can be daily reached; our relief works are attracting large numbers and are a practical success; our charitable committees have done much good, and afforded relief whenever it was wanted."

PRICE OF FOOD-GRAINS.

No.	Name of Marts.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, best sort.	Rice, common.	Lesser millets, ragi or murwa and chena.	Maize or Indian-corn.	Grain.	Salt.
1	Motiharee - - -	11¾	—	9½	11	16	14½	11½	7
2	Bettiah - - -	18	17	9½	12	—	14	14	7¼
3	Mudhoobun - - -	11	—	10	11	15	14⅓	14½	7½
4	Gobindgunj - -	11	17	9	11	17	15	14½	7
5	Kessuriah - - -	16	14	9	11	—	14	14	8½
6	Gornsahan - - -	10	13¾	10	11¼	—	16	13¾	6–14
7	Dhaka - - -	11	15	8	10	—	15	13	7½
8	Bagaha - - -	11	—	8	10	—	14	11	5½
9	Ramnuggur - -	11	—	8¼	10	—	12½	12	7

H. KEAN, Collector.

Enclosure No. 4.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT,

Calcutta, the 2nd March 1874.

READ—

The district narratives of the Bhaugulpore Division for the fortnight ending on the 21st February.

Monghyr report received on 25th February.
Bhaugulpore „ „ 26th „
Purneah „ „ 25th „
Sonthal Pergunnahs „ 26th „

The reports show that in the three distressed districts of Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, and Purneah the arrangements for meeting distress and for actually giving relief are fairly well forward.

2. *Monghyr.*—The spring crops are reported to be doing extremely well; in parts of the district the new food-crops are coming into the market, and the Magistrate-Collector expects these crops will yield enough to feed the whole district for four months. Supplies are as yet sufficient in the local bazars, and the prices are not reported very high. Common rice is 11 seers per rupee at the dearest marts, while millet and barley are considerably cheaper. North of the Ganges, the Begoo Serai relief committee, after meeting and considering the matter, found that charitable relief was not as yet needed in that sub-division, remarking that there are always plenty of people ready to live on the bounty of others, and that they should not be encouraged by indiscriminate alms till there is real necessity. The Lieutenant-Governor would beg attention to the condition of Buktearpore, which was at one time said to be very distressed, and which is a long way from the head-quarters of any relief committee. Distress is confined to parts of the Jamooee sub-division. Government relief works, as well as private relief works, are open in abundance throughout the worst parts of the district. The village inspections conducted in these very bad tracts show, it is said, that "distress is general," and the inspecting officers found on the road-side the "bodies of two men who had evidently died from starvation." It may, however, generally be gathered that distress is as yet principally confined to the classes who are at all times very badly off.

3. 3,845 people were employed daily on the Government relief works, besides the number (about 3,500) on the court of wards' works in Khurrukpore. The account given of the relief work started in Monghyr town shows that care and organisation is much required on a work of this kind. Private trade in grain is active, and the progress made with the transport and storage of Government grain is satisfactory.

4. Thirteen charitable relief centres appear to be already in operation giving daily relief to 985 persons. But with reference to the two cases of reported starvation, and to the extract from a relief officer's report stating that "many, especially the females, will die of starvation if no measures similar to those contemplated in clause *f*, section 3, part II. of the Relief Committee's Instructions are adopted for their relief," the Lieutenant-Governor begs that immediate steps may be taken (if they are not already taken) to work the relief centres, to have village to village inspections, and to give relief in the particular shape required throughout the tracts of which the relief officer speaks, so far as it is really necessary. The Commissioner of the division has a number of relief superintendents, and he has intimated that he requires no more, and the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that before this the necessary action has, as stated in Mr. Lockwood's 15th paragraph, been taken to organise sufficient relief under the rules.

5. The attention of the Commissioner of Patna will be invited to the statement (which seems not to be very fully substantiated), that the Patna authorities have turned back from the Ganges the Begooserai people who were going into the Patna district for harvest work. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes it is impossible that there can be any truth in this.

6. *Bhaugulpore.*—The spring crops of Bhaugulpore are in good case; and in the Soopole sub-division supplies of food are more easily obtainable, the price quoted for common rice being

10 seers. In Mudehpoorah (where distress had been supposed not to be so imminent as in Soopole) supplies of rice are scanty, and 8 seers per rupee is the price quoted. Marwa, however, is still quoted at 13 seers per rupee. The Magistrate-Collector who has just been over the worst parts of Mudhepoorah and over a part of Soopole writes—"The general condition of the people is better than I had anticipated." In the Banka and head-quarter sub-divisions south of the Ganges no distress exists or is anticipated.

On the Government relief works only 3,055 laborers are employed, but the Magistrate reports that a great many petty village works are being executed of the zemindars; and that work on clearing village tanks is being generally undertaken by Government officers in the northern sub-divisions. Still the Lieutenant-Governor is not satisfied that enough in the way of relief works has yet been done. Private trade in grain is not so brisk in Bhagulupore as in Monghyr and Purneah; but the exportations of grain are no longer large. The transport of grain northwards from the Ganges had been progressing but slowly; and it is hoped that the contracts for the transport of large quantities, now arranged by Mr. Hankey, will be fulfilled. It is satisfactory that the Magistrate-Collector should have been able to write from Soopole that he found 55,000 maunds of Government grain already in store there. The present report shows that the Bhaugulpore zemindars are beginning to do their duty to their ryots; and the Lieutenant-Governor begs that a special expression of his approval may be conveyed to Baboo Hurbullub Narain Sing of Sonbursa, who has set such an excellent example to the landholders of Mudhepoorah and Soopole.

7. Six relief centres appear to have been in active operation in North Bhaugulpore at the time of the Magistrate's tour, and he was engaged in starting eight more centres. At these relief centres in Soopole 290 people were being relieved, many of whom were children. At the other centres applicants for relief were few.

8. *Purneah.*—Prices in the Purneah district have generally fallen; trade is brisk; considerable private importations are going on. In the Kushbah Amour thannah only are prices dearer than 10 seers the rupee; there common rice was selling at eight seers, and Government grain is being sold to laborers on the roads and to the poorer classes of people in the villages. Village inspections disclosed distress in some parts of Kudbah; but with the exception of these two thannahs, the rest of the district seems to be better off than at the time of last narrative; laborers do not come largely to the roads, nor can private employers get sufficient work-people at ordinary rates.

9. Relief works are being opened and are kept open in every distressed part of the district. The number of laborers has risen to 2,650, wages are said to be regularly paid, and the Magistrate has authorised a slight increase of the piece-work rates. No tank-work is in operation except in the Purneah municipality. Effort should be made to employ the weavers to make gunny-bags. The rate at which Government grain was carried into the district during the fortnight was 3,856 maunds a day; but as this rate will not suffice to carry the whole of the Purneah and part of the Dinagepore supply, the carrying power of the district is being still further expanded under Mr. Hankey's superintendence. It is now expected of the Magistrate of Purneah to send from Caragola 140,000 maunds in all towards Dinagepore. Mr. Kemble's account of the dealers, who have sold off all the grain they imported under advances from Government, and have now started to fetch a second consignment is satisfactory.

10. The arrangements made by the Kudbah and Kusbah Amour relief committees to supply work to the impoverished weavers seem satisfactory. But from the Kudbah Deputy's and Mr. Wyer's accounts of their village visits, it would seem that more active steps must at once be taken to distribute relief from centres within these two thannahs, and the Lieutenant-Governor begs that this may immediately be done under the Commissioner's orders.

11. *Sonthal Pergunnahs.*—The accounts of prices and of the state of the people are more favorable than those given in last narrative. The people are said "everywhere to look healthy "and strong." Ample relief works seem to be provided in all the more distressed parts; but on no one work are there very many laborers, and the workpeople seem to bring their own food.

12. With reference to what is said in some of these reports about the need of advancing grain to ryots and of acting upon the relief committee's instructions, the Lieutenant-Governor desires very plainly to remind all officers that the relief instructions are issued for their guidance, and that they are to be observed. Those instructions give the committees and the relief superintendents under them sufficient discretion to advance grain, or even to sell it at below cost price to pauper ryots, or to others who cannot work on the roads. When the Government grain is at hand in abundance, when the instructions permit its being used in this particular way, and when Government permits and encourages the employment of an ample relief agency, mere reports that ryots will starve or are starved for want of advances, or that women will starve for want of relief, cannot be accepted as any evidence that the Government officers or the committees or their agents have done all what was possible to relieve distress.

13. Either the daily average or the number of persons receiving gratuitous relief on the last day of the fortnight should always be given under heading F. of the district narratives.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. Bernard,

Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1146—S.R.

Copy, with copies of the district narratives, forwarded to

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 2nd March 1874.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Monghyr District for the Fortnight ending the 21st February 1874.

A.—State of the Country.

The bazars are generally well supplied, and those who have money to buy it, find no difficulty in getting grain. As stated in my last report, the Government golah was opened for the supply of grain to coolies working on the Butia road; but only a very small quantity was purchased. I visited Bucktearpur on Friday, and found that grain had since come into the market, and I have agreed to advance money to a respectable trader there for a further supply.

Regarding the thinly populated country between Gungta and Jumui mentioned in my last report, Babu Umbica Churu Sen is supplying grain purchased with Government money to a petty trader who sells to the people at a small profit.

The rubbee grain is now coming into the market, and by the time of my next report, we shall probably learn how prices are affected by it. At Khagaria on Friday last I found early peas selling at 17½ seers, and I have just received a sample of excellent gram offered for sale in Sheikpura and Secundra at 19 seers per rupee. As the mass of the people find difficulty in procuring the necessaries of life, luxuries such as tobacco, fish, and milk, are unusually cheap; whilst ghee produced in large quantities in this district, is almost a drug in the market. There is a great variety of opinion regarding the variation of the market. The inhabitants of the rubbee country appear satisfied that prices will become easy directly the rubbee is cut; whilst those who live on rice tracts, although they know the rubbee crop is a good one, declare that it will not materially affect the market. I calculate, however, that after deducting seed for future sowings, at least six million maunds of food grains, sufficient to feed the entire population for four months, will be cut. But, although a calculation regarding the outturn of the harvest may be made with some accuracy, it is impossible to calculate how much of the grain will remain in the district and how much be exported. The present high prices are sufficiently tempting to induce all who have grain to part with every available seer. Immense exportations of grain, even in years of plenty, take place to feed horses and cattle generally in Calcutta, and indeed however they are to be found in Bengal south of the district. Wheat also follows in the same track, and I am informed is even exported to supply the markets of Europe.

If, however, the price of grain goes down, as I expect it will, as low as Rs. 2 per maund, the condition of the district will improve; and except in the distressed rice tracts, I hope the people will be able to live without much distress until the bhadoi harvest of August. If, on the other hand, the exportations are so great as to leave no surplus for the agricultural classes living on the rice tracts where the crop has failed, and for the laboring population generally, the condition of these persons will get worse and worse, at all events until the bhadoi harvest is cut.

For the above reasons, I think the influence of the rubbee harvest on the markets should be ascertained before deciding on the sufficiency or otherwise of our present rice stores.

In the meanwhile I am making inquiries how far the rubbee crop has been already purchased, and, if necessary, where we can purchase in large quantities surplus grain set aside for sale. Hitherto I have not heard of any difficulty as regards seed grain. Even at Batara, where the rice had almost entirely failed, I found a golah of dhan religiously sealed up, and two days ago whilst riding through the equally bad rice tract north of Furkya towards Bucktearpore, I found the seed for the next crop had already been sown. However improvident ryots may be in other respects, they very wisely will not consume their seed grain so long as any degree of life is left in them.

The rain which has fallen during the month has done an incalculable amount of good, which becomes daily more and more apparent. I am of opinion now that the rubbee may be put down as a twelve-anna crop all round. The wheat is looking generally better than it did this time last year, and in many places it is looking very well indeed. Even at Bucktearpore, on Thursday I saw some fine wheat fields, and the zemindar there agrees with me in thinking that crops which without rain would have yielded five maunds will now yield 10 maunds per acre. The gram, musoor, and pea pods are also well filled, and the oil-seed harvest will be a good one. The crops on the extensive dearahs and low lying lands are as good as can be wished. Messrs. Wilkins and Campbell, I believe, agree with me in thinking the rubbee harvest will be generally a good one; but several indigo-planters say that the yield will not, so far as they can judge, be above half an average one. The factories, however, are generally situated on high lands, and of course, in striking an average, I take high and low lands together. I have also the advantage of having seen the rubbee crops now growing in every pergunnah in the district. But whilst prices continue so high as they are at present, the condition of the laboring population must continue to be very bad. In almost every village a number of half-starved people will be found, who in times of plenty subsist on the charity of neighbours, but who now get little or no support as their neighbours, however charitably inclined, can barely manage to support themselves.

Even in prosperous times wages are so low that most families can only afford one good meal a day, and under such circumstances a very simple calculation will show what the present condition of the people must be. Mr. Campbell, writing from Purbatpara, south west of Jumui, however, takes what appears to me rather a sanguine view of the state of affairs there; he says: "I beg to express my opinion as the result of my inspection that no distress at present exists among any class in this pergunnah, nor is any likely. Even the Mushars whose houses I visited are all in good condition. In their huts I found charpoys, cooking utensils, and hand-mills for grinding corn. These last were shown by the flour on them to be in daily use. In some enclosures I found dhan drying in the sun and being husked in dhenkies. In most of them, too, I found goats tethered, and they all have pigs. Just now a wild fruit called "kheri," about the size of an apricot, is extensively consumed. It is prepared by boiling, and is said to be nutritious. It abounds in the jungles, and can be had by every one who chooses to gather it. The condition of the Mushirs in this pergunnah forms a strong contrast to that of the Mushirs north of Jumui.

The works on the road to Gungta and many of the villages were deserted on account of the usual annual exodus of the laboring classes to cut the rubbee crops on the "tal," or lands subject to the Ganges inundation.

In many cases I found the women and children left behind with apparently no means of support. I found an old blind Musharin with two children, and an old Dosadh without relatives, who looked distressed, and these I ordered to be sent into the Mulleypore poor-house. The tal rubbee crop must therefore be a good one to attract all this foreign labor, and the fact of the women and children left behind not being destituted is a good sign.

The rubbee of the pergunnah itself is as a rule very fine near one village especially, Kalu or Kalliyanpur. I walked through upwards of a quarter of a mile of magnificent rahur. This crop indeed everywhere throughout the pergunnah is flourishing. The only crop which showed signs of suffering was the poppy, which though good on the whole had here and there withered away. "Baishakhi" janera and cheena is appearing above the ground, and much is being sown, and the turning up of the paddy fields is everywhere going on.

Altogether I considered affairs so promising that I considered it unnecessary to open any relief centre at Mungrar as contemplated.

Major Waller also, who has lately been on a tour in the north of the Beguserai sub-division, gives a favorable account of the condition of the people there. He mentions extensive embankments and tanks being excavated by the zemindars Luchmi Persad and Ganu Singh of Sukurpura, which give employment to all the laborers in the neighbourhood. Mr. Lamb of Sisowni Factory, north-east of Beguserai, and Mr. FitzPatrick near Tegra, on the other hand, say that the rubbee harvest in their neighbourhood will be scanty, and distress amongst the ryots greater than they at first anticipated.

As mentioned in former reports, the condition of the lower classes in the Umrethu and Bisthazaree pergunnahs is very bad; parts of Chandun, Bhuka, and Selimabad are also in a bad state. Hitherto, however, distress has been confined to the old, infirm, widows, and children. The Government works have kept the able-bodied from starving, and I have been doing my best under the Land Improvement Act to start works scattered over the most impoverished tracts. I paid a special visit to Bisthazaree last week to meet the zemindars, and up to the present time nearly Rs. 25,000 has been advanced to leading zemindars for digging out old tanks and repairing old embankments at 21 different villages in the distressed pergunnahs. The zemindars are beginning to feel alarmed regarding the state of affairs, and where the security for repayment is good, they find there is little difficulty or delay in getting the money they ask for.

The chief features of these pergunnahs are: scarcity of water, immense silted-up tanks, and worn-out irrigation embankments, so that if the money advanced is properly expended, as I hope it will be, much permanent benefit will be afforded. Each officer engaged in relief work will be provided with a skeleton map showing the projected works, and they will report from time to time how they are progressing.

15. The Commissioner is here arranging for the immediate inspection and relief of the distressed tracts village by village. We are to have officers stationed at Sondhi, Choara, and Bucktearpore in Furkya to hunt up the people within given distressed areas. Messrs. Money and Currie have for some time been relieving distress wherever found in the Umrithu and Bisthazaree pergunnahs, and I have lately sent Moulvie Abdul Jubbar, Deputy Magistrate, with grain to look up certain villages around Sondhi, pending the arrival of the regular relief officer, as I know from personal observation that that part of the country is in a critical condition.

In noticing the condition of the people, it may be mentioned that the approaching warm weather will afford much relief, as during the past season persons with hardly a rag to their backs have suffered almost as much from cold as from scanty food. During the frosty nights in January their sufferings at night must have been very considerable, many persons showed me where they had been burnt whilst crowding round fires at night, and whilst I was at Luckiserai in January one poor creature fell into a lime-kiln near the station whilst warming himself in the night.

The following extract from the proceedings of the Beguserai relief committee, just received, may be added whilst writing on the condition of the people:

"The various members present there entered into a discussion as to the condition of the people, and the opinions of by-standers, zemindars, cultivators, and so on, of whom large numbers were present, about the office were taken. It is the universal opinion that there is no actual distress as yet, and that there will be none if things go on as now. At all events till after the cutting of the rubbee crops, all agreed that charitable relief was as yet unnecessary and would not be undertaken, that is charitable relief to people who usually earn their own livelihood by work. There would always be found lots of people to live on the bounty of others, and in order not to encourage these, any distribution of money or grain would be impolitic.

"It was therefore generally resolved that until the committee see their way more clearly, *i.e.*, until things assume a more definite shape, it would be premature to draw out rules for the distribution of relief. This should be put off till a late date, and in the meanwhile every member of the committee is to keep on the alert and make himself well acquainted with the circumstances of the people about him. At the very first sign of distress the fact is to be reported to the Chairman, who will at once call a meeting to set affairs in motion."

In another letter, just received, Mr. Wilkins writes—

"Every year a large number of poorer classes pass through this sub-division from Tirhoot to Mogha (across the river) to cut dhan and the rubbee crop. This year, as usual, large numbers of the poorer classes have been flocking there, but they have all been turned back by the orders of the Collector of Patna and not allowed to remain on the other side of the river. Now, in the expectation of getting work (as usual) these poor people only bring down with them sufficient food to last them up to the end of their journey to Mogha. The result is that, being turned back, they cannot have any food to eat, and they certainly will not be able to buy any here. I was told yesterday that between Tegra and Mokamah Ghat, a distance of about 5 miles, a continuous stream of these people was seen, numbering in all not less than 3,000. I only heard of this yesterday evening, and have not been able as yet to inquire into the matter. But I will institute enquiries at once."

Another special point is that some people of the Jollah or weaving caste have been going across the river to cut the rubbee crop; and great stress is laid by the officer reporting this on the importance and significance of the fact. I do not think very much of it. The weaver caste have never much work to do at this time of the year, and if the truth were known, I dare say they eke out their livelihood by manual labor at a season when their craft keeps them with idle hands.

Mr. Money at Secundra in the Bisthazaree pergunnah, who for some time has been going from village to village relieving distress, reports that distress is general, and last week we found by the side of the Jumui and Luckiserai road the bodies of two old persons who had evidently died from starvation whilst travelling in search of food. Mr. Money complains that in some instances the prejudices of ignorant people repel relief although given with due allowance for native customs. Some mischief maker spreads a report that relieved persons are to be out casted or degraded or shipped off to the Mauritius, and the poor people who believe him refuse relief at our hands with a stoicism worthy of a better cause. Mr. Money further reports that the able-bodied Mushirs have almost without exception gone with their families to the low-lying rubbee lands bordering the Ganges, leaving their houses in ruins. In a month or six weeks they will return, and then the distress will be heavy.

I regret very much to state that I have not yet received the criminal statement from the Superintendent's office.

B.—Relief Work.

Since my last report, Mr. Campbell, Civil Engineer, has been appointed to assist in getting in hand the relief works around Jamui. He is at present engaged in setting out a projected road between Secundra and the Gya district. The new Secundra and Luckiserai road has been commenced, and will open out that part of the country in a very useful and satisfactory manner. The new road between Jamui and Secundra is almost finished, and will, I think, prove to be a capital work. The engineers complain, however, that directly a new work is opened, all the coolies leaving the old work incomplete rush off to the new one, as they find the excavation of new pits for embankments affords lighter labor than those on which they have been engaged for some time. If this difficulty proves to be really serious, our remedy will be a reduction of wages on the new works. For the next month our works will, I expect, be almost deserted for rubbee cutting. It has however come to my notice that in some villages the inhabitants drive away outsiders, saying that they have plenty of hands already to cut the crops. The dearas and lands bordering the Ganges will, however, require extra hands, and I expect there will be a great inundation of laborers from Tirhoot looking out for work. After the rubbee is cut these people will return to our works, and the works now undertaken by the zemindars. In one or two instances, I have lent surplus tools to zemindars for digging tanks, on the condition that they are supplied to non-professional laborers who have not koladies of their own. Throughout the district generally labor on the roads has fallen off, partly in consequence of the rain which moistened the ground for bhadoi, indigo, and rice planting, and partly in consequence of the rubbee harvest. At Bucktearpur I find it is not considered etiquette for the women, even of the most despised castes, to work on the roads, and their families suffer in consequence. At Monghyr, on the other hand, women are the chief laborers. The municipality lately opened a relief work in filling up a depression in the fort ditch, where stagnant water hitherto has remained all the year round and infect the neighbouring air. The wages offered were six pice for men, four pice for women, and two pice for children. Directly the work became generally known a vast multitude, chiefly composed of women and children, appeared. It was alleged that every available child was hunted up by the laborer, and borrowed for the occasion.

The number was so great as to be perfectly unmanageable, notwithstanding the united efforts of Colonel Murray, Dr. Purves, and Mr. Thomas, aided by a number of native subordinates. The first day, although the number in the morning was comparatively small, about a thousand appeared at pay time and all demanded pice. The next day directly tickets were distributed the main body disappeared until the evening, when they again came and presented their tickets with the rest. The third day, when the numbers had increased to over three thousand, numbers of old women were drafted off to the Government garden. Here also they proved quite unmanageable, they did little or no work; but directly the overseer's back was turned, they seized every available plant or root, either for themselves or to feed their goats and pigs at home. At Colonel Murray's suggestion piece-labor corresponding with the condition of the people was on the fourth day begun, and then nearly the entire multitude disappeared as rapidly as they had come. In dealing out money for relief works to zemindars, although it may be necessary to exercise due caution in estimating the cost of such works in times of scarcity, it is useful to have practical experience of the kind of work done by non-professional laborers north of the Ganges. Besides the Tirhoot road which affords labor, I have supplied Mr. Wilkins with money to carry on relief works through the planters and others wherever such work may be found useful and really necessary. I annex a statement marked (B) which will show the number of laborers on the relief roads. This does not include nearly 4,000 laborers at Karakpore.

C.—PRIVATE TRADE IN GRAIN.

Twenty thousand maunds of grain, imported by private individuals, have been received at the Monghyr railway station during the fortnight; much more has been imported by river, and trade is generally very brisk. I know of no reason why private trade should not be brisk. There is no interference whatever with free trade. Grain in any quantity is procurable up-country; the railway fares have been reduced. Grain offered at a reasonable price can be readily disposed of. Carriage to the interior is available, and the roads are at this season of the year as good and as safe as in any part of England. I have very little fear of starvation for those who have money in any part of the district. Those persons who are so fortunate as to possess a cart and a pair of bullocks are doing a capital trade, and are attracted to every point where required. On Thursday I took the opportunity of Mr. Hankey's presence in the district to ride with him over the roads leading to Bucktearpore and Soopole. We found the roads and ghâts swarming with carts carrying Government and private grain. We rode about seventy miles on Thursday and Friday, through the large Furkya pergunnah, where the cart tracts at this season of the year are in capital order. The chief features of this pergunnah, which is generally submerged during the rainy season, are at present vast plains of coarse thatching grass, dotted at short distances with extensive and deep pools of water swarming with alligators, fish, and wild fowl, their banks being completely hidden with wild roses just coming into the bloom. The abundant pools afford water for the cattle, and if fodder falls short any amount of coarse pasture can be obtained. Vast herds of buffaloes are fed in these grass plains, and the ghee is exported to Calcutta.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

During the past fortnight it has been determined to increase the amount of grain in distressed tracts, and this is being done as fast as possible. I am emptying the Monghyr, Khagaria, and Gogri golahs which can easily be filled again if necessary at any time of the year, and sending their contents over 20,000 maunds to Bucktearpore. I found the golahs being built by Mr. Moore at Bucktearpore well raised and generally good, whilst a previous golah built by the Canoongoe, I regret to say, in a very unsatisfactory condition. I am making inquiries with a view to ascertain where the fault lies. Besides the golahs already erected, I am building golahs and Sondhi at Chandowra conveniently situated in the distressed tracts of Jamui. These will be filled at once from Luckiserai and Jamui. Regarding the sufficiency or otherwise of the stocks for Government purposes as stated above, I wish to wait until the effect of the ensuing rubbee harvest on the market is known. I do not anticipate any evil from the delay as the railroads, rivers, roads, and available cartage will at any time suffice, I believe, to carry all we want to any given point. In my next report, I shall endeavour to give a reliable calculation regarding the amount of rubbee which will remain in the district, and the amount which will be exported. If necessary the Government might perhaps purchase grain from its own deara ryots without loss to itself or injury to any one else.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

During the fortnight I have had applications for advances for the purchase of grain to the extent of Rs. 17,000. Order has been passed on the sub-divisional treasuries for payment. I believe the money has been paid, although I have not yet received official notice of it. In anticipation of a loan applied for by the municipality, Colonel Murray, Dr. Purves, and Mr. Dear, the most active members of the municipality, are doing their best to open relief works; but as before mentioned, their utmost exertions have hitherto failed to organize satisfactorily the multitude, composed principally of old women and children, who apply for work. The work performed by this rabble may be estimated as nil, and it will probably be found more convenient to feed the hungry without going through the farce of requiring labor in return.

I have numerous applications from private parties for advances for land improvements. Nearly all these applications hitherto are from the zemindars of the distressed pergunnahs, and I have as yet found no instance where a zemindar has refused to come forward. I have already advanced Rs. 24,050 to the leading zemindars, Nawab Ali Khan, Shah Abdul Hossen, Nawab Abdul Hossen, Malik Ali Kabir, and others equally rich and influential. I have numerous other applications under local investigation, and as I have mentioned above, I hope that not only present relief but that much permanent benefit to the estates will result from these advances. Hitherto the proposed works are of three kinds only,—digging out old tanks, repairing old embankments, and sinking wells. I have, however, been obliged to refuse some, though not many, applications, for reasons which need not be entered into here. We must, however, I think, look to these works more as reliefs for the able-bodied than the population generally, because non-professional labor proves itself to be most unprofitable to the capitalist. I have, however, in hand Rs. 3,000 for digging out tanks in Government estates situated in the distressed pergunnahs, and with proper supervision, I trust all will be able to find work there without loss to Government. Charitable relief is now coming into active operation wherever it is found necessary. On Friday at Buktearpore I superintended the distribution of cooked food to about 70 wretched looking creatures, chiefly children of the weaver caste. There are not so many deformed persons as generally attend such gatherings, but one woman had something wrapped up in a cloth which she attempted to conceal, but which proved to be an infant covered with small-pox.

Major Waller, who was present, has provided this person with money in order that she may not have occasion to attend the general distribution of food.

Officers engaged in distributing relief complain much of the difficulty in selecting candidates for tickets; crowds of lepers, blind, and cripples, styled professional beggars, whose profession, however, is the result of necessity rather than choice, present themselves. It appears hard to refuse charity to suit persons, but if once they come on our hands, it will be a problem of some difficulty to determine at what hour we are to shake them off. I have not thought proper to insist on any very hard and fast rules; the distributing committees must use their own discretion in each instance.

The following has just been received from Moulvie Abdul Jubbar, Deputy Magistrate at Luckiserai, whose judgment may be relied on;—"At Batara (one of the most distressed villages), I ascertained that some Babhuns and Brahmins, who will not go to the relief works, nor have admission to the poor-house, are in great and actual distress. I gave tickets to two old men for admission to the Sondhi poor-house, but one of them, a Babhun, refused to have a ticket. I left the ticket with Kuldip Narain Putwari, who accompanied me to the village, instructing him to supply the man with food from the poor-house if he sent for it. I am afraid many of them, especially the females, will die of starvation if no measures similar to those contemplated in clause F, section 3, part 2 of the Instructions to Relief Committees are adopted for their relief. They cultivate a considerable quantity of land in their village, and are respectable middlemen. Two successive rice crops having failed in the village, the mahajuns have discontinued to help them with loans. I request you will permit me, under the rule above quoted, to advance money to them and send me Rs. 200 for the purpose from the relief fund."

I have telegraphed to the Deputy Magistrate to draw on my agent at Luckiserai for the required amount.

The following is a list of the relief centres already opened.

No.	Name of relief centres.	Number of persons fed.	Under whose supervision.
1	Monghyr - - - -	359	Municipal committee.
2	Buktearpur - - -	70	Mr. More and committee.
3	Chupraun - - - -	65	Mr. H. Christian aided by a committee.
4	Luckiserai - - -	60	Local committee superintended by Mr. Currie.
5	Sheikpura - - - -	104	Mr. Currie aided by local committee.
6	Secundra - - - -	200	Mr. Money aided by committee.
7	Garua Parsanda - - -	12	Mr. Money aided by committee.
8	Orain - - - -	60	Moulvie Abdul Jubbar aided by committee.
9	Obeypur - - - -	20	Mr. J. Christian aided by committee.
10	Pachna - - - -	5	Mr. Currie aided by committee.
11	Sondhi - - - -	20	Only just opened by Moulvie Abdul Jubbar.
12	Choara - - - -	40	Mr. Money aided by committee.
13	Jumui - - - -	—	Return not received.

The numbers at Luckiserai, Shiekpura, Buktearpore, have diminished on account, it is alleged, of the persons going to the rubbee fields.

E. Lockwood.

No. 239—S.R., dated Bhaugulpore, the 24th February 1874.

From C. A. S. Bedford, Esq., District Grain Officer, Bhaugulpore, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I have the honor to submit the Bhaugulpore narrative for the fortnight ending 21st February 1874.

2. *Soopole.*—Grain appears to be more easily obtainable in the bazars of this sub-division, yet the prices are much the same as reported in the last narrative.

In the town of Soopole prices have slightly risen; also in a few other places from 11 to 10 seers.

In Pertabgunge and Dugmurrah rice is half a seer cheaper, and in the former place murwa is cheaper by three seers.

3. *Mudehpoorah.*—The sub-divisional officer reports that the bazars are badly supplied with rice, and that what little there is obtainable is selling at from 7 to 9 seers per rupee.

4. At the Singhessur fair, which was lately held, this commodity sold at 6 pice per seer, 64-tolahs weight. Mr. Marten writes that "the zemindars have still stocks of grain, but not in large quantities;" whether this is the case or not it is impossible to say. The people are very reticent in matters of this kind. One of the greatest difficulties we have had hitherto to contend against has been the discovering or attempting to discover what amount of grain is really stored in the district.

5. *Banka.*—The fortnightly narrative has not been received. It appears, however, from the weekly returns that the crops now in the ground are doing well.

6. We need, I think, be under no apprehension regarding this portion of district for some time to come. Grain is readily obtainable in the marts which are, I imagine, supplied to some extent from the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

7. In the sudder sub-division the people are experiencing no difficulty in obtaining grain. The prices are, on the whole, slightly higher than they were during the previous fortnight.

8. The weather during the fortnight up to yesterday has been all that could be desired. We had several slight showers yesterday at head-quarters, the total amount recorded being ·08.

9. No report regarding this rain have yet been received from the interior, but the appearance of the clouds on all sides indicated heavy rain.

10. Heavy rain just now would be anything but beneficial to the more valuable crops; it would cause material damage to wheat and barley. Peas also would suffer much. Cheena would probably be benefited, but the amount of benefit accruing would be too small to operate as a set off against the damage done to more important crops.

11. This morning was a bright cloudless one, so that we may hope for the best. I will let you know if any damage has been done as soon as I receive the reports from the interior.

12. Mr. Smith mentions in his narrative that the rubbee prospects of his sub-division are favorable. Soopole, however, is not a rubbee growing country, and though the aspect of affairs is not so gloomy as before, there is still much cause for anxiety. The mangoe trees in the sub-division present a most flourishing appearance, and indicate a plentiful outturn; I am not sure however that a good mangoe season is conducive to the health of the people generally, still this crop forms a valuable aid to the lower classes in years of scarcity.

13. From the Soopole report it appears that distress has already reached the lower orders, and that those previously disinclined are now seeking work.

14. It is gratifying to learn from Mr. Smith's report that zemindars are now exerting themselves in providing work for their poorer brethren and in removing grain where most wanted.

15. It appears, however, that much pressure had to be brought to bear on them before they reached the requisite pitch of exertion.

Mr. Smith hopes to get the relief system in full swing within the ensuing 10 days.

16. Three deaths from starvation were reported from Khabkhund in Soopole. Both the sub-divisional officer and Mr. Taylor made inquiries and came to the conclusion that the deaths were directly attributable to diarrhœa. The deceased were children and members of the same family; the disease had probably been brought on by the bitter cold winds which were blowing at the time. Being weak from scanty feeding the children succumbed. Mr. Marten reports that cases of actual misery have been reported to him, chiefly amongst widows and orphans, and in families in which the male members are incapacitated for work.

17. I do not think that any great importance ought to be attached to this fact as being indicative of anything but the usual condition of people.

Widows and orphans, even in the best of years, are not unfrequently in distress.

18. In Bhaugulpore itself the condition of the people is apparently much the same as in ordinary years.

Beggars are not on the increase. Enquiries, however, are being made.

Relief works in the town itself will be started, should such a measure be deemed necessary.

The reports received regarding condition of people in the sudder sub-division are favorable.

B.—Relief Works.

19. The only relief work in progress in the Soopole sub-division is the Pursurma Bhutea road; about 1,500 are reported to be engaged on this road. Laborers appear to experience no difficulty in obtaining good food, there being bazars in the vicinity.

20. Mr. Smith suggests that, as coarse rice is now selling at 10 seers per rupee, we commence payment in kind. This officer is also of opinion that the rates are too low, that wages should be raised to two annas per diem.

21. To the north of the sub-division the Court of Wards have several tanks in progress, and the people appear to be repairing very readily to these works; a large number are employed. Zemindars are also starting local works. Mr. Smith anticipates that there will be quite enough work in his sub-division for all classes seeking it.

22. *Mudehpoorah.*—There are between 50 and 60 persons employed on the Mudehpoorah and Atalkha road in Bissenpore. Mr. Marten reports that food is with difficulty procurable, and that payments are still made in cash.

The zemindars have undertaken small works in the shape of embankments and excavations.

23. The subjoined form will show what is being done under the head of relief works.

C.—Transport of Grain.

24. Under this head the sub-divisional officer of Soopole remarks:—"I have no account of private importations, but I am happy to have noticed during the last 10 days a few convoys of grain from Khagariah in this direction, and I hope the trade will be extended. I have looked on our means of transport as sufficient for the quantity of grain for this sub-division of which I had been advised, and the previous quantity would have been housed by the end of March at the latest. Now, however, with the enormous increase ordered by Sir Richard Temple, our capabilities will be taxed to the utmost. At present I have about 1,600 carts from this sub-division at work, and more coming in daily under the attraction of the higher rates which we are now paying and which are about double the ordinary rates."

25. The sub-divisional officer of Mudehpoorah reports that there is no change in the amount of grain received by him.

26. From the Bhaugulpore railway station, from the 8th to the 21st February 1874, the exportation has been 8,354 maunds against 11,439 maunds imports.

27. The exportations are as usual wheat (5,054 maunds), dhal (423 maunds), and gram (1,675 maunds) for Howrah. The remainder consisting of janera (Indian-corn), gram, and kulai for Patna and Monghyr. The imports consist of paddy and rice (3,444 maunds) from Howrah, Chandernagore and Pakour, and wheat (1,761 maunds), gram (3,242 maunds), janera (2,913 maunds), and over a 1,000 maunds of dhal from Delhi, Loodhiana, Mirzapore, and other localities in the north-west. The returns from the other railway stations within the district are only up to the 7th February.

As reported in my last narrative they show nothing important with the exception of the Colgong returns, which apparently include the Government rice.

28. We are still experiencing considerable difficulty in the removal of grain from Jugdischuck to Phoolout. There are not sufficient carts for our requirements, but I trust that this difficulty will shortly be overcome—it certainly ought to be with the inducements that we are now holding out to cartmen.

29. There is now a considerable quantity of grain accumulated at the former place, Jugdischuck, and further accumulation should, I think, be stopped for some time to come.

30. Judging from the reports received, the late heavy rain did but little damage to the grain in transit.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

31. Up to date about 255,000 maunds of grain of all kinds have been received here and at Sooltangunge. The whole, with the exception of last consignment of 4,000 maunds, has been sent across the Ganges.

32. Mr. Smith reports that he has 56,746 maunds of rice stored at Soopole and 1,500 maunds Indian-corn, 15,000 maunds of rice at Bongong, and that 3,000 maunds have reached Pertabgunge. He states that no grain has yet been issued, and that he has commenced to stock the outlying places selected and at which private storage accommodation is available.

33. Mr. Marten reports that the places in his sub-division finally selected by the Commissioner and Collector for storage of Government grain are—Mudehpoorah, where 50,000 maunds are to be stored—

	Mds.
Byjnathpore - - - - - - - -	15,000
Sonebursa - - - - - - - -	18,000
Lalpore - - - - - - - -	10,000
Kamp - - - - - - - -	50,000
Bhowanipore - - - - - - - -	25,000
	168,000

The total amount of grain received in Mudehpoorah up to the 20th February was 18,666 maunds.

34. In the Soopole sub-division the places previously selected for storage were Bungaon, Soopole, Pertabgunge, Bullooah, and Bongong; but have lately, under orders from Sir Richard Temple, been largely increased.

35. The golah at Pertabgunge for storage of 20,000 maunds, and that at Soopole for 140,000 maunds are now finished. Those at the other selected places are in the course of construction.

36. In the Banka sub-division there are only two places at which grain are stored:—

Dhoorya, 2,250 maunds of Indian corn.
Kutoriah, 4,773 maunds of Indian-corn and gram.

37. From the reports received it appears that weevils are attacking this grain. As the amount stored is not sufficient to be of any practical value, it would perhaps be as well if it were sold off.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

38. Rupees 17,300 have been advanced by the sub-divisional officer, Soopole, for purchase of grain.

Other applications for money, aggregating Rs. 16,100, are still pending sanction; also five applications from petty traders.

Rupees 11,500 have been sanctioned for purchase of grain, but not yet disbursed.

39. Mr. Smith reports that 23 applications for advances for land improvement have been filed before him, but that Rs. 200 only have been disbursed. He has finished his enquiries in regard to several applicants, and forwarded their applications to Collector for sanction.

40. In the Mudehpoorah sub-division only Rs. 2,000, as already reported, have been advanced. Further applications for money (aggregating Rs. 12,000) have been made, but the money has not yet been disbursed.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

41. Mr. Smith reports that he has started charitable relief at Soopole, Nowhatta, and Kunda in anticipation of formal sanction; that about 100 persons are now fed daily at Soopole, 150 at Nowhatta, and 50 at Kunda.

These persons appear to be chiefly of the lowest classes, and a large proportion of them children.

42. The cultivating classes have not as yet applied for relief. It appears from the Soopole report that orders have been passed for relief to be started at Nathpore, Pertabgunge, Bullooah, Dugmarrah, Nowabakar, Peepra, Patchgatchia, and Sookpore in that sub-division.

43. Mr. Smith remarks: "the sub-committees for the selected centres have been appointed and instructed in their duties, and have held one meeting of the sub-divisional committee on the 13th instant, when tracts for inspection were made over to the various members, and a few other details of management settled."

44. Mr. Marten reports that four centres have been started, "out of which three are in full work, relieving on an average ten daily. No one as yet seems willing to apply for relief at Ghylar."

Grain is not being supplied to these centres from the Government stocks.

EXTRACT FROM BANKA NARRATIVE.

Grain plentiful in the marts, though prices rather higher.

Slight rain during the fortnight, which proved most beneficial to the crops. The poorer classes in a few places take only one meal in the 24 hours. Only one case of grain-theft brought before Deputy Magistrate during the fortnight.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

The road from Kutooria to Simultollah is in progress; 235 persons are employed in it, and are subsisting on Indian-corn and koorthi.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

The sub-divisional officer reports that 2,000 maunds of grain have been exported during the fortnight.

D.

As has already been reported, Kutooria and Dhoonya are the places selected in this sub-division for storage of grain. The police are in charge.

E.

Applications have been made for advances, but none yet given.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Six places selected as sites for relief centres, but there is no present necessity for commencing operations.

Price Current, showing approximately the difference in prices of some of the food-grains for the fortnight ending 24th February 1874.

	Rice, 1st sort.		Rice, common.		Murwa.		Indian-corn.		Wheat.	
	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.
	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
Soopole - -	—	9 10	—	10 0	—	18 0	—	—	—	11 0
Mudehpoorah - -	—	7 0	—	8 0	—	13 0	—	—	—	9 0
Head-Quarters - -	13 4	8 13	13 14	12 0	—	—	16 2	14 8	13 4	9 9
Banka - - -	—	12 8	14 0	13 0	—	—	17 0	15 0	—	13 0

C. Bedford,
District Grain Officer.

Dated Camp Soopole, the 20th February 1874.

Memorandum by V. T. Taylor, Esq., Collector of Bhaugulpore.

The fortnightly narrative has been entrusted to Mr. Bedford, as it is impossible for me at this distance from head-quarters to collect the materials in time for its punctual despatch were I to undertake the whole of it myself.

2. I have been over a large portion of the worst part of the Mudehpoorah sub-division, *i.e.*, to the west, and did not find matters so bad as I had anticipated. I have also been over a considerable portion of Ooturkhund and Kubkhund pergunnahs of the Soopole sub-division, to the extreme west across the Tiljooga river, where distress will be more than in other places of these pergunnahs, and shall complete this portion by Monday, when I shall inspect the Naridigur pergunnah to the north-west. As I reached Soopole earlier than I had intended to meet Sir Richard Temple, Commissioner, sub-divisional officers, and the Durbhanga raj officer.

A.—State of the Country.

3. *Condition of the people.*—In pergunnah Chye the rubbee crops are magnificent. The wheat in Muddehpoorah sub-division is fairly average in area and probable outturn. There is rubbee in every village I passed through—wheat, rahur (dhal), and "cheena;" this last is still being sown and is in all stages from full ear down-wards. It has been sown to an unusual extent, and will be of very great value. The wheat and "cheena" in Kubkhund and Ooturkhund far exceeds any ordinary year. The whole neighbourhood of the Telabeh and Dunray, usually under water at this time of year, is dry and sown down; the crop promises to be a very good one. The worst tract of all is to the west of the Tiljoogah river, where the rubbee amounts to almost nothing. It is a country in which aghani rice is almost the sole crop, too low for bhadoi rice or murwah, and the loss of the aghani rice, almost a total failure the past year, is a very serious thing indeed. This will be a special tract and specially looked after; luckily it is not so thickly populated as other portions of the district.

4. Throughout nearly the whole of the tract passed over by me, ploughing was being carried on everywhere, and in very many places the fields were being dug up, the men employed being hired laborers paid in kind. As yet the general condition of the people is better than I had anticipated. I came across special cases of distress—cases rather difficult to meet except through the zemindars, such as those of cultivators with small holdings 7 to 10 beegahs of land, large families, and already much involved; to leave their holdings would be future ruin, for their lands would be given to others. The zemindars or mahajuns decline to lend them money as there is but little prospect of ever recovering the money already lent. I went to the house of one man to whom one rupee had been given, and he told me he had purchased murwah at the nearest hât with it. At present there is still grain procurable in the markets. On the Mudehpoorah road I asked some of the laborers where they got their murwah they were eating, and they told me from the next village. Grain is brought still to the markets in, as far as I can judge, the usual quantities.

The people suffering most are of course the laboring classes; many of these find labor near their homes without going on the Government roads. In one village I went to I found a tank had been commenced by the head-man with the consent of the zemindar. The Musahirs and Jolahs of the neighbouring villages were at work, but they did not exceed 50 in number. And in another village I found another tank begun, but only 40 men at work. My impression was that no positive general distress exists as yet in the western part of Mudehpoorah. The relief centres at Mudehpoorah, Ghylar, and Byjnathpore have all been started, and the huts being run up rapidly. At Mudehpoorah a very few only are fed; at Ghylar still less. While I was there a man (a Musahir) was brought there by a chowkeedar picked up by the sub-divisional officer as one too old to work; he objected altogether, and said he preferred living in his own way and finding his own food; he had no intention of eating cooked food until everybody else did so. I could not persuade him, and as he did not appear starving I let him go away. At

Byjnathpore 22 were the largest number fed on any one day, chiefly beggars or travellers from Tirhoot, who after a meal went away. The cutting of the rubbee will, I believe and trust, keep off any severe distress from Muddehpoorah till the end of May; the relief centres are open, and the relief committee at work. Subscriptions promised and being paid in, and the sub-divisional officer is very active and energetic. The sub-division will be divided into circles, and every steps taken to insure the people from starvation and want.

6. In Soopole the relief centres at Soopole, Nowhatta, and Koondar are open, and those at Ekar, Bungaon, Patchgachia, Nowabakhur, Dugmurra, Peepra, Pertabgunge, and Bhulooa have all been ordered to be opened. About 90 are being fed at Soopole, 150 at Nowhatta, and 50 at Koonda. I saw the people fed at Nowhutta; nearly the whole lot were a miserable set of little children. I explained to the sub-divisional officer the necessity of strictly attending to the rules regarding relief.

7. The persons employed on the Court of Wards' tanks in Naradigur are said to be daily increasing. There are several small works being carried on independently of Government roads in the shape of tanks, bandhs, and roads by zemindars, though but very few persons and those from the immediate neighbourhood of them are employed. I have seen three tanks, three bandhs, and two roads of a few miles in length. The men on the Government relief roads are not in the hands of contractors; they are daily and regularly paid. The Commissioner has recently ordered the rates prevailing to be increased, and this will very probably cause an increase in the number employed, and grain from Government stores will be made use of should the laborers find any difficulty in procuring food from the neighbourhood.

8. Mr. John Christian of Bungaon is going to start at once a bandh of 6½ miles in length, and it is proposed to start another bandh in the same neighbourhood. Every available man should be put on these works to get them done before the rains. New tanks in my opinion are not wanted unless they can be completed if not this year in the next. The number of existing tanks is almost incredible, and it is arranged that almost the best form of relief in any village is undoubtedly the cleaning and deepening the existing tank or tanks belonging to it. Relief work will be at hand for any village, and in a far better form than making a high bunded road over such a country as the western portion of the Soopole sub-division, where unless the roads run north and south considerable danger may result from interfering with the natural drainage of the country, and without the slightest hopes of their ever being bridged.

9. Baboo Hurbullub Narain Singh of Sonebursa was with me in my travels and has promised every assistance throughout his zemindary. He has promised a subscription of Rs. 10,000 for the Bhaugulpore relief fund, 1,500 of which is specially for the Mudehpooroh sub-division. He has expressed his wish to take advantage of the rules both for advances and for works of utility, and will submit an application with a statement as to what he intends to do. Kooar Sri Nundun Singh of Kubkhund has given Rs. 500 to Mudehpoorah, Rs. 500 to Soopole, and Rs. 1,000 to the Bhaugulpore district committees, and promises to assist his ryots in every way. To-morrow I shall see some more zemindars of the Soopole sub-division and endeavour to induce them to act better than they are reported to be acting towards their ryots; some of them I know are making small roads, and one is said to be digging a large tank.

10. No exportations are being now carried on; a little private importation. I saw in most of the villages I passed through people were in possession of grain, and in one village in Mudehpoorah sub-division, I saw in granaries besides rice enough seed-grain, bhadoi and aghani rice, and murwa to sow down the whole of the village lands twice over. The zemindar's agent assured me the whole of it would be given out to the ryots when the time arrived.

11. Before I leave the sub-divisions, arrangements will be made for opening out all relief centres, and preparation for all golahs for the grain to be stored at them; over 55,000 maunds are already housed at Soopole.

FORTNIGHTLY NARRATIVE of Scarcity and Relief for the Purneah District.

A.

DURING last week prices rose very rapidly; at one time rice in the Purneah bazar was at 8 seers per rupee, and at Kishengunge, where it had been selling at 12 seers, it fell to 10, at which rate it is still sold. At Arrareah and Purneah, however, prices have fallen considerably during the last three days. In Purneah city this morning I found that the following were the rates in the retail shops:—

	Per rupee.
Rice	10 seers.
Indian-corn	12 „
Gram	11 „
Peas	14 „
Kalai	13 „
Small janera	12 „

The larger mahajuns were selling rice to small traders for retail trade at Rs. 3-14 per maund. The reason for this fall in prices was said to be that one Mohesh Lall, a large mahajun, had bought up a large quantity of grain which he was selling at 10 seers per rupee out of charity. This, however, was not sufficient to influence the market to the extent mentioned. I find that during the week large importations have been made by Marwaries and others who never before dealt in grain, but are now entering into competition with the regular traders. One Naulakan

Das had brought up 700 maunds during the last three days, and is expecting more; on the average 100 maunds a day are brought into Purneah and eagerly bought by baparies. Mr. Rattray, of Arrareah, reports: "The market is somewhat easier; a considerable quantity of rice is returned unsold from Toorkeli hât; traders are bringing it from Purneah for sale, and its quality is superior to what it was last week. Prices from 8 to 10 seers." Mr. Craven, from Kishengunge, reports that the prices have risen owing to the difficulty of procuring carriage. From Kudbah I have received much more favorable reports. I have lately visited this locality and Saifgunge further south, and found the laborers on the relief works refuse the offer to purchase Government rice, saying they could get it cheaper at Haflagunge hât. At Saifgunge the following prices prevailed:—

	Per rupee.
Rice - - - - - -	10 seers.
Kalai - - - - - -	14 „
Kurthi - - - - - -	12 „
Potatoes - - - - - -	2 pice per seer.

There was plenty of rice which was being taken in exchange for mustard, one seer for two. At Chandpore hât the day before, I found about 80 maunds brought for sale. Nearly the whole of this comes up from Sahibgunge either viâ Carragolah or by other ferries. The Deputy Collector reports that at Barsoe the price is 9½ seers of 85 sicca weight, which is more than 10 seers, and that the laborers do not generally take Government rice. Mr. McQueen, Sub-Manager of Dhurrumpore, reported from the south-west of the district on the 9th: "I met carts bringing makai and cheena into the district for sale, and some carts from Purneah which had gone south and bought rice and dhan at 13 and 19½ seers." From Damdaha on the 18th, he reports that rice was selling at 11 and 12 seers per rupee (64 sicca weight). Near Dengrah Ghât prices have also fallen. I was there on the 13th instant and found that rice was at 10 seers, and that three boats laden with it had found their way up the Mohanadi. At Kusbah Amour, and in some of the neighbouring villages, the price is 8 seers and supply scarce. Government grain is being sold to laborers on the roads and to the poorer class of people in some villages where it is with difficulty procurable. The rubbee crops are everywhere good. Mr. Craven from Kishengunge reports: "Kauni is being sown everywhere and by nearly every cultivator, so that we may look for a very plentiful crop in 2½ months." About Kudbah the mustard is good, and more wheat and grain have been sown than I thought. The condition of the people when these very high prices prevailed was not so bad as might have been expected; of course the old, the lame, the blind, and the lepers suffered. Several deaths were reported, but on inquiry nearly all turned out to be cases in which the diseased had been laboring under some disease for some time past. The Kudbah Deputy Collector reports that he went to Bumseli, a village in Kudbah, where he heard there was much distress, and heard two children had died from starvation. One case was fictitious; in the other the family were in want. He took measures to relieve them. The class who are beginning to feel distress are the weavers, who are numerous near Kudbah. The means we are taking for relieving them will be noticed hereafter. Mr. Wyer has just returned from an inspection of some villages near Damdaha, where distress was reported by the police in a tract previously considered well off. He found the worst village was a place called Bela Champabati which lies on the extreme west of the distressed tract. Beyond this the people are very well off, and are paid 3 seers of dhan and ½ a seer of cooked food a day for breaking up land for cultivating waste tracts, and that by task-work they got Rs. 4 a beegah. Mr. J. Shillingford, a few miles farther south, at these high rates only got five or six men to break up land for him at this. The only people found badly off were the professional beggars, who always live by charity. These people were relieved. A number of these were found begging at a hât at which rice was being sold at 9⅗, kalai at 13½ seers, and cheena 10 seers for a rupee. The latter was being bought for seed. A relief road had been started in this neighbourhood, and Gopi Jha appointed to look after it. He paid the men 2 annas a day without exacting a due proportion of labour from them. Mr. Pyne had complained that coolies in his employment had left him to work on this road. Mr. Wyer ordered the daily rate to be reduced to 1½ annas, and next morning no one appeared to work at the reduced rates. This report of Mr. Wyer's is corroborated by Mr. McQueen, who states that the only persons who in this quarter will need help are the old and infirm, as grain and labour are both to be had in all the villages. Mr. Craven from Kishengunge reports kauni is being sown to an extent never known before. All the cultivating populations are busy on their lands, and the laborers seem to find occupation of some kind on their own villages. Mr. Rattray from Arrareah reports no cases of actual distress, but the people in his neighbourhood are coming more readily to work on the roads. The beldar population is more numerous in this sub-division than elsewhere. I have seen Arrareah men working at Kishengunge where not a man could be had from the neighbouring villages. Baboo Srinath Bhudder, in a diary of a visit to some villages near Dengrah, remarks that the mahajuns have, since the storing of the Government rice, become much more liberal, but that many fictitious reports of death by starvation are made to induce the Government to sell grain to the public. He was also told by many persons in Bulrampore that they would not go to work on the roads until the mustard crop, which is good, was out. During the past fortnight I have myself visited Arrareah, Kusba Amour, Dengrah, Kudbah, and Saifgunge, holding meetings of the people and going into villages. The only place where I have seen any distressed persons, not cripples or professional beggars, was Dengrah Ghât. I have found agricultural work going on in every village, ploughing, sowing, and mustard plucking; for the last-named work people are paid one seer for every seven plucked. A man can earn more than a seer a day, and as women and little children all work and their mustard is exchanged for rice, a family can gain a living by very light labor. The wild fruits—bael and byar and herbs, "chatna"—gathered by women and children in the fields also help the people considerably; they are brought into the hât for sale. The number of grain-thefts and robberies this fortnight amount to 26; two of these were thefts from the Government golahs; the value of property stolen was Rs. 239-7. Dacoities have not decreased, but a very clever arrest of a part of a gang by Mr. Rattray personally in the very act of robbery will, I hope, have a capital effect. Another capture has also been effected in the sudder sub-division.

The annexed statement furnished by the District Engineer shows the progress made on his works. The main north road has been completely surveyed; while making the survey the Assistant Engineer complained that he could not get labor at any price even for carrying his pegs. I have heard that work is wanted, however, and have passed orders for its commencement and huts to be built, as it is to this line that we propose to send all professional beldars. The roads on which rice is sold, owing to the high price in the hâts, are—

5. Toorkaile to Dengra ghât.

6. Dengra to Baplah Tajpore.

At road No. 7 the rate in the bazar is over 10 seers.

It is the same on No. 9, Kudbah and Barsoe road.

On 16, Purneah to Kudbah, where the laborers refused it when offered to them.

The payments are now regularly made, and arrangements for sending out money, &c., got into order. It is only by constant visits that abuses can be prevented. The rate of wages fixed by me is from Re. 1-12-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 per 1,000 cubic feet according to the nature of the soil. I have also authorised 6 annas per 100 cubic feet to be paid where the ground is very hard; it is nowhere so hard here, however, as in Dinagepore. The order that in no case shall a laborer be paid less than 1½ annas a day, when from inability to use a kodali or other cause he cannot earn more will ensure that every man shall get enough to eat.

Besides the works under the Public Works Department officers, the following have been opened:—

(1.) Under Mr. Rattray at Arrareah.

Road Matiari to Purneah, 611 laborers reported on February 19th.

Road Arrareah to Koorsakatta, 131 laborers.

All the men on the first-named road are professional beldars. Grain is being sold to them.

Two other roads have been made over to Mr. Rattray.

(2.) Under Baboo R. N. Chatterjee at Kudbah, on February 19th.

70 men, 6 women, and 2 girls. These were mostly village people, paid at 2 annas a day. I saw them at work, and the work they did was very light. I reduced their wages to 1½ annas.

(3). Under Gopi Jha at Bela Champabuti the following number of persons were engaged at 2 annas a day. They were all strong and able-bodied who had left their fields to work on the roads—

February 17th	7
„ 18th	36
„ 19th	65½
„ 20th	101½
„ 21st	151½

As I noted above, when the rate was reduced to 1½ annas they all left the work. I certainly think that care should be taken to avoid the evil complained of, both by Europeans and natives, of taking away laborers from their fields to the roads by offering too high wages.

(4.) At Belgachi, on a road worked through Kharshed Ali, putnidar, under Mr. Wyer, 64 men were engaged when he last visited the place.

(5.) In the town and in the roads leading from it, work has been commenced under the municipality. The laborers employed were as follows on February 20th:—

Bursowni road	130
Two tanks near Cutcherry	77
One tank Begum Deori	44
Leheripattee road	21
Total	272

Work is also going on under Mr. Cave and Mr. G. Shillingford, but neither of these gentlemen have let me know how many laborers they employ.

Taking the average number of laborers under Department of Public Works as 1,495, and excluding Gopi Jha's men, who refused the 1½ annas a day, the total number of laborers employed last week on relief works was 2,650.

The Department Public Works returns are only carried up to the 14th, and the numbers have since increased.

I have sent out many more Government tools, but as long as so many of the laborers are beldars they can easily get them for themselves.

Since writing the above I have received Mr. Cave's returns. He has a daily average of 32 men on the Gondwara and Sowragaddi road, and 6 on the Koari road.

W. KEMBLE.

C.

I have above mentioned that I estimate the amount of grain brought into Purneah town at 100 maunds a day; besides this, large quantities are brought in by small traders on pack-ponies and bullocks, and a little by boat; some has also come in from Julpigoree. From what I heard and saw at Saifgunge, I do not think that less than 300 maunds a day are brought in by baparies. I have engaged, at two annas per maund for 10 miles, 200 pack-ponies for carrying grain to Bulrampore and Barsoe golahs, but I am unwilling to take up much of this carriage, seeing how very useful it is for keeping up the supplies at the hâts.

By orders of Mr. Hankey the rate of remuneration to the cartmen has been raised; the merchants complain of this, but I do not think they have suffered any loss in carriage, and considering the enormous profits made by them, they can well afford to pay more to their carters. Mr. Mulock has engaged carpenters to mend carts, and has bought a supply of wheels which he is selling to the carters.

Up to date, in this fortnight we have carted from Carragolah 53,985 maunds, or 3,856 maunds a day on an average; after the Mohurrum more carts will certainly be procurable. The carts are nearly all engaged through contractors, who are paid two annas on the rupee, and all the men are working well. The rates are well known to all parties concerned. Fodder is stored at Kishengunge, Dengrah, Purneah, and Carragolah.

D.

No more new golahs have been selected except Khaja, where Mr. Crowe, an indigo planter, has given us room for 1,000 maunds. Nearly the whole of the grain carted from Carragolah this fortnight has been sent to Arrariah, Dengrah, or Kudbah, all places within three days' transit of Caragola. I can add nothing fresh regarding the custody-administration of the golahs.

Arrangements are in progress for building more storage room at Arrariah, Bahadurgunge, Bulrampore. The quantity of grain given out of the different golahs is:—

Kishengunge, 200 maunds for Relief Committee.
Arrariah, 36 maunds for roads.
Kusba Amour, 46 maunds, Department Public Works.
Dingra, 55 maunds Relief Committee.
Sudder, 34 maunds for Mr. Wyer's relief operations.
Mutiari, 140 maunds for Mr. Rattray's roads.
Kudba, 100 maunds for Relief Committees.

More has been indented for, but the receipts are not yet in.

E.

The advances made by me this fortnight for the purchase of grain have been large (Rs. 25,200); but I have reason to believe that it is in a great measure owing to these advances that the prices have fallen.

All the traders, without exception, to whom I early made advances have brought up their rice, and most of them have sold it and returned for a second trip. Following their example, and finding that Government had no intention of entering into competition with the trade, other cloth merchants, &c., and other respectable men have now left their proper line of business and turned grain merchants, and compete with the "Seoris," and keep prices down, instead of entering into league with them te keep them up. It will be seen that I have not largely advanced to petty traders; they make large and quick profits, and do not, as a rule, need an advance. I have only given two sums of Rs. 500 to zemindars to assist their ryots. I have not had many applications, and among those which I had I found that many were not bonâ fide. Great caution is needed in this matter.

Baboo Hem Chunder Rai, to whom I gave an advance last month, has expended his money well, and given me a clear account of it.

F.

The district relief committee have held three regular sittings and arranged for the supply of money and grain to the sub-divisional committees, and what measures are to be taken for home relief, &c.

Money and grain have been placed at the disposal of each sub-divisional relief committee.

Mr. Wyer at the Sudder has purchased 66 maunds of cotton at Rs. 20 a maund, and sent 27 maunds to Kudba, 9 maunds to Kanharia, 9 maunds to Mohenderpore, and 9 maunds to Belgachi, 3 maunds to Bishenpore; the rest is in hand. This will be distributed by the local committees.

Dr. Picachy at head-quarters has built three sheds for sick paupers, and Mr. Wyer has built a stone shed, nearly completed a workhouse, and built a relief shed in the city.

Dr. Picachy has only as yet had two inmates in his hospital.

To each sub-inspector of police Rs. 20 has been sent to relieve urgent cases. Grain for charitable distribution was sent to each sub-committee under the Sudder sub-divisional committee, who have also been furnished with Rs. 100 each as a permanent advance for building sheds, &c. Arrangements have been made for the erection of four large sleeping sheds near the worksheds.

Babu Rajani Nath Chatterjee, in charge of the Kudba sub-divisional committee, has also been active. He was supplied with 100 maunds of rice, and has built sheds at Kudba; he sent 10 maunds of grain to Syud Golam Reza, of Russulpore, 2 maunds to Chandpore, and 2 maunds to Bhumeli, in all which neighbourhood distress was said to be existing. He is making arrangements for opening a sort of hât where the raw material will be advanced to the weavers, who are numerous about here, and their manufactured cloth bought.

At Kusba Amour Baboo Srinath Bhadra had built sheds and formed local committees in the neighbourhood. The committees have arranged to distribute jute for the manufacture of rope to the fishermen caste, who are numerous. Srinath Bhadra had to be recalled to the station to take charge of the treasury from Mr. Walker, who has met with an accident, but Mr. Gouldsbury at Dingra is working relief operations in his place, and has opened a shed, and has distributed rice to some distressed villages where it was not procurable. He has relieved a number of poor cripples and others from the neighbouring villages. Baboo Hem Chunder Ray, a native gentleman who has all along shown himself most ready to do all in his power to help us, has been requested to go to Kusba Amour and superintend the relief operations till further arrangement can be made. Most of the grain advanced to Arrareah has been expended on relief roads, but a supply of both money and grain has been sent to each sub-committee, and Mr. Gouldbroke, of Lallpore, has taken an advance of Rs. 500 from the district committee with which he purposes to buy grain for sale at cost price to the people in distress near him.

At Kishengunge Mr. Craven finds his sub-committees less ready to assist than they are in every other part of the district. Bahadurgunge is the only part of the sub-division from which any bad reports have yet come here. Roads are available, and I have sent up Mr. Bertelson with money and grain to open relief operations at once.

In Kishengunge there is not a single European to help us.

I have during the fortnight met relief committees at Arrareah, Kusba, Amour, Dingra, Kudba, Russulpore, and Saifgunge. The object and intention of Government, and the duties of committees, have been explained.

Dated Camp Baris, Rajmehal Daman, the 24th February 1874.

From J. BOXWELL, ESQ., Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Pergunnahs, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit a narrative for the fortnight ending Sunday, 23rd February 1874.

A.

1. It is not very easy to give very definite information about the supplies in the bazar. Our population does not divide readily into purchasing and non-purchasing jâts. The numbers of different jâts are comparatively few. It is nearly true that some of all jâts do nearly everything; among other things, cultivate. It is also a fact that poor people buy food from their better-off neighbours a little cheaper than they can in the bazars. Supplies have nowhere run short, except for a day or two in Rajmehal. As has been reported, prices ran up to 8 seers of rice for a rupee, and it was said that rice was not to be had. I have heard two accounts of the matter, either an import or a threat of import brought prices down to 11 immediately.

I shall have more to say on the food-supply under B.

2. The last return of Rajmehal market was—

	Wheat. Seers.	Barley. Seers.	Best rice. Seers.	Common. Seers.	Millet. Seers.	Makai. Seers.	Gram. Seers.
Rajmehal -	12	0	9	10	13	13½	12
Sahebgunge -	13¼	16	9	10	15	15	13
Barhait -	11	0	9	10	12	16	12
Bario -	12	0	9	10	12	15	12

To-day the rates in Bario are—

Rice. Seers.	Bajra. Seers.	Makai. Seers.	Kesari. Seers.	Maskalai. Seers.	Rahar. Seers.	But. Seers.
10	16	15	13	10	9	10

In Godda the rates are about the same. In Deogurh they are lower. I have not heard from Dumka.

3. In Sahebgunge the traders are said to have plenty of rice stored, but I do not know what quantity. As usual I must report that without close search we cannot find out the quantity of grain in store. We have been told not to make close search, and guesses are no use. I know one manjhi who has about 400 maunds of rice stored in his bari.

4. Yesterday it drizzled the whole afternoon. To day is clear, bright and windy.

From Godda to Peerpointee, and yesterday and to-day in the north Rajmehal Daman, I have been able to see something of the crops.

Through a good deal of Manihari there is very fair rahar and wheat, some flax and a little kesari. The tone of the people is hopeful. Close north of Godda the country is very bare. Everywhere the rubbee that is on the ground is doing pretty well, but there is very little of it. The country varies a good deal. There is more rubbee north than south of Barkop in Godda. In this valley of Bario there is very little to be seen of any kind of crop; and the signs of past crops are poor. The people are hard at work ploughing for cultivation and bandhs.

Everywhere they look healthy and strong. There is a good deal of small-pox in Godda, but the people who appear are in good condition.

No known case of starvation or misery has been reported.

Grain-thefts are small and not very frequent.

No one tract deserves special notice.

B.

1. Dumka and Jamtara road, 40 miles.—Of this 38½ miles have been surveyed, sectioned, and staked out. Work has probably been opened, but not so reported yet.

2. Katikund to Amarapara, 19 miles.—Of this two miles have been staked out.

3. Jarmundi to Deogurh, 26 miles.—Of this 20 miles have been surveyed, sectioned, and staked out.

4. Hansdiha to Godda.—Nothing done.

5. Godda to Barahat, 34 miles.—Of this 12 miles have been staked out. Work was opened by me on the northern frontier on the 18th. Men are at work; I cannot tell how many.

6. Tin Pahar to Bario, 12 miles.—This is the most northern of our loop line feeders. It had been made partially, and work had been stopped, except repairs. It has now been found necessary to re-open and push on work on it, as it leads into the middle of the Rajmehal Daman, where distress was feared. Counting old repairs and new work, there are 400 persons of all classes at work on it. The road is a difficult one. The highest point is 1,200 feet above the sea, while the two ends are about 800 and 900. It has been well laid out over the hill, will be a good road in a month, open for wheel traffic in a fortnight, and I could drive it now. Carts have passed over it all.

7. Bario to Pratappar, 21 miles.—This is a continuation of No. 6; 11 miles have been surveyed, and sectioned; work will be opened immediately. It joins No. 5 at Pratappur.

8. Barhait to Sahebgunge viâ Bario.—This work is an improvement of an old road. Between Barhait and Bario 150 people are reported at work, and 200 between Bario and Sahebgunge. The numbers vary very much from day to day.

9. Modhupur to Patrol.—Nothing done.

This is a chord-line feeder, likely to be useful.

10. Bhaugulpore and Soory road, south of Dumka, 26 miles.—Metal is being collected, formerly by petty contract, now by task-work.

11. Kendua road.—Repairs going on.

12. Repairs to Bhaugulpore and Soory road going on. Nearly finished. Material for bridge repairs being collected.

13. Repairs to Bahawa and Barhit road, 13 miles.—Forty-five people at work; will be open for carts in six weeks with temporary bridges. Can be driven now.

14. Moradoy and Amarahara, 20 miles.—Repairs all but completed.

15. Pakam and Hiranpur road, 12 miles.—Repairs nearly completed. Six miles in full working order. Carts travel the whole distance now. Bridges will be up before the rains.

All our other road-works are classed as petty repairs. I need not dwell on them.

Roads Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 14 form a complete system. They are just now three roads:—

I.—Bahawa and Sahebgunge junction, Nos. 8 and 14, running through the middle of the north Rajmahal Daman between two stations of the loop line, East Indian Railway.

II.—Hansdia on the Bhaugulpore and Soory road to Peerpointee railway station in the Bhaugulpore district viâ Godda; about 50 miles north and south through the Godda sub-division, Nos. 4 and 5, with a Peerpointee continuation in Bhaugulpore.

III.—A cross line from Tin Pahar railway station viâ Bario, joining II. at Pratappur.

More than 800 persons are at work now on these roads.

They will always be of very great use, and they run where they will do the greatest amount of good in the present strait. Work can be indefinitely increased on them.

The supply of food has run short nowhere, but the price of rice is very high, about 10 seers everywhere. Laborers are chiefly Bagdi, Jola, or Musalman, weavers, the karigars of the east, Ghatwal, a sort of degenerate Rajput, and Sonthals.

Up to this they are living on their own stores mainly. They have not been driven to the bazaars for their daily food. Very little food-buying or selling is done in the bazaars, so much so that my camp does far the greater share of the buying wherever it is.

The laborers are looking well; but grumbling at the low rates of pay, 1 anna for women and 1½ anna for men.

On the Tin Pahar and Bario road Government supplies tools. On the Sahebgunge road the laborers supply their own. Everywhere we make them bring their own tools as much as possible, but on the Tin Pahar road we have to supply picks and crowbars.

In addition to roads, tanks, and bandhs are being projected and made.

In the 3rd week in January five bandhs, in places chosen by me, had been begun by the Daman Sonthals, and small sums of money paid to them as encouragement.

They had been too busy with their harvest and subsequent feasts to do much work; but they had made a good beginning, and promised to work during the following three months.

These five bandhs will be useful works, though not of a size to require professional superintendence. The district engineer has surveyed for me and is estimating a bandh in the south Daman, which will hold a very large quantity of water, and being on a high level irrigate the lands of eight or ten villages. Its catchment basin is 12 square miles. The ground is very unusually favorable for a great work.

C.

We have nothing to do yet with transport of grain for ourselves. The grain leaving Rajmehal for the northern districts is under special care.

Our means of transport, I expect, to be sufficient when we want them. Our worst tract, the north of Godda and Rajmehal, lies inside a crescent of hills, round the outside of which the loop line runs. A circle of 20 miles radius would include it all; and the railway would be a quadrant of the circle. The roads were described under relief works B. We shall work with carts, bullocks, and buffaloes from Bahawa, Tin Pahar, or Taljhari, and Pirpointee, and with bullocks and coolies from Sahebgunge, if the hill is found bad for carts, as indeed may be assumed at once.

I intend asking to have rice deposited and stored at Taljhari as well as Tin Pahar.

D.

We have chosen sites for storage of grain at Pakour, Patna close to Bahawa, Tin Pahar, Taljhari, Barhait, and Bario, for Rajmahal, and in Pirpointee, Belbadda, Barkoss, and Godda, for Godda.

There is nothing else to report under this head.

E.

No new payments have been made. For want of officers progress is delayed in investigating ryot's projects. One new zemindar and a few ryots have applied for advances.

F.

Nothing.

Enclosure No. 5.

RESOLUTION.

Scarcity and Relief Department.

Read— Calcutta, the 28th February 1874.

The narratives from the districts of the Rajshahye division for the fortnight ending 21st February 1874.

1. *Moorshedabad.*—The average price of common rice in this district is said to be 11¾ seers per rupee. Supplies come freely to the bazars, and export seems brisk and general; while imports are at the same time coming in in other parts of the district. The cold weather crop is expected to be good. The Collector remarks that the general condition of the people is not such as to "cause anxiety that the worst may befal." There is a great demand for work in places; but charitable relief will probably only be required for the helpless and infirm. The relief committees have been organised in all the sub-divisions save Rampore Haut, and are dealing with such cases, while over 3,562 laborers already find employment on roads and tanks. The demand for advances for land improvement in this district is by no means so brisk as in the Burdwan division. The donations for charitable relief have amounted, however, now to about Rs. 30,000, besides monthly subscriptions aggregating Rs. 450. This district has always been remarkable for the liberal and efficient way in which want has been met by private funds and private efforts, and the Lieutenant-Governor does not doubt that it will be so on the present occasion. The Rampore Haut relief committee was just about to be formed, which would make the arrangements of the district very complete.

2. *Rajshahye.*—It is satisfactory to notice that imports of grain to this district from the east are increasing, and that on the whole, no very general distress is now anticipated. The Collector believes that private imports will supply all the needs of the district, save those of the railway laborers. The relief committees will search out and deal with isolated cases of distress. The daily average number of laborers on relief works have slightly risen, being 465 for the last week of the fortnight. The proposed opening of village roads is a measure likely to prove very useful in bringing work near to the homes of the people needing it. As regards transport of Government grain, the despatches from Godagaree have lately been raised to 3,590 maunds a day, and the Collector hopes next week to send over [illegible],000 maunds daily. Between the water and the land routes the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that the despatches from Godagaree should be still farther considerably increased. The despatches from the other

store-houses should certainly be largely increased. The receipts and despatches from the several store-houses were for the fortnight,—

	Received. Mds.	Despatched. Mds.
Beauleah - - - -	8,000	5,514
Godagaree - - - -	23,688	46,672
Nowgong - - - -	6,824	3,922
Sahebgunge - - - -	1,516	1,516

3. *Maldah.*—Supplies are plentiful in the chief markets. Save in Gajole and the north-west tract (where the rate is 10 and 10½ seers), rice is selling at 12 to 13¾ seers a rupee. Crops on the ground are doing well. The boro dhan is estimated to yield about 200,000 maunds for the whole district. No starvation is yet heard of. In the Khurbah thannah the Chunchal estate manager is advancing rice to his own tenants and selling to outsiders, while the relief works are freely resorted to by about 2,019 laborers daily. The question of transport in this district and in Rajshahye has been separately dealt with. Up to the end of the fortnight 104,990 maunds had been received in Maldah, of which 89,707 maunds had been sent on to Dinagepore, while 15,282 were stored. The charitable relief arrangements are well advanced, but the amount subscribed is as yet small, only Rs. 4,338. Up to the end of the fortnight 5,006 persons had received charitable relief at seven centres opened in the specially distressed tract, or an average of 357 daily during the fortnight.

4. The *Dinagepore* report is clear and good and on the whole reassuring. The late rain and the importation of Government grain have brought stocks more freely into the market, and prices are lower. The rate is put at 12½ seers per rupee in Dinagepore itself. But the price-current in the *Gazette* gave 14 seers. Perhaps the narrative refers to some local seer, but this ought to be explained. The tracts that had some crop are sending grain into those that were more distressed. But there is much truth in what the Collector says, that the matter requires close watching, lest, prices being kept low by the existence of Government stores, the surplus stock of the district should all be used up unawares. The remarks made by Mr. Lowis on the difficulties of relief work management are very sensible and good. The numbers at work are given at about 25,000 persons. Kodalies must be at once indented for if there is any want of these. Colonel Nicolls will be requested to see at once that the supply is sufficient. The Lieutenant-Governor notices with satisfaction that in this district very much relief work is going on without any large staff of public works overseers. The three men of this class now in Dinagepore employ only about 2,000 coolies between them, all the rest being under civil officers. It is most important that cultivators should not be prevented from looking after their fields by the necessity of constantly laboring on the works. The Collector's plan of getting relief committees to pick out and assist men in such circumstances is excellent. The Collector must take care to secure a permanent right of use for the public in the tanks on which Government money is spent. As regards transport arrangements, the Lieutenant-Governor has passed separate orders. He hopes every one concerned will do his very utmost in this matter. Judging from Mr. Lowis's statement, there seems every prospect of all that is required being done. Mr. Robinson must take steps to have the grain properly looked after in transit if the two-maund bags arrive sometimes 15 or 20 seers short as is stated. A responsible chalander must accompany each convoy. For charitable relief Rs. 11,000 have been collected. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to hear that the munduls and well-to-do ryots of Tamboolee are coming forward and taking an active interest in the relief of the poor, and in getting home work for the women. His Honor also recognizes with pleasure the liberal conduct of those zemindars who have given up the land free of charge for relief roads, &c. The acknowledgments of Government may be conveyed to them.

5. *Rungpore.*—Prices in this district are now ruling very high, averaging Rs. 4 per maund, and rising as high as Rs. 4-8. But a local 90-tolah seer is mentioned. It is not clear whether the rate does not refer to a large weight. This should always be made clear. The condition of the people is said to be "certainly much worse," while general distress has disclosed itself in many places. Sales of women, children, bullocks, ploughs, and ornaments are reported by the Police Inspector from the south of Mahigunj (a wife was sold for Rs. 10); though the Collector himself found but few applicants for relief at the two relief centres already opened in this tract. Two more are to be opened at once, and a road is being laid out. Similar reports of distress are noted from Meetapukhar, Sadullapore, Kamdiar, and elsewhere. It is strange, however, that if distress is so severe and general in this part of Rungpore, only 2,068 persons are on relief works. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the supervision and arrangements for payment, which were very defective, as Mr. Robinson discovered, have been put on a proper footing. Rice is now to be sold on Government account at Rs. 3-12 a maund, the Saigon rice at cheaper rates. The limit of 10 seers of 80 tolahs per rupee should be attended to. Crowds of ryots are said to attend the courts, asking for advances; but the Collector reports many to be persons in good circumstances, and no advances seem to have been actually made to any but zemindars, and to them only Rs. 11,100 have been given up to date. The Lieutenant-Governor trust that the Collector will now give full and proper effect to the orders passed on this subject which seem especially applicable to Rungpore. Charitable relief is given to 1,146 persons at nine centres, from which returns had been received. Private persons are also relieving large numbers. Local subscriptions amount only to Rs. 9,935. With reference to the grave and alarming nature of the Magistrate's report of the condition of this district, the Lieutenant-Governor requests that Mr. Robinson, who has so lately returned from Rungpore,

will examine the statements made in this narrative very particularly, and give his opinion whether things are really worse than was expected, and whether any additional measures, additional establishments, or other precautions are required. If so, anything that is necessary may be commenced in anticipation of sanction. It should be made quite certain that the relief works and other arrangements are efficiently managed. Mr. Molony's opinion is also invited.

6. *Bograh.*—The state of things in Bograh continues much the same. Supplies are sufficient. No part is in a critical state as yet. 2,810 persons are on relief works. The Collector begs that the last allotment of 25,000 maunds of Government rice may not be sent him, as it will not be wanted. The Relief Commissioner should report on this. No regular charitable relief has been required as yet.

7. Each narrative should contain a clear statement not only of the daily average number of laborers on all relief works, but of the daily average number receiving charitable relief.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1133—S.R.

COPY forwarded for information and guidance to the Commissioner and Relief Commissioner of Rajshahye and the district officers concerned; and to Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore.

No. 1133½—S.R.

COPY forwarded to the Department of Public Works, with copy of narratives with special reference to paragraph 4.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. MACKENZIE,
Calcutta, 28th February 1874. Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

NARRATIVE of Scarcity and Relief in the Moorshedabad District for the Fortnight ending Saturday, the 21st February 1874.

(A).—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

1. Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazar.

On the whole the bazar is at present well supplied. The partial scarcity of food-grains in some parts of the head-quarter's sub-division noticed in the last narrative has ceased, and the chief bazars and hâts are reported to be supplied with sufficient stock for the daily wants of the people. The improvement of prospects caused by the late rainfalls has probably led to the bringing of more rice to the markets than before.

2. Kind and price of grain selling at one or more specified principal marts.

The average price of common rice, taking the 12 principal marts of the Sudder sub-division is reported to be 11¾ seers per rupee, which is slightly dearer than in the preceding fortnight, but it is said that prices are easier in the interior than near the town of Berhampore. The highest rate is at Khagrach (Berhampore), where the price is 11½ seers per rupee, and the lowest at Teakata (Nowadah), where it is 15 seers per rupee. From the way in which rice is sold by petty dealers, who raise or lower the rates according to the amount of their stock, prices must fluctuate very much. In the Lalbag sub-division, rice is selling at 11 seers per rupee in the city, but the price is a little lower in the interior. In the Jangipur sub-division, the price of "bhadoi" rice is 12 seers and the prices of new hoimonto rice range from 10½ to 12¾ per rupee, the former rate prevailing in thannah Sooty. In the Rampore hât suh-divlsion, the prices range between 13¼ to 11¼ seers per rupee. Wheat is selling at 15 seers at Teakata, in thannah Nowadah, and grain at an average of a little over 15 seers per rupee in three of the principal marts of the Sudder sub-division. The price of grain appears very high at Rampore Haut, where it is 11½ seers, but it sells at 13½ seers in thannahs Nulhattee and Khangram. The quantity of grain grown in this part of the district is less this year than in ordinary years, and is always small.

3. Any information obtained regarding the amount and kind of grain believed to be in stock in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others.

The stock of food-grains in the hands of zemindars, mahajuns, and others, cannot well be estimated just now, as a great deal is reported to have been given out to the ryots on loan, in consequence of the more favorable prospects for cultivation of the autumn and winter crops since the rain, and some of the rubbee crops, such as peas and oil-seeds (of which one at least, til, is used to a certain extent for food) are being gathered. The sub-divisional officer of Lalbagh reports that his opinion remains the same as before regarding the stock of grain in the hands of ryots, &c. While lately he was in camp along the Azimgunge and Nulhattee line of railway, he daily met strings of carts laden with paddy which had been purchased from the ryots in the Nulhattee thannah, and believes that in nearly every village in the "Rash" country, the ryots have stores of paddy which sooner or later they will be induced to sell. Little or no rice is now being imported from Calcutta. On the contrary, the mahajuns of Baloochur and Azimgunge are now exporting the stores of rice which they had laid in, and hence arises, it is believed, the increase of price in that sub-division. This rice is being exported principally to Colgong and Sahebgunge. This has been ascertained by the sub-divisional officer personally examining the traffic registers at Azimgunge. The exports are, however, not large at present, but it is feared this is only the beginning of the end, and that eventually much of the large stores of rice at Baloochur and Azimgunge will be exported. Kullye is being largely exported from this sub-division. It is reported by the sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut, that there is a very small quantity of rice and other grains in the hands of zemindars, traders, and ryots, of this sub-division. In thannah Pulsah, the small quantity of grain remaining in the hands of the people is now being exported to other parts of the country. I have some doubts as to the accuracy of the surmises of the sub-divisional officer on this subject. The stocks are probably less in thannah Pulsah than in the other thannahs of the sub-division, and yet export is still going on from thence. A few days ago I came across a number of carts conveying paddy purchased at Bhuddurpore, a large village in Rampore Haut to Bhugwangollah, near the Ganges.

Rainfall, if any.—In the Sudder sub-division a little rain fell on the 13th, 14th, and 16th instant at Nowada, Soojagunge, and Gowas respectively; it was not sufficient to do much harm to the rubbee crops, which are being gathered. In the Lalbag sub-division on the night of the 13th there was a slight storm, and 0·12 inches of rain fell at the head-quarters of the sub-division. In the Jangipore sub-division nearly half-an-inch of rain fell during the fortnight. The sub-divisional officer reports that the rain has done some damage to gathered crops in unsheltered spots, but this is more than counterbalanced by the immense good which it has done to the cold weather crops on the ground generally. Of barley he expects a splendid harvest; of wheat an average one; of gram one rather below the average. In the Rampore Haut sub-division there has been sufficient rainfall during the fortnight under report, and the state of the crops has much improved in consequence.

STATE OF THE CROPS.

5. The crops are still in the fields; the cultivation of boro dhan is being vigorously carried on. From information received from all the police stations regarding the cultivation of this crop, it appears that the cultivation, never very extensive in this district, is in places larger than in ordinary years, but that in others, owing to the drying up of bheels, no cultivation of it has been practicable. I have seen that advantage has been taken of all places such as the edges of extensive tanks, for the cultivation of this crop in parts in which in ordinary years such cultivation would not be thought of. The prospects of the crop are on the whole fair up to the present time, the recent rain having been of great service to the young plants, and the estimated out-turn is put down at from three to four maunds per beegah, but this is very uncertain, and depends altogether on the weather between this and the ripening of the grain. On a rough estimate it has been ascertained that about 2,965 beegahs of land have been cultivated for this crop throughout the district. The manufacture of sugar from the cane continues, and the price of molasses has fallen from Rs. 5 to Rs. 4 per maund pucca weight. The ryots are engaged in ploughing and preparing their fields for the next rice crops. The sub-divisional officer of Lalbag reports that he has just been camping over the "dearah" lands of thannah Bhadrihât, where he has seen very fine crops of wheat, gram, moshuri, and peas, and some splendid mulberry. The cold weather crops are equally good in thannah Bhugwangolah. In Bhadrihât (only the "dearah" lands of this thannah are sown with cold weather crops) the out-turn will be at least a 12-anna one. The out-turn of the cold weather crops in the rest of this sub-division will be the sub-divisional officer thinks, taking good and bad, 7 annas. I was with the sub-divisional officer part of the time, and can confirm his favorable account of the crops in the "dearah" lands.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

6. There is little change to report in the condition of the people, except that the laboring classes have been better supplied with work in cultivating the ground. The high price of rice is no doubt pressing heavily on the condition of the poor, as well as on the middle classes of people, and especially on the old, infirm, and diseased persons. In the Jungipore sub-division, the people of thannahs Sooty, Mirzapore, and part of thannah Roghunathgunge, are still continuing the consumption of maskolai and motor bread. The sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut reports that the condition of the people is not generally good. In some parts of thannah Khargram, scarcity is said to have been felt to a certain extent. From what I have observed, however, the general condition of the people is not as yet such as to cause anxiety that the worst may befal. There is a great demand for labor in some parts of the district, and there is reason to believe that this demand will continue to increase. It is only, however, for the poorest, for professional beggars, for those incapacitated on account of infirmity or age from work, and for females and children, that any anxiety need be felt at the present juncture; and though, as I have remarked in former narratives, the private charity which in ordinary years conduces to the support of these classes is very deficient this year; the branch relief committees established in many places in the district should be able to provide relief in such cases.

7. Actual facts as to any known cases of misery and starvation.

As yet but a very few cases have come to notice, and these have related to the old, infirm, and diseased among professional beggars, who cannot go out of their hovels, and relief, as a rule, has been confined to them. The sub-divisional officer of Lalbagh reports that no cases of actual misery or starvation have come to his knowledge. While lately he was on tour through

Bhagrihât thannah he came across one man to whom he thought it necessary to give gratuitous relief. He states that relief works in hand give plenty of employment. The sub-divisional officer of Jungipore reports that a few cases of individual distress have come to his notice, and have been relieved by the sub-divisional relief committee out of the subscriptions. The sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut reports that no case of actual starvation has yet come to his notice.

GRAIN-THEFTS OR ROBBERIES.

8. Nineteen cases of grain-theft were reported in the Sudder sub-division which is an increase of eleven over the previous fortnight; they were however all petty cases. The sub-divisional officers of Lalbagh and Jungipore report of no grain-thefts in their sub-divisions. Six cases of grain-theft have occurred in the Rampore Haut sub-division. A statement of dacoities, &c., is annexed.

CONDITION OF ANY SPECIAL TRACTS.

9. There is nothing in the condition of any special tract calling for special mention. In the Lalbagh sub-division small-pox still prevails in the city but it is not of a virulent type.

(B).—RELIEF WORKS.

Panchgram Road.—About 500 coolies have been employed on this road daily. The road across the bheel is now in twelve feet embankment, and the earth very hard to cut. The Executive Engineer found it necessary on his last inspection to raise the rate from 1-9 per 100 cubic feet to 3 annas, as about one-third of the men were unable to earn a fair day's wage. Kodalees are supplied to the men; they are generally in good condition, but complain of being unable to purchase rice at the bazar. Rice is selling at 12 seers per rupee, but it cannot be had in any quantity. The demand for labor is increasing slightly but not to any great extent. I inspected this road with the Executive Engineer on Friday last, and believe that the complaint of difficulty in procuring a sufficient quantity of rice is well founded. I shall propose storage of grain here, and have caused inquiry to be made as to a suitable place for storage.

Kandi Road.—About 120 coolies are employed daily on this road. The men work at a task-work rate of 2-6 per 100 cubic feet; they are generally in good condition; a few old men came to the work, who were unable to execute the task-work; they were allowed to dress the earth-work and paid a daily wage of 1-6. The men bring their own tools and are easily able to obtain their food. The late rains have given work to ordinary cultivators and thus stopped to a certain extent the demand for labor.

Radhaghat Road.—About 180 coolies are now employed daily on this road; the men mostly bring their own tools, are in good condition, and can obtain rice without difficulty. The number of men employed has increased a little since last report, but there does not appear to be a great demand for labor.

Jangipore to Khamra Road.—Between 20 and 30 men are now only employed on this road; the reduction is probably caused by the cultivators having found employment in ploughing their fields since the late rain; the men are in good condition, can obtain food easily, and work at the task-work rate of 2-6 per hundred cubic feet.

Dewanserai to Jeagunge Road.—About 70 men are employed daily on this road; they are in good condition, bring their own tools, work at the task-work rate of 2-6 per 100 cubic feet and can obtain food without difficulty. There does not appear to be any further demand for labor.

Kishnaghur Road.—About 80 men have been employed daily on this road; the number is decreasing slightly, probably on account of the late rains. They can obtain food easily, bring their own tools, and are in good condition.

Joroor and Nowadah Road.—From 800 to 1,000 men have been employed daily on this road; the number fell immediately after the rain, but has since risen to 1,000. There is a demand for labor in this part of the district. The men cannot obtain rice easily, it is not to be had in the villages in any quantity; they bring their own kodalies, are in good condition, and work at the task-work rate of 0-2-6 per 100 cubic feet. Recently there has been some delay in paying the men, owing to their increasing numbers, and to the fact that the sub-divisional officer of Jungipore has been unable to cash a cheque on account of want of funds, from the falling off of toll collections, by means of which his sub-treasury is chiefly replenished. Money will be specially sent ont from this treasury. It will be necessary to store rice at Nowada, as there is heavy work to be done in its vicinity, and a building is now in course of erection.

Hurriharparah Road.—Work was commenced on this road on the 12th instant, in consequence of the reported distress at Hurriharparah. From 400 to 450 men are employed daily; they are in good condition, are paid at the rate of 0-2-6 per 100 cubic feet, and bring their own tools. The demand for labor is increasing. The men are at present able to obtain rice, but it is stated that there is not more than a month's supply there.

Jellinghee Road.—About 40 coolies are employed daily on this road. There is no difficulty in procuring food. The men are in good condition; they work by task-work, and bring their own tools. The demand for labor is not increasing.

Jellinghee and Barromasia Road.—Mr. Lang reports that 42 is the average number of laborers employed. There is no difficulty in procuring food. The men are in good condition, bring their own tools, and work by task-work. The demand for labor is increasing.

Katlamaree and Akbirgunge Road.—Mr. Rogers, of the former place, reports that work has just been commenced, and that nearly 50 persons are employed on this road. There will be great demand for labor here, and in the east of the district generally.

The Executive Engineer, Northern Railway Division, has commenced the work of clearing the embankments about Bhugwangolah. Since the 7th instant about 60 men have been employed on this work.

Work is going on on the Dewanserai tank under the supervision of the Rao of Lalgolah. About 650 men are employed in repairing roads near Lalgolah and the tank. Food is easily obtainable. The men bring their own tools.

A tank is being excavated at Bhoanipore, in thannah Bhugwangolah, under the supervision of Mr. Deverell, of Akbirgunge. There was great want of water and very much demand for labor. The cost was estimated at Rs. 601, of which Mr. Deverell has promised to raise Rs. 101 by private collection and a sum Rs. 150 has been paid out of the relief fund for this work; the remaining sum will be paid partly from the relief fund, and partly by Government giving one-third of the expense. The average daily number of men employed is 56 from the 12th to the 14th instant.

Work has commenced on the Gowas tank. The Moonsiff of Gowas has promised to raise a sum of Rs. 200 by local private subscriptions. Rs. 150 have been paid out of the relief fund for this work, and the manager of the Meshipore estate has paid in Rs. 300 at present called for out of Rs. 600, to be defrayed from the funds of the estate.

Work in the excavation of a tank at Katlamaree was commenced on the 17th instant. The number of men working on this tank on the above date was 17. Rs. 100 have been paid out of the relief fund for this work, and the Maharanee of Cossimbazar has contributed the sum of Rs. 150 on my request. I have requested Mr. Rogers of Katlamaree, who is superintending the work, to raise a sum of Rs. 100 for the purpose by private subscriptions.

The Commissioner has sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 175 from the funds of the Panchthoper estate to deepen two tanks in the villages of Dhanigram in Bhogobuttepore belonging to the above estate. The villagers are reported to be badly off for water, and are in distress for want of work. I hope these works will help to remove these difficulties. The cost for improving the tanks was estimated at Rs. 275, of which Rs. 175 have been sanctioned. The remaining sum of Rs. 100 I propose to pay out of the relief fund, and if after inspection the works appear to be of real public utility, recommendation will be made for a portion of the expense being borne by Government.

The Commissioner has also on my recommendation sanctioned the advance of Rs. 450 to the above estate for the improvement of two tanks in two villages belonging to it, and also Rs. 150 for the construction of an embankment. The improvement of the two tanks will remove the difficulty of scarcity of water at present felt by the villagers, and the intended embankment will save their mulberry lands from the annual inundation of the Mouruckhi river, and the estate will be saved from a loss of Rs. 200 per annum, which now results from the want of this embankment. As the condition of the estate is not such as to allow of the money being expended from the funds of the estate except to the detriment of the receipt of land revenue by Government during the current year, application will be made for advances under the Land Improvement Act.

The Magistrate-Collector of Beerbhoom was again addressed on the subject of the repairs of the Synthia road lying within the jurisdiction of his district, and the importance of this road was urged on account of the large amount of traffic along it, especially at the present time, and because people of his district have been seeking employment in this, whereas the number of distressed inhabitants of this district was large. In reply the Magistrate-Collector has informed me that the repairs of this road will be commenced at once, sanction having been obtained.

In the Lalbagh sub-division 97 extra coolies have been employed by the municipality during the fortnight on municipal relief works. Two tanks at Amaipara are being deepened. The excavation of the tank at Beliapukhur is just about to be begun, and the cost of excavating another tank at Ram Lall Akbara has been sanctioned. Up to the 19th Rs. 657-13 have been expended by the municipality on relief works of which Rs. 161-4-9 were expended during the fortnight under report up to the 19th instant. The municipal rate is Rs. 2 per 1,000 cubic feet of earth-work. Rs. 50 have been made over to the head constable of the Sagurdighee outpost out of the allotment from the district road fund for the village roads of this sub-division for the improvement of a tract from Sagurdighee to Maloncho. Baboo Kissen Chand Golecha of Azimgunge has started a relief work in the shape of a tank on his estate in thannah Bhudrihat. The sub-divisional officer personally saw men working on this tank.

In the Jangipore sub-division people are at work on the Mirzapore and Monigram road. The number of laborers on the 17th instant was 45, on the 18th, 136, and on the 19th, 115. The Bohotalli and Rajgaong road is nearly completed and the earth-work is being consolidated. On the 19th instant 10 laborers were at work.

The sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut is entirely silent as to relief works in his sub-division. Many of the laborers on the Juroor and Nowada road come from villages within his jurisdiction.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

There can be little doubt that private importation is still going on. Mr. Chardon, of Barromassia, in a letter informed that large boats had anchored at the mouth of the Jellinghee within three miles of Barromassia filled with paddy; the ryots were seen buying it at 21 seers (cutcha) per rupee, and that any quantity was available. Two special goods trains are being run on the Azimgunge and Nulhattee line to meet the increased demand of traffic on that line.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

There is nothing new to be noticed under this head during the fortnight under report, except that a place has been selected near Jellinghee for the landing of grain from steamers, and a report will be shortly submitted to the Commissioner.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

No money has yet been disbursed for the purchase of grain. In the case of the applicant wanting Rs. 10,000 for importation of grain to Azimgunge and Jeagunge and pergunnah Goree, in zillah Purneah, the Commissioner does not think it necessary that rice should be imported into the first named two places with Government assistance. Recommendation has been made to the Commissioner for the advance of Rs. 10,000, under clause *a*, paragraph 4, of Government circular No. 80, to Mr. Grahame, manager of the Aurungabad concern, who intends to purchase and store grain for the benefit of the ryots of the concern.

In one case in which the applicants wanted advance of money to carry on trade it was found that the application was made not for import, but for purchase in the district itself.

In three other cases of similar applications the applicants have been directed to execute and register bonds, and to act according to the conditions under which advances could be made.

The sub-divisional officer of Lalbag reports that some applications for advances for purchase of grain have been received, and that some of these applications were not bonâ fide. In two cases the registration of the necessary bond is being awaited,

With regard to the applications for advances for tank-digging and tank-improving, I have very little to say beyond what was stated in the last narrative. In some cases the production of registered bonds is awaited and in others inquiries are instituted.

It is my intention to utilize a portion of the relief fund money in the improvement of tanks, where such improvements are necessary, which will, in addition to supplying water, give employment to distressed people.

In the Lalbag sub-division no applications for land improvements have been made, though several zemindars have been addressed on the question of tank-digging. The sub-divisional officer intends to devote a portion of the money subscribed for relief in tank-digging, and in one case offered to help a zemindar whom he had addressed before on the subject of the excavation of a tank.

In the Jungipore sub-division advances to the amount of Rs. 1,450 have been made to five parties for the re-digging of tanks.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Sub-committees have been formed at the following places in the sudder sub-division:—

Gokum.
Kandhi.
Bharatpore.
Talibpore.
Saktipore.
Gowas.
Jellinghee.
Nobogram.
Hurreehurparah.
Beldangah.
Barromassia.
Kattamaree.

The jurisdictions of these several sub-committees have been fixed and defined; relief operations have actually commenced; 500 maunds of rice have been stored up at Kandhi, from which the relief centres of Gokum and Bharatpore will be supplied; 100 maunds of rice will also be sent by the relief committee to Gowas. This rice has been obtained from the Berhampore co-operative store, in which association the relief committee holds 100 shares. The secretary of the sub-relief committee at Hurhurparah has been authorized to try and store 200 maunds of dhan from a local trader who is selling off his stock.

The total sum raised up to the end of the fortnight under report on account of private subscriptions is shown under:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Donations - - - - - -	20,219	0	0
Monthly subscriptions - - - - -	403	0	0

Sub-committees have been formed at the head-quarters of all the sub-divisions. The Lalbag sub-divisional officer expects to get subscriptions to the amount over Rs. 4,000 in his sub-division.

The total sum raised on account of subscriptions in the Jungipore sub-division is noted below:

	RS.	A.	P.
Donations - - - - - -	702	0	0
Subscriptions - - - - - -	54	8	0

Cases of distress have been relieved out of these subscriptions.

The sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut has not yet called a meeting and raised subscriptions, but has been requested to do so at once. As I hope to be at Rampore Haut on Thursday next, I have directed that the meeting be held on that day. Rs. 100 have, however, been sent to him from the district relief fund. He reports that out of this sum, Rs. 60 have been sent out to the sub-inspectors of Khargram, Nulhatee, and Rampore Haut to relieve cases of distress. When at Rampore Haut I shall see about the formation of branch committees where necessary.

No. 156—S.R., dated Dinagepore, the 23rd February 1874.

From E. E. Lowis, Esq., Officiating Magistrate, Dinagepore, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I have the honor to submit my narrative for the fortnight ending 23rd February:—

A.—STATE OF COUNTRY.

Since I last wrote we have enjoyed some most acceptable showers, which came at a most opportune time, and, as a consequence, prospects appear much more hopeful than they did a short time ago. The people thoroughly appreciate the efforts being made to alleviate distress, and are more cheerful about the future, in some places even sanguine enough to hope that the prices will not rise much above present rates. The report that Government has imported some, and is importing more rice, has tended to restore confidence; it has also had the effect of inducing those who have grain to sell it, which feeling has further been strengthened by the recent fall of rain. Before the rain came, many who had rice were afraid to sell, in case another scanty Bhadoi crop should find them unprovided. Rain in the month of Magh, however, being looked on as a certain sign of a good early, as well as late, crop of rice, these men are now parting with their surplus more readily. That the report of Government importation, coupled with the expenditure of money on relief works, has had the effect of lowering prices by attracting more rice into the market cannot be disputed. In Ghoraghat thannah, when I visited it in the end of January, rice was procurable with difficulty; not a grain of new rice was in the market, the supplies being drawn from last year's stock in store at Hillee and Birampore. I wrote at once and asked for 10,000 maunds of rice, and at the same time took measures to open relief works; the result is that rates have fallen from Rs. 3–10 per maund to Rs. 3–2, and new rice has, as I hoped it would do, begun to come in from Nowabgunge, where there has been some crop; some small amount has also been brought in by boat from some neighbouring district. The good done by our expenditure on relief works is incalculable; as I pointed out in my last report, there is no lack of agency in the district for internal distribution, and the means to buy, afforded by our roads has caused the surplus of other parts of the district to flow into the distressed tract. The price of rice has fallen slightly in the town, the rate being now 12½ seers for the rupee, it continues much the same elsewhere. At Ranisonkol, Hemtabad, and Kaliagunge it is about Rs. 3-6 a maund of 80 tolahs; at Gangarampore and the hâts in that vicinity Rs. 3-2 to Rs. 3-5 per maund; at Patiram it continues steady at Rs. 3-2; and at Ghoraghat prices have fallen, as noted above to the same figure. The north-west of the district is still fed out of the surplus harvest of Thakoorgaon, Rajarampore, and Habra; Tamboobe and Gungarampore are fed from Patnitala and Chintamon; Patiram from Chintamon, Rajarampore and partly from Patnitala; Ghoraghat from Nowabgunge and the marts on the Jaboona. The above supplies are also supplemented by small supplies of local rice. Parts of Patnitala, it is true will require help, but it is a very large thannah with a large area of rice cultivation, and the southern portion having produced some rice is to a certain extent supplying other places. A brisk trade is going on to the north of the district, where good crops of oil-seed, pulses, &c., have been obtained as well as some rice. Throughout the district there is little crop on the ground except patches of wheat and barley and the bora rice; this latter crop has to a certain extent suffered from the cold weather experienced after the rain, and some of the earlier plantings are said to have died, the warm weather now setting in, however, will do good. The fact is, the ryots were so anxious to secure an early crop of bora that they commenced operations in some places rather too soon, considering that the cold this season has been unusually severe. From all I can gather, the rice brought for sale is almost entirely new; I have therefore requested my relief officers to enquire specially into this point and report to me, for with confidence restored by the existence of Government importation, and the ready sale obtained on relief works, the fear arises that those villagers who have rice may part with their stocks to such an extent as to endanger the success of next year's harvest, by reducing too far the seed reserve. In many tracts there has been no harvest at all, *i.e.* the ryots have obtained no return whatever from their fields at all, in others they have obtained very small returns which the pressure of want has probably compelled them ere this to consume. These men must obtain their supply of seed-grain from the surplus of the more favored tracts. Assuming then, as we do, that the produce of the favored tract is not sufficient to afford both food and seed for the whole population, a time must come when the market must be supplied with old rice, so that the distressed tract may not consume the whole surplus of the rest of the district, leaving no reserve for seed. Those who have surplus rice will continue to sell as long as they can find any one to buy, without troubling their heads what the purchasers do with it; and those who have no rice will, unless they are men of some substance, buy when they have the means to do so for their own daily consumption. The subject is one which appears to me of great importance, and I have drawn the attention of my relief officers to it, and will direct the attention of relief committees to the same subject. A little attention to local supplies and rates will enable the members of relief committees to ascertain if the stock of new rice for sale at the hâts is running out; when it is they should at once begin to sell from Government stores. The existence of Government stores, and the confidence inspired by their existence, may well tend to keep down prices, and unless attention is paid to the subject, the falling off of the supply may not at once be remarked. I hope the ryots will all be in a position to supply themselves with seed-grain, but the matter is not one that should be lost sight of.

B.—RELIEF WORK.

Our relief works are still progressing favorably and affording employment to thousands, and the manner in which all the officers in charge have labored to attract labor, and the tact with which they have managed their gangs, is deserving of praise. It may seem a simple thing to offer work to and to employ a distressed population on the roads, but in fact it is often a matter requiring some tact and method, as well as the expenditure of time and trouble. The men in the first place, when operations are begun, come to work under the "Sirkar" with some hesitation, and an impression that the work is very hard and the pay uncertain; then at first the men require daily, and above all things prompt payments. They soon find digging earth for roads not such very hard work and then they try to do as little as possible for their pay, and it is often difficult to say whether a man has been idling or whether he is really unable to do more; again, task-work is introduced, and much tact and patience is required to induce the coolies to undertake it. The work, it is true, requires the exercise of no great intelligence, but it does require energy, tact, and common sense to a considerable degree. Mr. Scanlan, in his roads in the vicinity of Ranisankoil, is employing about 2,000 persons a day; Mr. Jones, in and about Raigunge employs close on 7,000 a day; while Baboo Hurree Mohan, in the Gungarampore direction, had on the 15th, 8,332 persons at work. Mr. Finucane again has about 3,000 coolies under him, and the sub-inspector of Patnitola 2,558 more. In the Goraghat direction, Poorno Chunder Goopto has not long commenced relief operations, but his numbers, he reports, rose in the the course of the first week from 5 to 1,412, and had he been able to give out kodalees, he might have employed more. On all the works, with the exception of Goraghat, weekly payments have been introduced. There, as the coolies have not as yet been long enough at work to gain confidence, daily payments are at present necessary. Daily payments were at one time the rule and not the exception, but as the coolies acquired confidence, and were assured of punctual receipt of wages the practice was discontinued. The Public Works overseers are employed at three different points looking after work on three separate roads; the three employed among them about 2,000 men a day. As our coolies belong entirely to the agricultural classes and include numbers of ryots with small holdings, I have made inquiries how far the necessity of earning a livelihood by working on the public roads has debarred them from preparing their lands for the next early crop. I find that while some of them do manage to get away for a day or two to look after their cultivation, many of them cannot do so, as they cannot afford to lose the means of subsistence which the relief works afford them. It is a matter for regret that any of the area under cultivation for the next crop should be curtailed, but the loss now sustained is comparatively unimportant compared with the curtailment of the winter harvest, and the relief committees must be instructed to tender help either in money or grain to any ryot coolie who cannot otherwise leave the relief works to attend to his cultivation. This difficulty has been principally experienced in the Gungarampore circle, and the relief officer reports that there are a good many of his coolies in such a position. Care must be taken that these men get away at any rate to prepare for their winter crop. The relief operations have generally been carried on over old tracks where new land has been taken up; efforts have been made to induce the zemindars to give the land free of cost; the principal landholders have been appealed to by letter and urged, as a contribution towards the relief of their tenantry, to grant such lands free of cost. The zemindars noted in the margin have promptly responded to the call, and signified their intention of demanding no price for land required for relief purposes. I beg to bring the liberality of these gentlemen to the favorable notice of Government, and I trust that the example set by them will be followed by others. As I pointed out in my last report, the work in some divisions will soon be finished, notably in Gungarampore. When that occurs the attention of the relief officer will be turned to digging tanks or to some other useful work. With reference to the recent orders of Government on the subject, I may remark that I fear it will often be impossible to obtain help in the way of subscriptions from the villagers or zemindars, but there are many tanks that can be improved for the public benefit, being reservoirs for water that in a season like the last are useful for purposes of irrigation; in fact, many of the tanks, more especially in the Gungarampore division, were so utilised last season.

Moharanee Syam Mohinee, Baboo Radha Gobind Roy, Moonshee Mozhur Hossein Chowdry, Baboo Narayan Chunder Chowdry, Moonshee Mahomed Alee Khan, Mr. T. W. Tweedie on the part of Baboo Budhi Nath Chowdry, minor zemindar, Ameer Chand Chowdry, and Khetra Mohan Singh, and Baboo Krisna Gobind Chowdry.

C.—TRANSPORT.

Every effort is being made to secure sufficient carriage to bring in our large allotment; when I returned from tents I found efforts being made to collect carts through the police; this I at once stopped, for the employment of the police only leads to the people being needlessly harassed, without any good result accruing in the way of supplies being obtained. The village carters I know have the same unwillingness to take service under Government officials as they have to commence work on the Government roads. I therefore determined to try and get what I wanted through the zemindars. I accordingly sent letters to the principal zemindars, requesting them to use their influence in inducing their ryots to come forward, and at the same time to let it be known that I was prepared to pay liberally. I also sent a trustworthy official into the interior to try and obtain supplies through the mandals. The plan has so far answered very well, a good many carts have been collected, and but for the inopportune intervention of the Moharram festival, many more would doubtless have come in. I offered liberal rates to induce the men to come forward in numbers commensurate with my requirements, and also because I knew that to the north of the district, where distress does not prevail, there was a demand for carts; it was necessary therefore to offer liberal terms to induce those with good carts and bullocks to come forward. At the same time, I found that the rates must be uniform, so that the carriage might not be attracted from one line to another. Mr. Westmacott was the first to fix a rate at Rs. 1-6-6 per bag from Rajmehal. The Godagaree carters, again, were engaged at Rs. 7 for the trip; when they came here and found what the Rajmehal carriers were getting, they demanded to be put on that line; this of course could not be allowed, so I pacified them by allowing a rupee extra per cart for the trip, and a promise that the rate should be equalised. In order to secure uniformity, I have proposed to the Relief Commissioner that every cart carrying a ten-maund load should be paid for each trip at the rate of 20 rupees a month, a fixed average number of days being allowed for each journey. Supposing the average time occupied in traversing any one route to and fro to be twelve days, a carter bringing 10 maunds would be entitled to 8 rupees for each trip; taking a shorter time over the journey and bringing a heavier load being to their advantage, the carters will push on as fast as possible, and given the number of days required to traverse any route, it is not difficult to calculate how much each carter should be paid per trip bringing a load of 10 maunds. Carts are being, as I have said, collected and sent to different points,—about 800 have been sent to Mr. Westmacott. Trains of pack bullocks also are being organised; it is, however, difficult to estimate how much can be carried daily, for much of our carrying power is outside the district. Orders have been issued for the purchase of fodder on the different cart routes, and centres have been selected in consultation with the Relief Commissioner, where the officers lately deputed for service in this district will be posted. These gentlemen will superintend relief operations, they will also see to the supply of fodder, &c., for carts; houses for their accommodation will be put in hand at once. We have not yet established a daily service from Rajmehal, but that may partly be due to delay at Neemasarai crossing; I have, however, instructed Mr. Sneyd, who has been deputed there, to see that the number of landing stages is increased, that certain ghâts are kept for full, others for empty, carts; that separate roads are cut to the different ghâts, and that men are stationed to tell off the carts to their own ghâts and prevent confusion.

D.—STORAGE.

My maximum estimate of the requirements of the district in the way of grain has been recommended by the Relief Commissioner and accepted by the Government. The Commissioner proposed that the total amount should be allotted and brought into the district in a particular way. I had myself in the meantime considered the subject, and as I had made an allotment different from that proposed by Mr. Molony, but to my mind more suitable, I submitted my plan to the Special Commissioner with a note of the routes I proposed to follow. Mr. Robinson was pleased to approve of my scheme, and has, I believe, written to Government proposing its adoption. I have not seen Mr. Robinson's return, so I append a copy of what I propose doing. It will be observed that it has been determined to select certain centres as depôts for certain parts of the country, to mass our supplies in them, and to distribute hereafter throughout the district as occasion offers. Large golah accommodation will be provided at each depôt and sheds run up for the protection of rice which has been landed, but cannot immediately be sent off to the subsidiary golahs. Sheds at Old Maldah and Neemasarai have also been ordered, capable of containing 50,000 maunds each, for the protection of rice landed by boat for Raigunge and Dinagepore. I have had some difficulty in getting the store-keepers at those points of receipt not lying within my district to give me regular information of receipts on my account, but I hope by supplying them with printed slips, which will only necessitate the filling in of a few figures, to ensure greater punctuality for the future. I have had to draw the attention of the Special Commissioner to the enormous wastage that occurs during transit, some of the two-maund bags arriving 15 to 20 seers short. I am inclined to think that pilfering goes on at the store-houses or on board the steamer; some of the bags are so carefully done up again as to leave no sign of having been opened—such skilful manipulation could not be managed in the hurry of a cart journey. I may add that to ensure direct communication with Godagaree, I have suggested the opening of a temporary dâk line between Parsha in this district where there is a branch post office and Godagaree thannah where there must at least be a zemindari dâk extra establishment.

E.—ADVANCES.

Full publicity has been given to the offer on the part of Government to advance money to zemindars, but there seems no alacrity on the part of the latter in availing themselves of the offer. In two or three cases zemindars have expressed their willingness to take advances if a longer term be allowed for repayment; it is urged that money or grain advanced to ryots cannot be recovered under two years, the zemindars therefore ask the same grace from Government, from which it would appear that they are anxious to benefit their ryots at the least possible cost to themselves. Two zemindars, Baboos Issur Chundra Mookerjeea and Bishnu Prosad Boral, have applied for an advance of Rs. 5,000 each; their petitions have been forwarded to the Commissioners.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

An executive committee at head-quarters has been formed and a subscription list opened; the amount collected up to date amounts to Rs. 1,000. I selected certain places as relief centres, and sent the list to the Relief Commissioner, with as many names of persons willing to act on the committee as I could ascertain. Mr. Robinson returned the list for all the names to be added. I entered all I could, but with press of other work I could not ascertain all the names; the list has, I believe, since been completed as far as possible. Such a list can never be considered quite complete, for some fresh place is constantly being brought to notice where the establishment of a new relief committee seems advisable. The people in the vicinity of Tamboolee are very anxious to start relief in the shape of supplying yarn to be spun into thread by the women, &c.; they have subscribed, I believe, some Rs. 3,000, and work will soon be started. Tamboolee is a land of large mandals and well-to-do ryots where relief operations will be easily carried on. The zemindar of Joygunge, to the north of the district, fearing that his ryots would suffer distress, took the precaution of importing some 3,000 maunds of rice from Sylhet, and also a quantity of rice in the husk. There has been, as it turned out, no distress in that quarter, the grain is therefore being sold; it would have been well if some of the other zemindars had displayed like prudence and forethought.

No. 611F, dated Maldah, the 24th February 1874.

From F. J. ALEXANDER, Esq., Officiating Magistrate-Collector of Maldah, to the Officiating SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

In continuation of my No. 501F of the 10th instant, I have the honor to forward the seventh fortnightly narrative of scarcity and relief in the district of Maldah for the fortnight ending Saturday the 21st February (instant).

NARRATIVE of Scarcity and Relief in the Maldah district for the fortnight ending 21st February 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Prices continue generally much the same as last fortnight, and there is no rise in the north-west (Khurbah) tract. Supplies also continue fairly plentiful at all of the principal markets.

At two of the chief markets on the north-western tract, I found on inquiry a few days ago, that there was rice still unsold when the market closed. This is very different to what it was there some three weeks ago, when the local supplies were reported as scarcely equal to the demand. The late rainfall has had its effect for food on the prices generally, but the Government importations, I am also informed, have tended to lower prices, and bring out local stocks. I believe this is the case to some extent.

The following are the latest prices of paddy and ordinary rice at the under-mentioned principal markets in different parts of the district, viz.:—

CENTRAL PART OF THE DISTRICT.

At Mongalbaree.

Paddy - - - - -	19 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice - - - -	13¾ seers ditto ditto.

At Ballia Nowabgunge.

Paddy - - - - -	19 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice - - - -	13¾ seers ditto ditto.

NORTH-EAST OF THE DISTRICT.

At Bamongola.

Paddy - - - - -	18 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice - - - -	12¾ seers ditto ditto.

At Gazole.

Paddy - - - - -	20 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice - - - -	10½ seers ditto ditto.

NORTH-WEST OF THE DISTRICT.

At Chanchal, Toolsigunge, Shumsi, Abadpore.

Paddy	Not given.
Ordinary rice	10 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).

At Futtehpore Hyatpore.

Paddy	18 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice	12 seers ditto ditto.

SOUTH-WEST OF THE DISTRICT.

At Kalliachak.

Paddy	18½ seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice	12¼ seers ditto ditto.

SOUTH-EAST OF THE DISTRICT.

At Rohanpore and Gomastapore.

Paddy	21 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice	12¾ seers ditto ditto.

Rainfall.—There was a very slight sprinkling of rain, nothing to speak of, on the night of the 10th February, in the centre and north of the district. On the same date there was a good shower to the south of the district. Otherwise the weather has been fine, with a westerly breeze at intervals, and perceptibly getting warmer in the day time.

As I write this report the weather is again unsettled, and it has been raining slightly to-day (23rd February); threatens more rain.

State of the crops.—The cold weather crops of wheat, barley, &c., continue to look well, but what they want now is sunshine and westerly winds, and much rain is likely to do them now more harm than good. So far, however, no injury is reported, while to the lands which are being ploughed for the bhadoi rice crop, and to the boro dhan the late rain has been of great good.

The returns received from five out of nine thannah divisions of the estimated area and out-turn of the boro dhan crop now under cultivation, and which will be harvested in April and May, show 26,064 beegahs as under cultivation this year, against 21,051 of the previous year, the out-turn of which (taking 5 maunds to 8 maunds per beegah as the average) is estimated at about 175,000 maunds. For the whole district, if the weather continues favorable, the expected out-turn may be put down at 200,000 maunds.

Condition of the district.—The health of the district continues generally good, with the exception of cases of small-pox which are frequent and in many instances fatal, in the villages bordering on the Mohanuddi in the north of the district. As regards the district generally, there is no cause for immediate anxiety. No actual distress or starvation is heard of, and except in the north-west tract, rice is still obtainable without difficulty at the same price it was three months ago.

Condition of any special tract.—During the past fortnight I have been on tour through the greater part of the north-west tract (thannah Khurbah), and returned to head-quarters from there only on the evening of the 21st. A good deal of distress is apparent in the north and east of this tract on the borders of Purneah and Dinagepore, and many of the villagers are coming to the relief works, who in ordinary years would not think of doing so. The ryots, too, of the Chanchal estate are only too glad to take advances of grain from the manager to carry them through the present difficulty, and the tenants of other zemindars, who are not assisting them, are equally importunate on the manager for such help. Mr. Reily has already found it necessary in this way to advance 983¼ maunds to his own tenants to be repaid by December 1875, or January 1876, and in addition to this 224¾ maunds have been sold for cash payments to outsiders (not Court of Wards' tenants). Nothing I think could indicate clearer than this, how small the stocks of food-grain are in many villages in that quarter, and how very important it is that we should thus be in a position to assist (as fortunately we are able to do), the cultivating tenants who cannot leave their fields. I made enquiries from the headmen of a great many villages in this tract, and was glad to find that some villages were fairly well off.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

Work is going on on the ordinary district roads. The average daily number of people employed is reported to be 502.

Relief work in the north-western tract is now going on on six different roads, and the number of laborers employed is as follows during the past fortnight:—

Name of road.	Length in miles.	Mean daily average of persons employed during the fortnight.			
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1. Chanchal to Khurbah	7	288	2	29	319
2. Chanchal to Toolsigunge	8	52	15	4	71
3. Maltipore to Hyatpore	14	149	52	17	218
4. Maltipore to Bhado, *viâ* Shumai	16	209	185	61	455
5. Soroopgunge to Chanchal	6	131	—	—	131
Total	51	829	254	111	1,194
6. Khurba and Soroopgunge	8	Returns not received, but fully 100 persons are at work.			

Besides the above roads, Mr. Reily reports that six tanks are being dug in different localities, which afford daily employment to 725 persons.

I reported last fortnight that it had been found necessary to commence sales from the Government stocks to laborers on relief works, and up to date 35½ maunds have thus been sold.

During the past fortnight I have myself seen the relief works going on on all the above roads. The laborers employed are entirely local villagers. Some very good work has been done, and a considerable tract of country already opened out and made accessible to cart and other traffic.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

Boats daily arrive at head-quarters from Rohonpore and other river marts to the south with local grain supplies, and these are brought up and taken away to the centre and south of the district, chiefly by carts and pack-bullocks, by the resident baiparis for local use.

The transport of Government grain has been reported in the weekly reports. The Sahibgunge and Hyatpore route is working well. Mr. Reily reports that he has carriage enough to send 30,000 maunds a month by that route to Dinagepore. He has already sent on 14,227 maunds, and at the close of last week a further consignment was being worked off. On the Rajmehal route, Mr. Westmacott's arrangements will have been reported direct. On the 22nd instant I met Mr. Molony and Mr. Westmacott at Rajmehal, and transport arrangements were talked over. Mr. Westmacott proposes to relieve the pressure at the Nemasarai ferry on the Rajmehal and Dinagepore road by sending the Rajmehal despatches by cart only as far as Nemasarai, and from there by boat viâ the upper reaches of the Mahanuddi to Raigunge, &c., while the Godagaree despatches, as they arrive by boat at the opposite side of the Nemasarai crossing, will be sent on by carts by the land route to Dinagepore. The proposal seems a good one, as the ferry-crossing and the consequent delay there will thus in a great measure be avoided.

As the supply of grain to Dinagepore has been so largely increased, permanent golahs to store grain will have to be built at one or two places, from whence the grain can be distributed by the different rivers during the rainy season. Hyatpore and Nemasarai or Old Maldah will probably be the proper places for such golahs, but the question of the sites requires a little careful consideration, to avoid the possibility of injury when the Ganges and other rivers rise.

By the river route from Godagaree the supplies are coming quite as fast as we can carry away. Every effort is being made to supply the deficiency in the boat service which is not as plentiful as at first supposed. When my deputy collector, who is stationed near Godagaree, reported that "ample boat service" was always available, he was not aware that the supplies at Godagaree were likely to be so largely increased.

The total receipts of grain into the district, exclusive of the despatches which Mr. Westmacott has sent on from Rajmehal (and of which I have received no information), are stated by the deputy collector in charge at head quarters to have been 1,04,990 maunds at the close of last week, of which 15,282 maunds had been received at different golahs for this district, and the remainder 89,707 maunds despatched and in course of transit to Dinagepore.

D.—STORAGE OF GRAIN.

At the storehouses in this district the following quantities have been stored:—

	Mds.
At English Bazar	3,396
„ Old Maldah	5,000
„ Gazole	2,830
„ Khurba	2,580
„ Hyatpore	1,476
Total	15,282

Subsidiary golahs are ready at Toolsigunge, Soroopgunge, and Chanchal, and will be supplied from the main golahs as need arises, and temporary storage sheds sufficient to hold 5,000 maunds at Hyatpore, and the same quantity at Manickchuk, on the Maldah side of the two Ganges crossings, are almost completed. (Those at Hyatpore are ready.) I have stated under heading C that the question of permanent golahs to hold considerably larger quantities is under consideration.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

Sanction has been received to make a further advance of Rs. 2,000 under paragraph 4 (A) Circular No. 80, to the manager of the Chanchal estate, and the money will be given when Mr. Reily requires it.

Mr. Robinson has also sanctioned an advance of Rs. 10,000 to one Rajnath Guha. Of this I have already (as reported in last fortnight) advanced Rs. 2,000, and the balance is available when asked for. The applicant has arranged, I am told, for the purchase of grain from Calcutta or Backergunge to the extent of Rs. 10,000.

No other advances have been made. Several applications for small sums under Rs. 1,000 have been refused, as it was very questionable whether the applicants did not intend trading for their own profit on the money, and the property pledged was equally questionable.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

I held a meeting at Khurba on the 26th February, and Rs. 700 were subscribed by the local zemindars and residents. Mr. Reily was instructed to form a sub-divisional committee, and to organise relief operations throughout the north-west tracts, and to distribute funds and grain to the different relief centres.

Charitable relief has been started at the undermentioned places in the tract referred to:—

1. Chanchal.
2. Toolsigunge.
3. Sorupgunge.
4. Maltipora.
5. Debegunge.
6. Futtehpore.
7. Khurba.

The total number relieved at these places up to last week since the relief centres were opened is 5,006, at an expenditure of 100 maunds of rice and Rs. 19 in cash. The daily average attendance varied at different places; the numbers were most numerous at Chanchal and Khurba. Mr. Reily has been told to see that we are not imposed on, and that only the old, sick, and infirm, &c., are relieved.

The Secretaries of Relief Committees at other localities have been directed to start charitable relief operations if needed. At present it has not been thought necessary to do so except in the places named.

The total amount subscribed in the district up to date amounts to Rs. 4,338.

No. H, dated Beauleah, the 24th February 1874.

From W. H. D'OYLY, ESQ., Collector of Rajshahye, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith my narrative for the fortnight ending the 22nd instant.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Importation of rice from the eastern districts continues to increase. Paddy has been imported in much larger quantities than husked rice. The cold-weather crops are flourishing. In Pootea and Nattore a little damage has been done by hail; generally, however, a fair outturn is expected. In the western Bhurind the little rubbee cultivation that there is has been very successful. The people of that part of the district seldom sow cold-weather crops, as the supply of rice in ordinary years is more than sufficient for their wants. There have not been any cases of starvation. I believe that there will be no wide-spread distress such as to call for any very extensive charitable relief operations. There will undoubtedly be many isolated cases where food will have to be supplied gratuitously, and this only makes it all the more necessary that inquiries should be searching, so that in villages where the inhabitants are generally able to provide for themselves, no case of pressing want may be overlooked; such inquiries are being made by the sub-divisional Relief Committees. The prices of rice and paddy are falling; in several parts of the district rice is selling at 15 seers per rupee, though in the station of Beauleah the price continues steady at 13 seers 8 chittacks. The poorer classes are undoubtedly stinting themselves, and eat perhaps more kuchoo roots than they are ordinarily in the habit of doing.

The managers of Court of Wards' estates were ordered to visit every village in their respective estates. At first they gave very gloomy accounts, but I found from what I had myself seen that their estimates were much below the mark, and that matters were not so bad as they had at first been led to suppose. I have had more careful enquiries made by them since, and I have myself seen several villages belonging to the Court of Wards' estates, and where relief measures were most wanted they have been undertaken. The Commissioner has sanctioned the expenditure of a considerable sum on the excavation of new tanks, and on the deepening of several old tanks, and in clearing jungle in the Tahirpore estate. All these works will improve the estates. I have also applied for sanction for further expenditure in the improvement of the water-supply in the villages of the Bansila and Pootea estates, in which the existing tanks are either dried up or not sufficient in number.

The Tahirpore manager was sent down to Dacca to purchase rice with the Rs. 10,000 advanced, and he has just returned with large supplies of paddy. A good deal of this will be sent to the Tahirpore villages in the Malda district. I have instructed all the managers to advance money to their ryots where this can be safely done and where it is necessary.

B.—Relief Works.

It will be seen from the returns that the daily number of workmen has slightly increased during the last week of the fortnight, the daily average for the first week being 428, while that for the latter has been 465. At a meeting of the District Road Committee held yesterday several allotments were made on my recommendation for village roads which I had myself seen during my recent tour, and I hope that work on several of the proposed roads will during the next fortnight attract a large number of laborers.

C.—Transport of Food.

As above remarked, importation continues to increase. I fully believe that private enterprise will bring into the district enough rice to meet all demands, those of the railway laborers excepted, for which ample provision is being made. The Burral is the only river of any importance that has become closed, and that was closed long ago.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

The most important work in this district with reference to the supply of Government grain is that of forwarding rice to Dinagepore. In his resolution of the 16th instant, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor remarks on the slow progress in the transport of grain. The matter has received my most careful attention, and I have been much aided by Captain Ker and by Mr. Molony. I trust that the recent despatches from Godagaree, amounting to 46,672 maunds 35 seers in 13 days, or about 3,590 maunds per day, will be considered satisfactory. Mr. Molony has procured a number of additional carts for me from Berhampore, and after the Mohurrum I hope to be able to send over 4,000 maunds a day from Godagaree alone.

As regards despatches from Nowgong, I received no directions to despatch from that storehouse, and our supply at Nowgong has been small. Mr. Robinson is now carting away from Nowgong, but the total amount to be received there for him does not exceed 15,000 maunds, and the Bogra supply that was to have gone to Nowgong was sent up the Nagore instead, and has all passed through my district.

I hope soon to get another officer to help me in the transport viâ the Attrai and Joboona.

As regards the railway rice, I regret that I am unable to carry out the Lieutenant-Governor's orders in this narrative, as I was told that Major Lindsay would make his own arrangements, and he has done so through his subordinates, and I have received no account of his receipts and despatches.

I have, however, sent a copy of the resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor to him, and have asked him to direct his store-keepers and forwarding agents to supply me with the information up to date, and daily for the future, though I would submit that the returns should be submitted by the Railway authorities.

E.—Advances to Private Parties.

	RS.	A.	P
Advanced up to date of last narrative - - -	15,200	0	0
Ditto in course of last fortnight - - -	4,600	0	0
Total advance - -	19,800	0	0

TRANSPORT OF GRAIN.

Beauleah.

Receipts.

Date of Receipt.	Place from which received.	Imperial.		Local.	
		Bags.	Mds.	Bags.	Mds.
9th February 1874 -	Kooshtea - -	3,775	7,550 0 0	—	—
16th " " -	Ditto - -	—	—	225	450 0 0

Despatches.

Date of Despatch.	Place to which despatched.	Imperial.		Local.	
		Bags.	Mds.	Bags.	Mds.
12th February 1874 -	Tannore - -	358	716 0 0	—	—
13th „ „ -	Ditto - -	215	430 0 0	—	—
14th „ „ -	Ditto - -	205	410 0 0	—	—
15th „ „ -	Ditto - -	323	646 0 0	—	—
16th „ „ -	Ditto - -	—	—	185	370 0 0
17th „ „ -	Ditto - -	—	—	—	80 0 0
18th „ „ -	Ditto - -	132	264 0 0	40	—
19th „ „ -	Ditto - -	438	876 0 0	—	—
22nd „ „ -	Ditto - -	851	1,702 0 0	—	—
Total - - - -		2,532	5,064 0 0	—	450 0 0

GODAGAREE.

Receipts.

Date of Receipt.	Place from which received.	Imperial.		Local.	
		Bags.	Mds.	Bags.	Mds.
9th February 1874 -	Kooshtea - -	—	—	2,324	4,818 15 0
11th „ „ -	Ditto - -	—	—	1,965	4,175 25 0
12th „ „ -	Ditto - -	—	—	1,260	2,669 0 0
18th „ „ -	Ditto - -	—	—	4,608	9,216 0 0
20th „ „ -	Ditto - -	—	—	1,467	2,809 35 0
Total - - - -		—	—	—	23,688 35 0

GODAGAREE.

Despatches.

Date of Despatch.	Place to which despatched.	Imperial.		Local.	
		Bags.	Mds.	Bags.	Mds.
9th February 1874 -	Dinagepore - -	—	—	461	932 0 0
	Gajole - -	—	—	1,241	2,554 15 0
	Khorba - -	—	—	1,330	2,748 0 0
10th „ „ -	Dinagepore - -	—	—	748	1,496 0 0
11th „ „ -	Ditto - -	—	—	151	302 0 0
	Khorba - -	—	—	858	1,823 10 0
12th „ „ -	Dinagepore - -	—	—	509	1,018 0 0
	Gajole - -	—	—	200	400 0 0
	Old Maldah for Tambooli.	—	—	640	1,360 0 0
	Dinagepore by contractor.	—	—	706	1,412 0 0
13th „ „ -	Ditto - -	—	—	1,071	2,142 0 0
	Ditto by carts -	—	—	606	1,212 0 0
	Raigunge - -	—	—	816	1,734 0 0
14th „ „ -	Dinagepore - -	—	—	569	1,138 0 0
15th „ „ -	Ditto - -	—	—	424	848 0 0
	Raigunge - -	—	—	360	720 0 0
	Gajole - -	—	—	5	9 25 0
	Khorba - -	—	—	152	304 30 0
	Old Maldah for Tambooli.	—	—	392	794 0 0
16th „ „ -	Dinagepore - -	—	—	257	514 0 0
	Raigunge - -	—	—	1,017	2,034 0 0
18th „ „ -	Neetpore - -	—	—	1,244	2,488 0 0
	Raigunge - -	—	—	1,980	3,960 0 0
	Dinagepore - -	—	—	204	408 0 0
19th „ „ -	Neetpore - -	—	—	970	2,045 0 0
	Raigunge - -	—	—	1,830	3,660 0 0
	Dinagepore - -	—	—	394	788 0 0
20th „ „ -	Neetpore - -	—	—	640	1,360 0 0
	Raigunge - -	—	—	755	1,221 35 0
	Dinagepore - -	—	—	503	1,006 0 0
21st „ „ -	Neetpore - -	—	—	347	737 15 0
	Raigunge - -	—	—	837	1,778 25 0
	Dinagepore - -	—	—	353	704 0 0

NOWGONG.

Receipts.

Date of Receipt.	Place from which received.	Imperial.		Local.	
		Bags.	Mds.	Bags.	Mds.
13th February 1874	Goalundo	1,508	3,016 0 0	—	—
14th „ „	Ditto	1,339	2,678 0 0	—	—
17th „ „	Ditto	565	1,130 0 0	—	—
Total		—	6,824 0 0	—	—

Despatches.

Date of Despatch.	Place to which despatched.	Import.		Export.	
		Bags.	Mds.	Bags.	Mds.
17th February 1874	Putneetolla	—	—	1,500	2,254 0 0
19th „ „	Ditto	—	—	913	1,668 0 0

SAHEBGUNGE.

Receipts.

Date of Receipt.	Place from which received.	Imperial.		Local.	
		Bags.	Mds.	Bags.	Mds.
10th February 1874	Noornuggur	758	1,516 0 0	—	—

Despatch.

Date of Despatch.	Place to which despatched.	Imperial.		Local.	
		Bags.	Mds.	Bags.	Mds.
10th February 1874	Putneetolla	758	1,516 0 0	—	—

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

A meeting was held on Friday last of the District Committee, and instructions have been issued to the several Sub-divisional Committees to form out of their number sub-committees to operate in different parts of their sub-divisions. Superintendents have been appointed to make close enquiries in every village in the parts where distress is likely to be most severe, and Chairmen of Sub-Divisional Committees have been requested in urgent cases to take measures at once, reporting what action they have taken. There have been a few cases, but very few, of weak and sickly men and women having no one to support them; and I have arranged with some zemindars whom I know and can trust to provide for them for the present.

No. 7, dated Rungpore, the 23rd February 1874.

MEMORANDUM by G. H. DAMANT, Esq., Joint-Magistrate in Charge, forwarded to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

NARRATIVE of Scarcity and Relief in Rungpore District for the Fortnight ending Saturday, the 21st February 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

The supplies of rice seem to be generally well maintained, but we are dependent to a large extent on importations, which may at any moment fail us. Rice is imported from Bograh, Dinagepore and Julpigoree freely by land, and the eastern parts are supplied by water-carriage all along the line of the Brahmaputra. Where these supplies come along the eastern river board, the rates continue comparatively low, from Rs. 3-8 to Rs. 3-12 per maund, but elsewhere all along the western part of the district following the line of road to Bograh the rates are steadily rising, Rs. 4 to Rs. 4-8, being the quotations of the markets, and between market days in the moodies' shop the price is in many places 8 pice a seer, or Rs. 5 a maund of 90 tolahs, being equivalent to Rs. 4-8 a maund of 80 tolahs.

The following are market quotations:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Nawabgunge	4	0	0
Gaibunda	3	12	0
Borobaree	5	0	0
Chillakhal	4	8	0
Govindgunge	3	11	0

The average rate for the whole district is about Rs. 4 per maund.

No rain has fallen during the fortnight, except a few showers in Bhowanigunge, and sowings are being actively proceeded with in all directions. The winter crops are all looking well; the wheat crop will probably be a very good one; tobacco and kalai are also doing well.

In many places there is a scarcity of fodder already felt, but the late rains have caused good growth of grass, which will stave off much of the difficulty.

The condition of the people is certainly much worse, and general distress has disclosed itself in many places where my inspecting officers have gone their rounds. One of these is the south part of Mahigunge thannah, where Baboo Ram Chunder Roy, Inspector of Police, found several cases of people having sold their children, and one of a man who had sold his wife for Rs. 10. Women's ornaments were offered for sale in the markets; and several have disposed of their ploughs and bullocks. Some bearers he found who were living principally on ground kachu and plantain, but the Baboo reports that he considers some of the accounts of the people are exaggerated, as they are apt to be. There are already two annochotras opened in the neighbourhood—one at Kalligunge outpost to the north and at Sundargunge to the south. These places I visited a few days ago, and found but few applicants for relief. It was decided, however, at the relief committee held two days ago to open two new relief-houses at Alaikuri and Kandi at once; and Mr. Patten, supervisor, is already at the spot laying down a road from Chondranidighi to Sundargunge, which will run through the distressed part, and which was previously arranged in consultation with the Relief Commissioner when here. This part will be specially watched, but I consider the measures now taken will be sufficient for the purpose at present. The District Superintendent of Police also took a tour round Pergunge and Molung, and opened annochotras at Pergunge, Meetapukhar, and Molung; that at the latter place has since been closed as there are other centres of relief working near, but Meetapukhar, which was entered under class C, will be maintained. There were 43 men, 142 women, and 46 children relieved there the first day, and distress is very general; the work will be put in a regular footing and labor exacted from all who can give it. The zemindars in the neighbourhood are advancing grain and money, and I shall, under the late Government order, take measures to clear out a large tank which gives its name to the place. I am now proceeding there.

In Sadullapore, reported on in my last report as a bad tract, relief is being regularly distributed, and 107 women, 10 men, and 33 children, principally beggars, blind and lame, were in receipt of above according to last report. The roads of this quarter now open give employment to those who can work.

The Deputy Magistrate of Gyebunda has opened relief at Govindgunge.

Annochotras are opened at Naldanga and Luckhipore haut, and about 200 persons are fed daily. The Deputy Magistrate report that the people at Kamdiar, in thannah Govindgunge, are in considerable distress. He states that they are bringing their brass vessels and ornaments for sale in the hauts, and that the latter are sold at 8 or 9 annas a tolah. Cattle are being sold at about half the usual rates in the hauts in the distressed tracts.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

Our laborers have nearly doubled within the fortnight; they reach now nearly 2,000, and in the return several new roads are not reported. I have had several charges against sub-overseers of cheating the coolies by deducting ¼ pice from their daily earnings. One of them I punished criminally when out at Kalligunge this week, and the two other cases are under inquiry by Deputy Magistrate in the neighbourhood. The men get paid at the rate of

3 annas per 100 cubic feet, and those that cannot earn 6 pice a task-work will be allowed that sum as subsistence allowance; very few of this kind of laborers have as yet come to the work, but I expect their numbers will increase. Hitherto the men have drawn their supplies from the markets and moodies' shops, to be met everywhere, but as the retail prices are in many places 8 pice a seer of 90 tolahs, we are about to open Government shops in places where this is the case, and we shall sell the rice at 6 pice a seer of 80 tolahs or Rs. 3-12 a maund. The soigun rice will have to be sold cheaper. The numbers on the various roads are as follows:—

Roads.	Coolies. Men.	Coolies. Children.
Dinagepore road	92	4
Julpigoree road from Rungpore to Kishoregunge	136	6
Ditto ditto Kishoregunge to Bhogdabree	50	
Chillakhal road	50	
Cooch Behar road	56	
Bagwah road from Rungpore to Panial ghat	71	
Ditto ditto Panial ghat to Bagwah	42	
Bhawaingunge from Rungpore to Katgorah	118	
Ditto ditto Katgorah to Kallygunge	195	
Bograh road from Rungpore to Mulapukhar	45	
Ditto ditto Mutapukar to Gozariah	86	
Kanniahghat road	32	
Naldanga to Sadullapore	145	
Nageshuri to Kooreegraun	65	
Chorialdanga to Kooreegraun	79	
Pergunge to Kallygunge viâ Sadullupore and Gyebuda	192	
Gyebuda to Govindgunge	115	
Batarhun road from Badargunge to Batashun	30	
Dum Dum to Naldanga	103	
Pergunge to Jalalgunge	50	2
Gyebunda to Palashbari	12	
Ditto Luckhipore	55	
Meergunge to Jagur haut	100	
Sundargunge road	22	1
Koolayghat road from Boriharie	22	1
Govindgunge to Rajabar	20	1
Station roads	64	
Pergunge to Gozariah	20	1
Total	2,068	16

(C.)—Transport of Food.

The Deputy Magistrate at Gyebunda reports that 2,080 maunds of rice have been imported in boats to Kallygunge ghat, and 1,200 to Kulma ghat. During the fortnight, a small importation from Cooch Behar and Dinajpore is also going on. A considerable supply of rice amounting to about 17,000 maunds has arrived for Rani Surno Moyee, and Baboo Luchmipat Dugar. A great part of it has already been stored in the interior, no block exists, and the means of transport are sufficient for the amount of grain allotted to us. 500 carts are being collected here for Dinajpore, which will be despatched shortly.

(D.)—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

Advice of the storage of the several allotments of 2,00,000 has just been received. The following is the distribution list for the same.

	Mds.
Kallygunge	60,000
Kurigram	10,000
Kulaghat	5,000
Chillakhal	20,000
Durwani	5,000
Panialghat	15,000
Alaikooree	5,000
Sundergunge	3,000
Naldunga	10,000
Gyebunda	15,000
Sadullapore	5,000
Govindgunge	5,000
Kamdiar	4,000
Pergunge	10,000
Molung	5,000

	Mds.
Meetapukhar	5,000
Pyrabund	3,000
Gopalpore	5,000
Rungpore	10,000
Total	2,00,000

Storage houses for the first lot of 70,000 maunds have been ready for some time, those for the second allotment of 70,000 maunds are in rapid progress, and for the reserve lot of 60,000 maunds given in access of our demand, accommodation will be made at Kallygunge.

The following shows the amount of grain received and sent forward up to date:—

	Mds.	Mds.
Receipt		61,429
Despatched.		
Gyebunda	9,540	
Peergunge	5,581	
Naldanga	5,770	
Rungpore	3,140	
Chillakhal	21,000	
Kooreegram	5,100	
		50,041
Balance at Kallygunge		11,388

(E.)—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

	Rs.
Advances to private persons for purchase of grain	7,500
Ditto zemindars for advances to ryots	11,100
Total	18,600

Crowds of ryots attend the courts daily, presenting petitions for advances, but it appears on inquiry that many of them are persons really in good circumstances; it will be utterly impossible either for Government or the zemindars to make advances to all who present themselves; a great deal of care is required in selecting proper objects for such relief.

(F.)—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Relief is being distributed at the following places—

	Mds.
Pyraband	400
Meetapukar	231
Pirgunge	76
Govindgunge	34
Kamdair Haut	(Unknown)
Gaibunda	39
Sundergunge	150
Kalligunge outpost	16
Naldanga	120
Luckhipore	80
Total	1,146

Uncooked food, half potatoes, half rice, is being given, but arrangements will be made to give cooked food.

At Mohigunge, two private annochatras have been opened, and relief is given to about 600 persons in cooked food, and on Sunday's Basanta Geer Sunnasi gives a dole of rice. I was present yesterday, and about 2,500 people attended for it.

In Batashun, Baboo Luchmipat Dugar gives a week's supply of rice to about 400 of his ryots. The Superintendent is going from village to village, and gives tickets to the deserving objects of charity, on the production of which a supply of rice is given at the cutchery. In Baharbund, annochatras are opened at Olipore and Lalchamara Haut, and will be opened at other places. No particulars as to numbers relieved are at hand.

	Rs.
The local subscriptions promised are	9,935
Realised	4,915
Government first grant	4,000
Spent	1,290

No. 1054, dated Bogra, the 23rd February 1874.

From C. A. KELLY, ESQ., Officiating Magistrate-Collector, Bogra, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honor to report as follows:—

NARRATIVE of Scarcity and Relief of the District of Bogra for the fortnight ending 23rd February 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

No deficiency of supplies in the bazar. Ordinary rice at Bogra is selling at 13½ seers of 80 tolahs per rupee; at Sultangunge 14 seers; and at Dupchanchiya 14 seers.

2,800	maunds	at Sultangunge,
1,200	„	at Bogra,
11,000	„	at Dupchanchya,
2,900	„	at Kichak,
17,000	„	at Hili,

may be estimated in the hands of traders and petty dealers up to 21st February 1874. Rain-fall, ·26 on the night of the 14th instant; cold-weather crops doing well, they have been much benefited by the recent rain-fall. The cutting of the principal cold-weather crops, mustard and sugarcane, is being proceeded with—the expected yield of each was reported upon in my last narrative. The condition of the people is on the whole by no means critical at present, and I do not anticipate anything like famine, especially as the late rains have considerably improved our prospects; though of course more or less pressure may be expected while high prices continue, especially on the khiyar land. There are no cases of misery or starvation calling for a report; help has been given occasionally to persons who appeared to stand in need of it, and purchases of jute and cotton have been made for women and persons incapable of other work to spin. 16 grain-thefts reported during the fortnight. I have nothing particular to add to what has been formerly reported with reference to the condition of any special tracts, except that I have recently visited the east of the district, and people are going on very well there. Cold-weather crops are sown in these parts, and the river communication with outside is also a help. A map has previously been sent to the Relief Commissioner, shewing the condition of tracts in the district.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

I annex a list of the lines of road on which laborers have been employed, with the number of laborers on the 20th on each:—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1. Matidali road	45	116	14	
2. Shariyakandi road	106	7	9	
3. Sultangunge road	253	343	357	
4. Dinagepore road	675	—	62	
5. Dupchanchiya road	198	77	36	
6. Nator road	419	47	28	
7. Naokhila road	18	—	0	
Total	1,714	590	506	2,810

No deficiency in supply of food to them is apparent. Mode of payment, &c. have been previously reported upon. In some instances 3½ annas per 100 cubic feet were allowed by the Executive Engineer, in consequence, he has stated, of the hardness of the ground.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

The reports received show importation of 2,300 maunds of rice from Pubna, Dacca, and Mymensingh districts by way of the Daokolea and Bangali rivers; 200 maunds rice and 100 maunds paddy from Rajshahye by carts; but much more is supposed to have come from that quarter. On a recent visit to Madhupur in the east, on the Bangali river, I found that some importation had been going on there also, and I directed weekly reports to be made on the subject. Means of transport sufficient, I am aware of no block. We are daily expecting the arrival of Government rice at Shohagipara on the Brahmaputra, and advances have been made in order to the sending out of a large number of carts to carry it away.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

Places of storage have been previously reported upon. Another depôt will be made at Shibgunge in accordance with the Relief Commissioner's recent instructions. Arrangements for guarding the store-houses previously reported. Amount of food-grain received up to date is 20,009 mds. 3 srs. 11 cks. 3 kchs., of which 5,957 maunds have been despatched to Ghorághât, district Dinagepore. We are to receive 40,000 more by way of Shohagipara, of which 10,000 is on account of Ghoraghât. This will make a total of 50,000 mds., and I am informed by the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division that we are to have 25,000 maunds more also. As far as can be judged from the present aspect of affairs, I anticipate that we shall eventually have to sell the greater part at any rate of this rice, and I would beg to recommend that the sending of the 25,900 mds. above referred to may be held in abeyance, as it seems a pity that such enormous expense should be incurred under present circumstances. It has not been necessary to use any of the Government grain imported.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

In addition to advances previously reported, Rs. 500 has been advanced to a private person under the Land Improvement Act for digging a tank. No advances of other descriptions have been made.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

It has not yet been necessary to do more than aid cases of individual distress by means of our private subscriptions. Persons were selected some time ago to aid in the work of distribution. I am sending up a list to the Relief Commissioner (chiefly consisting of names of persons formerly chosen) of members to act in case we find it necessary to put further relief machinery into play.

Enclosure No. 6, to the Twelfth Special Narrative.

RETURN of MEN, WOMEN, and CHILDREN, employed on Relief Works in Districts of Rajshahye, Patna, and Bhaugulpore Divisions, for fortnight ending 21st February 1874.

Name of District.	Total Number of Persons employed during the 14 days.			
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Moorshedabad - - -	37,763	1,270	564	39,597
Dinagepore - - -	—	—	—	—
Maldah - - - -	21,331	6,018	2,098	29,447
Rajshahye - - - -	5,371	731	152	6,254
Rungpore - - - -	23,658	41	484	24,183
Bograh - - - -	20,659	4,928	1,802	27,389
Pubna - - - -	—	—	—	—
Total - -	1,08,782	12,988	5,100	1,26,870
Patna - - - -	33,847	46,459	20,031	1,00,337
Gya - - - -	7,755	4,180	2,070	14,005
Shahabad - - - -	17,896	11,498	3,615	33,009
Tirhoot - - - -	—	—	—	—
Sarun - - - -	4,63,587	3,56,800	3,55,740	11,76,127
Chumparun - - -	1,93,345	93,995	64,351	3,51,691
Total - -	7,16,430	5,12,932	4,45,807	16,75,169
Monghyr - - - -	25,961	15,803	5,412	47,176
Bhaugulpore - - -	32,806	10,879	5,544	49,229
Purneah - - - -	24,802	2,291	1,163	28,256
Sonthal Pergunnahs -	—	—	—	—
Total - -	83,569	28,973	12,119	1,24,661
Grand Total - -	9,08,781	5,54,893	4,63,026	19,26,700

J. E. T. NICOLLS, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal,
Public Works Department.

Enclosure No. 7.

No. 1225.

From Colonel J. E. T. Nicolls, R.E., Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department, to the Commissioner of the Patna Division.

P. W. Department. Establishments.

Sir, Fort William, the 27th February 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, Nos. 115F., 133F., 135F., and 147F., dated respectively, the 11th, 17th and 19th current, regarding additional establishments for relief works for the trans-Gangetic Districts except Sarun; and, with reference to these communications and to letter No. 730S.-R. dated the 16th idem to your address from the Secretary to this Government, Financial, Scarcity and Relief Departments, on the same subject, I am to communicate the following observations and orders regarding the Public Works Establishment for the trans-Gangetic Districts.

2. The applications are—

—	Assistant Engineer.	Upper Subordinates.	Lower Subordinates.
For Northern Tirhoot, as per Sir R. Temple's telegram and your No. 115F. - - - - - -	—	25	—
For Chumparun, see your Nos. 133F. and 135F. - -	1	4	—
For South Tirhoot, see your No. 147F. - - -	—	2	8
Total - -	1	31	8

3. In some cases merely subordinates are mentioned; but it is understood that, of the numbers shown above as Upper Subordinates, a certain proportion might be Lower Subordinates.

4. The following measures have been taken to meet the above requirements:—

—	Assistant Engineers.	Upper Subordinates.	Lower Subordinate.
The Government of India are supplying for North Tirhoot	—	25	—
There have been sent to North Tirhoot in excess of requirements - - - - - - - -	2	—	—
There have been sent to Chumparun - - - -	1	2	—
In progress to Chumparun from Central Provinces -	—	2	—
Total - -	3	29	—

5. Besides the above, the Government of India has ordered down 50 Native Non-Commissioned Officers and steady privates of the Sappers and Miners. Of these, 18 are for the Irrigation Department, and there will be a balance of 32 at your disposal for general works, or to supplement the irrigation requirements, if necessary. These men ought to be quite up to perform the duties of Sub-Overseers, or even in some instances of Overseers, so far as the mere execution of works of the simple nature of the road relief works is concerned.

6. The larger and more important of the above requirements are in accordance with the views of the Honorable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., formed after personal investigation on the spot, and based, as far as the Lieutenant-Governor has the means of judging, on liberal data in regard to the professional work to be done.

7. The number of Assistant Engineers and Upper Subordinates to be supplied as noted above is more liberal than has been asked for; and considering the large native assistance available in the Sappers, His Honor is disposed to expect that the establishment now made available, and present, or in course of transit to the trans-Gangetic Districts of your Division, will be sufficient for them, including Sarun.

8. Sir George Campbell has acknowledged, on several occasions, the ready assistance, as regards relief works, afforded by the planters, and the non-official community of Tirhoot; and considering the simple nature of the works as already noticed, and the aid that should be derived in this manner, the professional establishments applied for, which appear to be calculated on the principle of the works being almost entirely carried out in the usual departmental manner, seem very liberal.

9. From the first the Lieutenant-Governor has held the view that, as regards any large proportion of these works, constant professional supervision was unnecessary, and he is apprehensive that this view has not been sufficiently realized and acted upon by the local Officers. Press of work in various ways may account for this, but a great deal of additional assistance has been given,

and the time seems to have come when this important question may receive fuller consideration than has been possible hitherto.

10. The Government of India has most liberally and unquestioningly met the requirements made on it for additional assistance, and this has been given, it is feared, at the cost of much inconvenience to other Governments and Provinces whence the supplies have been drawn. The Lieutenant-Governor will feel reluctant to make renewed applications for professional assistance without full assurance that the most is being done with local means; and he would request that, the usual routine and arrangements of the Public Works Department being considered as unnecessary for simple relief works, the question of the application and the sufficiency of the present Public Works Establishments may be carefully considered by yourself in communication with your special professional adviser just appointed, and with the Magistrates of Districts, in communication with their professional advisers, on the broad basis of restricting the employment of professional men, as far as possible, to professional questions and work, and utilizing non-professional and local means, as far as possible, for all else. A report of the result should be made.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
J. E. T. Nicolls, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal
in the Public Works Department.

No. 1226.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Secretary to this Goverment in the Financial (Scarcity and Relief) Department, with reference to that Department's letters Nos. 730 S.-R. and 948 S.-R. of the 16th and 24th instant.

Enclosure No. 8.

No. 151F, dated Bankipore, the 19th February 1874.

From J. F. K. Hewitt, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Patna, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Relief and Scarcity Department.

I have the honor herewith to furnish the divisional report for the fortnight ending Saturday the [illegible]th February.

2. There has been no rain since the date of my last report, but the rain that fell previously has undoubtedly been of the most signal benefit to the cold weather crops, and we may, I believe, now look forward confidently to an excellent rubbee harvest throughout almost the whole of that portion of the division which lies south of the Ganges, and to an outturn varying generally from a full crop to about three-quarters of an average yield in the greater part of the districts north of the river, with the notable exception of the whole of the north-east of Tirhoot, where there is rarely any cold weather crop and where less than usual was sown this year. There are also some considerable tracts where the sowings were small owing to the dryness of the soil.

3. The condition of the people in the north-east of Tirhoot appears to be daily becoming worse. From a report received from Colonel Burn, the manager of the Durbhunga estate, it appears that people have deserted their homes in considerable numbers, and gone elsewhere to search for food. The manager has been asked to explain how it happened that people were reduced to such an extremity, as there was plenty of Government grain as well as grain imported by the Court of Wards available; and if grain had been sent to the distressed villages in time and works started, it is hardly possible that 254 families from the jurisdiction of one tehsildar, could have left their homes on a vague search for food. Orders have been given that the matter must be fully enquired into, and the people, if possible, sought out and brought back; and it has been further pointed out that tehsildars must be made personally responsible for sending timely reports of the condition of the people so as to allow of grain being sent to, and works started in, villages where signs of want are apparent.

4. In other parts of the division there does not seem to be any immediate fear of famine, though distress is everywhere intensifying; the arrangements now made and in progress are, however, I fully believe, sufficient to cope with even the very worst state of things that can arise, and we shall, I hope, be prepared, at all events in the most remote tracts, to supply sufficient food to the people during the continuance of the famine should all supplies fail and private trade do nothing to fill up the deficiency.

5. Since writing my last report the new sidings at Barrh and at Futwa or Jettalee Ghât have been opened; but though the line down to the latter ghât was ready on Wednesday, the 11th, yet owing to arrangements for office accommodation not having been made, and to the absence of properly-sloped approaches from the river bank to the line of railway for the use of the coolies carrying bags, work could not be begun till Saturday morning, the 14th, when the Barrh siding was also opened.

6. Since the opening of the Futwa siding everything there has worked smoothly, with the one exception that sufficient grain to meet the demands of our contractors on the north bank of the river has not arrived, and I am further informed that the coolies who were engaged at piece-work rates to carry a weekly quantity of grain varying from 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 maunds from *the rail to the river, have been complaining that they are not able to make enough to maintain themselves owing to the short despatches of grain. On Monday, the 16th, only 9,000 and odd bags left Howrah, and on Tuesday, the 17th, only 5,800 were sent, though we believed that we were to receive 11,800 bags daily.

*Since writing the above we have received the sanction of Government to buy grain to load on carts waiting, and 16,000 maunds have been bought.

J. F. K. H.

7. The reports from the other side of the river of the discontent of the cartmen are frequent, and I trust that measures will be taken to ensure our receiving all the grain we can arrange to take away from the railway. We can certainly now take away nearly 2,00,000 maunds a week, and if it has satisfactorily proved that steamers can work on the ferry, and we can get two steamers, we can manage to take away a great deal more.

8. At Barrh things have not worked quite so smoothly, as there has been a difficulty about getting coolie labourers; but arrangements have now been made for securing a full supply and paying them properly.

9. To relieve the Barrh station, which seemed likely to get blocked owing to the inadequacy of the arrangements made for unloading trains, 60 waggons were sent from Barrh to Futwa, so that by this means something has been done to supply the deficiency of the grain at the latter station.

10. The quantities of grain despatched to each of the districts north of the river up to the 14th instant, were as follow:—

	Rice.	Mixed Grain.	Total.
From Patna Ghat—			
Chumparun	2,56,644½	1,16,393	3,73,251½
Sarun	1,26,731½	30,686	1,57,417½
Tirhoot	1,10,772½	44,248½	1,55,011
	4,94,148½	1,91,527½	6,85,676
From Barrh up to 12th instant—			
To Tirhoot	1,19,848	12,338	1,32,186
From Monghyr up to 12th instant—			
To Tirhoot	25,066	—	25,066
	6,39,052	2,03,865½	8,42,828
Total despatched to Tirhoot	2,55,686½	56,586½	3,12,273

Besides the above there has been sent a certain quantity of grain, about 30,000 maunds in all, to Arrah for despatch to Sarun, and it is proposed to send all the Sarun grain for the future by that route as the boat carriage is found to be too tedious to be satisfactory. The arrangements for the carriage of grain from Arrah and its transport across the river seem to be very good, and to be working smoothly and without difficulty; 5,000 maunds daily are now being taken away from the Arrah station and sent across the river.

11. The great work of the fortnight has been the provision of carriage for transporting the enormous quantities required for Tirhoot from the north bank of the river to its ultimate destination in the famine-striken tracts. The subject was alluded to in the last fortnightly report, and I can now state that definite arrangements have been made for the carriage of 31,50,000 maunds from Bunkur and Chumpta Ghât opposite to Futwa Ghât and Barrh from the 15th February up to the 31st May. The carriage of the remainder of the four milllon it is proposed to put into the district has not been yet arranged for, but Major Bates, of the Quarter-Master General's Department, has been deputed to try and open out a new route from some point on the north bank of the river between Monghyr and Mokameh by which grain can be taken into the Singhya Pergunnah of Tirhoot; as the distance is short it is probable he will be successful in finding a route. Endeavours are being made to get some one willing to contract for the transport of grain along the line. I hope, in my next fortnightly narrative, to be able to report that our efforts have been successful.

12. As for the contracts which have already been made, there is every reason to believe that there will be no lack of carriage at the contractor's disposal. Tirhoot is a district where the supply of cart carriage is almost unlimited, and indigo planters, who are the principal employers of the cartmen, are able to secure every available cart when necessary, as most of the cartmen are kept under permanent advances by the different factories. Almost all the contracts have been taken by associated planters, and they anticipate no difficulty in finding carts and bullocks sufficient for the work.

13. Arrangements have been made for providing a reserve of 1,250 carts and bullocks, partly procured from the North-West and partly purchased from Nepal, the cart for the latter being made up in the division; and in addition there will be a reserve of 1,000 bullocks to supply the

places of those that may be disabled. This reserve it is proposed to employ partly in those outlying parts of the country where carriage is deficient, and partly in depôts along the roads to take loads from cartmen whose carts have broken down.

14. The real difficulty will be in keeping the roads in order, and providing a sufficient number of roads for the carts to travel on. As from Bunkur Ghât at least 1,50,000 maunds per week will be sent 1,530 carts a day, and probably more, will have to be despatched from the various landing places. Along the river bank the arrangements described in my last report, which are admirably worked by Major de Kantzow, fully admit of this, and even a larger number of carts being sent off each day; but it is when they get upon the Hajeepore roads that the difficulty begins. Hitherto the great personal energy and admirable arrangements made by Major de Kantzow have prevented the occurrence of a block; but if the work is to be increased to the extent we propose, it is absolutely necessary to increase the road accommodation or to relieve the Ghât by making other landing places. Personally, I myself incline to the maintenance of the present Ghât and the doubling or trebling if necessary the road accommodation. The country presents no difficulty to opening out any conceivable number of roads, and there is a great advantage in continuing to work from the point were our arrangements have been completed, and were there is every facility for extending them to any given extent. To remove to a new place would involve a disturbance of present arrangement, and can hardly be undertaken with our present work without a temporary suspension of activity which it is very desirable to avoid.

15. If it proves to be impossible to work steamers to Bunkur Ghât, the question assumes another aspect, for, without steamers, no conceivable amount of boats will be able to get the grain from the Futwa siding to Bunkur against wind and stream, when the strong west winds begin to blow, and in that case we shall have to abandon the Futwa siding, and open a new siding at Bankipore, from whence boats can drop down with the wind to Bunkur Ghât, or else to abandon Bunkur and go down to Jehangir Ghât, about eight miles down the river, to which boats can work with the wind in their favour from Futwa Ghât.

16. The objection to the one plan is that the river channel opposite Bankipore is impassible for steamers and doubtful even for boats; while against the other, there is the long distance to be travelled between the ghâts and the loss of time caused by boats having to beat back empty against the wind. A third plan has been proposed, to throw a bridge of boats across the Gunduck at Hajeepore and to establish our landing ghât on the bank of the Ganges opposite Bankipore; but this line could not be worked without difficulty, even with steamers, from Futwa, owing to the distance between the two points, and if worked by country boats it would require a siding at Bankipore, whence boats could be more easily taken to Bunkur than to the site proposed for the new landing. The whole question is being carefully considered, but its satisfactory solution depends very much upon whether steamers can be supplied, and whether, if sent, they can work on the present line or any of those proposed. There can, I think, be little doubt that the "Patna" can do so, as she has been several times up to Bunkur, and if another steamer of equally small draught can be supplied, I have no fear of our attempts proving unsuccessful. Captain Blood of the Sappers, an officer of great experience, who has just joined, will be requested to report upon the best arrangements to be made, and it is upon the result of his report and upon the supply of steamers at our disposal that our ultimate action must be based.

17. Up to the beginning of April we are pretty safe; but from that time our difficulties will begin and steamers will be urgently required.

18. At Barrh the navigation of the river is very easy, and I believe that by transferring the boats from Futwa Ghât to Barrh, if we are obliged to bring the two steamers we have now at Barrh to Futwa, we shall be able to supply the quantity of grain required at Chumpta and Jammattia Ghâts on the other bank of the river, by country boats as also to send across the railway material for the new line to Durbhunga. The contractor at the ghât here assures me that he can supply 500 boats of 200 maunds to Barrh if the transport from Futwa is done by steamers, and as the channel at Barrh is deep, we shall be able to use boats of much greater draught than can be used on the Futwa crossing, so that we shall be able, by taking heavy boats of 800 to 1,000 maunds, in addition to the light boats we are now using, to get almost any quantity of grain and materials carried across river if the boats only made one trip a week. As only 1,00,000 maunds are wanted to supply the contractors taking grain from Chumpta and Jammattia the 500 light boats which the Patna contractor can furnish will very nearly do the whole quantity, and there can be little difficulty in obtaining carriage for the remaining 10,000 maunds at Barrh, whence 30,000 maunds have been taken weekly up to the present time, leaving the railway material to be taken by the heavy boats which can, I am confident, be procured in sufficient numbers for the works, even if all the transport should not be completed by the 1st April.

19. The whole of the transport arrangements, from the south to the north bank of the river, have since the date of my last report been put under Colonel Mackenzie, who has a subordinate officer at each of the despatching and receiving ghâts, specially experienced officers, Major de Kantzow and Captain Renwick, having been selected for the charge of the most important ghâts at Bunkur and Chumpta.

20. The land transport arrangements are under the superintendence of Colonel Macgregor, who has already applied to the Military Department for the services of a number of officers of energy and experience, whom he proposes to place on the most important routes. To each of

these officers will be assigned a certain length of road, which he will be required to travel up and down, reporting everything that requires notice, and seeing that the coolies and overseers who are on the road are at their posts; that the line is maintained in good order; that grass and fascines for repairing it are ready stacked, and that the arrangements for providing for repairs of broken carts, and for watering the bullocks traversing the lead, are in good order. Applications have been made for steady sepoys to act as overseers; while a party of pioneers and another of sappers will be employed in erecting and maintaining bridges and for making such improvements as require skilled labor. Some of the officers applied for by Colonel Macgregor have already joined, and the remainder will be here in a few days' time. His arrangements are already rapidly getting into working order, and they promise to be most complete.

21. The principal lines of road on which they will work and the quantities to be carried on each line are as follows :—

From Bunkur Ghât to Motiharee and Bettiah, viâ Lalgunge, with a branch to Gobindgunge. 50,000 maunds a week will travel on this road—30,000 to Motiharee and 20,000 to Gobindgunge.

From Bunkur Ghât, viâ Lalgunge, to Contai. Taking 15,000 maunds a week, making 65,000 along the road as far as Lalgunge; but arrangements are being made for doubling the road if possible.

From Bunkur Ghât to Russoolpore and Sectamurhee. Along this road, which is the best in the district, from 50,000 to 70,000 maunds a week will be taken.

From Bunkur, viâ Motihari, to Ottar and Poosa. Taking 35,000 maunds a week.

From Chumpta Ghât, viâ Dulsingserai and Nagurbusti, to Durbhangah. Taking 75,000 maunds a week.

From Jummattia Ghât, viâ Dulsingserai and Rosrah, to Singhya and Hatee. Taking about 35,000 maunds a week, making a total of 2,80,000 maunds a week. We can scarcely expect to take these quantities immediately, but I believe we shall be able to work up to it within ten days or a fortnight if we can only get the grain supplied to us.

22. The above detail of the transport arrangements has extended to so great a length as to leave me little space for noticing other matters; but the Commissioner wishes me to remark upon the completeness of the arrangements made for relief works and for the storage of grain by the Collector of Sarun. He considers Mr. Drummond's arrangements to be very complete, and to be superior to those of any other district.

23. The arrangements for charitable relief were reported fully by the district officers, and I need not enlarge upon the matter here. Sir R. Temple's visit to the division has been of great advantage in enabling several important questions to be settled upon the spot which would otherwise have entailed a certain amount of correspondence and consequent delay.

No. 993—S.R., dated Calcutta, the 25th February 1874.

From A. Mackenzie, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Patna.

In acknowledging receipt of Mr. Hewitt's fortnightly report, No. 151, dated 19th February, I am to call your attention to the favorable estimate given by him of the rubbee crops in the districts north of the Ganges, as contrasted with the estimate lately submitted by you for Chumparun, when you thought there would be possibly only a quarter crop in favorable situations. I am to ask for a careful revised estimate of the probable rubbee yield of Sarun and Chumparun.

No. 15 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

Famine.

To the Most Honorable the Marquis of Salisbury, P. C., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Marquis, Calcutta, the 13th March 1874.

We have the honor to enclose a copy of the Supplement to the "Calcutta Gazette" of the 11th instant, from which your Lordship will observe that the weekly reports from the different districts continue to contain favorable accounts of the prospects of the coming crops, and that there is no considerable change in the prices current of food-grains.

2. Sir George Campbell is still at Durbhunga, and he has visited Buheyra, where there has been a sudden and severe outbreak of distress. His time has been so fully occupied in completing the organization of transport and relief, that he has not been able to make an official report of the outbreak and the manner in which it has been met.

3. We believe that the outbreak was confined to a limited area, that is to say, to portions of the Durbhunga sub-division, the whole population of which is 868,000; that any mortality which may have occurred cannot be great; that up to the present time there has been no deficiency of supplies in the market; and that every exertion is now being made to complete the local arrangements.

4. The contract for the supply of grain to the interior of Tirhoot and Chumparun from Bunker Ghât, opposite Patna, is working exceedingly well, and about 30,000 maunds a day are carried to the interior of those districts. The contract from Chumpta Ghât, opposite Barrh, has not been so successful. Instead of 17,000 maunds a day, which should have been carried, only an average daily quantity of about 7,000 maunds was carried up to the 10th instant, and some apprehension was felt as to the sufficiency of the supplies by that route. We have, however, received information that 12,590 maunds were despatched on the 11th, and we, therefore, trust that the difficulties have been overcome. The reports of the progress of the Railway from Chumpta Ghât to Durbhunga are very satisfactory. Eight miles are already completed, and it is expected that the whole will be finished before the end of April.

5. Sir Richard Temple has visited Purneah and Dinagepore, and his reports, which will be transmitted by the next mail, are, on the whole, satisfactory.

6. We have the honor to enclose three sets of maps of the divisions in which the distressed districts are comprised, and a complete list of the relief sub-divisions,—those situated in the district of Sarun having been added.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servants,
NORTHBROOK.
NAPIER OF MAGDALA.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

NAMES of RELIEF STATIONS in FAMINE DISTRICTS with Current Number.

Famine District.	Name of Relief Station.	Current No.
Tirhoot	Mozufferpore	1
	Hajeepore	2
	Tajpore	3
	Dhulmya	4
	Hatee	5
	Mudhoobanee	6
	Narayn	7
	Seetamurhee	8
	Poopree	9
Chumparun	Moteeharee	10
	Dhaka	11
	Govindgunge	12
	Bettiah	13
	Ramnugger	14
Bhagulpore	Bhagulpore	15
	Banka	16
	Soopoole	17 In these two sub-divisions six relief circles have already been opened.
	Mudeypoora	18

Names of Relief Stations in Famine Districts with Current Number—*continued.*

Famine District.	Name of Relief Station.	Current No.
Monghyr	Monghyr	19
	Beegumserai	20
	Jamui	21 In these sub-divisions three circles under civil officers have been formed and are at work.
Purneah	Kudbah	22
	Kusba Amow	23
	Purneah	24
	Kissengunge	25
	Arrareah	26
Sonthal Pergunnahs	Godda	27
	Rajmehal	28
Moorshedabad	Berhampore	29
	Sah Bagh	30
	Jangypore	31
	Rampore Haut	32
Maldah	Chunchul	33
	Maldah	34
Dinajpore	Raneesunkail	35
	Raigunge	36
	Gungarampore	37
	Pateram	38
	Ghoraghat	39
	Kullugunge	40
Rajshahye	Rampore Bauleah	41
	Nattore	42
Rungpore	Rungpore	43
	Bhowaneegunge	44
	Koraigaon	45
Sarun	Chuprah	46 18 centres have been placed in funds for relief to be distributed; but as yet charitable relief is little required.
	Sewan	47
	Hutwa	48

India Office, London,
Revenue, No. 10. 19th March 1874.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable the GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

MY LORD,

Para. 1. I have considered in Council your Despatches and telegrams of the dates noted in the margin.*

* Agricultural and Horticultural.
Famine.
Despatch No. 2, dated 2nd January 1874.
" " 3, " 9th " "
" " 5, " 16th " "
" " 6, " 23rd " "
" " 7, " 30th " "
" " 8, " 30th " "
" " 9, " 6th February "
" " 11, " 18th " "
" " 12, " 20th " "
Telegrams dated 4th March 1874.
" " 12th " "
" " 13th " "

2. My predecessor has already conveyed to you his approval of some of the most important of the measures that you have adopted for mitigating the pressure of famine upon the populations affected by the recent drought. I have to express my complete satisfaction with the vigour and judgment that have marked your policy in the measures that have been reported to me. Your plans have been energetically carried out by the officers under your command, especially by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and by Sir Richard Temple. The efforts of your Government have been so far rewarded with success that up to this time no extensive increase of mortality has visited the thickly peopled districts in which scarcity prevails. You anticipate, however, that the pressure of the famine will continue to be felt till nearly the close of the year.

3. I feel great anxiety, in which you will fully share, that no precaution should be neglected, by which the danger still impending over so many millions of people may be effectually averted. You have had to make suddenly, and on an unprecedented scale, provision both for the supply and for the transport of food. The deficiencies of transport from which your present difficulties have principally arisen will scarcely be diminished as time goes on, but will, on the contrary, be rather aggravated when the rains have fallen and the roads have become less serviceable. Against this danger you have provided at least partially, by commencing a railway from the river side opposite the Barrh Station to Durbungah, and by ordering the construction in England of ten steamers with five barges attached, to be delivered in India, so as to be able to navigate the secondary rivers when the water rises. I am satisfied that you will spare neither cost or labor in carrying out any other plans for facilitating the transport of grain into the distressed districts, which the local knowledge of your Officers may suggest.

4. For the provision of grain sufficient to supply the needs of the distressed districts, you inform me by telegram (4th March) that you have secured 420,000 tons of rice. I desire to draw your especial attention to the question whether this supply will be sufficient. In the telegram I have quoted you state that "area of "probable severe distress, now well ascertained, comprises parts of districts of "Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, Dinagepore. Expect at the "worst period, to have something under three million persons on the hands of "Government in these districts for three months from end of May to end of "August, a smaller number during April, May, and September, and still fewer in "March, October, and November. There will be distress in nine other districts, "but it will not be general. Orders of Government rice amount to 420,000 tons, "of which 350,000 from beyond sea."

5. The best authorities appear to agree with Sir Richard Temple in fixing the average ration necessary for the support of persons under relief at three-quarters of a seer of rice a day. According to the estimate contained in your telegram, you would therefore require for the three months of severest pressure a total quantity of 185,000 tons. If three-quarters of this pressure be assumed for the three months which you place next in severity, and half this pressure for the three months of lightest scarcity, the total amount of rice required, supposing that you have provided no other grain, will be 413,000 tons. Sir R. Temple in his Minute of the 31st of January, upon the distress in Tirhoot, states that in most parts of Mudhoobunee, and in some parts of Durbungah, the distress will not disappear "at the earliest till December;" and in these two districts alone he calculates that it will fall to the Government to support more than 800,000 persons. It will not be safe, therefore, to assume for the closing months of the distress less than half the pressure of the famine at its height.

6. If these conclusions are a just inference from the figures with which you have furnished me, it results that you have a supply of 420,000 tons of rice to meet a demand which you estimate at 413,000 tons. But this is the demand of the six most afflicted districts only. You observe that there will be partial distress in nine other districts. Sir Richard Temple apprehends (5th February) that half a million distressed persons from Nepal may come to the relief works and the rice stores of your Government. Moreover, 720 tons a week are destined (14th February) for Gya, Arrah, and the Soane Canal; 25,000 tons have been allotted (12th February) to the districts of Rajshahye other than Dinagepore, and the Lieutenant-Governor is anxious to retain 20,000 tons reserve to meet the probable want of Eastern Bengal. I observe also that Government grain is being stored in Chota Nagpore, and that relief works have been commenced in Burdwan, and that severe distress is reported to exist among the Sonthals. It is obvious, moreover, that, as prices advance, the distribution of Government grain cannot be confined to those who are "on our hands," that is to say, who are in the receipt of the wages or the alms of Government. There will be numbers who have money, or can procure enough to enable them to work on their own land, if only they can turn that money into grain at a reasonable rate, and against these the Government cannot safely close its stores. Already, in the beginning of February, in Tirhoot and Chumparun, public grain was being sold to the general customer, and as Government grain becomes the only grain of the district, the stores destined for the three millions who will be on your hands must be everywhere divided in some degree with a less destitute class. You evidently contemplated this method of supply, for I observe that one of the latest of your orders reported to me is a permission, under certain precautions, to sell rice whole-

sale to the local dealers, in order that in this way the grain imported into the district at public expense may be distributed by the private trade. It is obvious that, under this system, many who are now destitute will share the advantage of the importation, and must be allowed for in the provision that you make.

7. Even, therefore, if no disturbing cause should derange your calculations, and if I may assume, from your silence as to provision of any other grain, that you do not in them rely upon any such provision, it seems probable that 420,000 tons will fall considerably short of the quantity required. But, with the starvation of multitudes as the possible penalty of a mistake, I am convinced that you will not trust to any exact calculation. There are numerous contingencies which may diminish your supply, or may increase the demand upon you. A liberal allowance must be made for the possible failure of the arrivals on which you count, for the shrinkage of transport, for the chance of accident, for the loss that may result by the damage of rice by rain, for the mistakes of those who act under you. On the other hand, it may possibly be that the calculation on which you are relying will fall short of the truth. The area or the duration of the distress with which it is your duty to deal may be larger than you anticipate. Past experience will not lead you to place unbounded trust on the estimates that are supplied to you. I observe the following passage in one of your recent minutes,—

> “ These documents have been laid before the Government of India, and the
> “ Governor General in Council cannot but express the disappointment which he
> “ feels at the local officers having for so long neglected fully to appreciate the
> “ requirements of those parts of the country, and thereby occasioned the post-
> “ ponement to the present time of arrangements for transport which should have
> “ been made many weeks ago.”

These inadequate appreciations led you in November last confidently to name 2,500,000 as the number to be relieved. In March you raised that estimate, under the guidance of fuller information, to 3,000,000. It is impossible to assume with certainty that the tendency to an inadequate appreciation of the danger, which you have already noted in some of your local officers, has altogether ceased to operate.

8. These considerations lead me to apprehend that your supplies, as hitherto reported to me, are not sufficient to protect you against the possibility of a serious deficiency. They may be adequate if the most favorable anticipations should be justified by the event, but if any unforeseen aggravation of your difficulties were to occur, your Government might be involved in embarrassment of the gravest character.

9. By telegram of the 10th instant, I directed you to secure rice in the Burmese market up to 200,000 tons. In reply* you state, without indicating their nature, that you have strong objections to increase your purchases in Burmah. I have no wish to limit your discretion as to the mode of providing the requisite supplies. But I request you to take early measures for securing not only the quantity indicated by your present calculations, but also a very ample margin to meet contingencies, the exact nature of which it is impossible to foresee, but which, in an emergency of this magnitude, are in some form or other likely to occur.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed) SALISBURY.

* “40,000 tons will be placed in distressed districts above Temple's estimates of numbers, which are higher than those of local officers. Additional reserve not appropriated, 105,000 tons. Total reserve, 145,000. No probability that more can be sent up country from Calcutta before rains than ordered. If more wanted I shall draw on North-West Provinces and Punjab where supply available. I have strong reasons for not now increasing Burmese orders. More can be got from Burmah later if required; information you have received to contrary not correct. Real difficulty not supply, but local transport and distribution.”

LONDON:
Printed by George E. Eyre and William Spottiswoode,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

③

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

AND

THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN COUNCIL,

RELATIVE TO

THE FAMINE IN BENGAL.

PART III.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1874.

[C. 955.—II.] *Price 2s.*

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 16 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To the Most Honourable the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS, Calcutta, the 20th March 1874.

WE have the honour to transmit the thirteenth special narrative of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal for the fortnight ending the 19th instant.

2. We also enclose a memorandum of the 19th instant by Colonel Taylor, R.E., Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, submitting Lieutenant Bisset's report of the 12th instant, on the result of his inquiries respecting the grain traffic from the Punjab to Bengal and the present facilities offered by railway for conducting it. These papers are satisfactory inasmuch as they show the large amount of the supplies of grain available for export from the Punjab to Behar, but on the other hand it is clear that the arrangements of the East Indian and of the Sind, Punjab, and Delhi Railways have not up to the present time worked as smoothly as is desirable. The Viceroy has been in communication on the subject with Mr. Stephenson, agent of the East Indian Railway, who has assured His Excellency that for the future different arrangements will be made, and that the full amount of grain which the Government désire to send up by this line from Calcutta to the distressed districts, at the rate of 2,500 tons daily, will be despatched. Mr. Stephenson is confident of the ability of the line to convey this quantity, and he does not consider that any addition to his present rolling-stock is required; but the Viceroy has some doubts on this point, and Mr. Stephenson has agreed to make inquiries in order to ascertain whether any spare covered waggons might be hired with advantage from the Bombay and Baroda Railway; he has also arranged to have set up some additional open waggons, the materials for which are in the possession of the East Indian Railway. Mr. Stephenson, in common with the Government officers, has represented the importance of increasing the staff of engine-drivers, and a telegraphic despatch was addressed to Your Lordship on the 18th instant, requesting the earliest compliance practicable with this representation. Page 154.

3. With reference to Lieutenant Bisset's remarks upon the accumulation of grain at the Patna Station, we have requested the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to take special measures to prevent, as far as possible, the continuance of the block of trains at Patna loaded with grain on account of private trade, and also to improve the existing facilities for unloading at that station.

4. We deemed it desirable to request the Bengal Government to call for a report from the local officers as to the correctness of the statements made in a telegram despatched from Bankipore on the 9th ultimo, and published in the London "Daily News," which seem to have created some misapprehension in England as to the real state of things in Tirhoot. We enclose for your Lordship's information the replies of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and of the Commissioner of Patna to our inquiry.

5. In another despatch of this date we have endeavoured to give a summary of the relief operations of Government up to the present time and of the existing condition of the distressed districts. This summary embraces Sir Richard Temple's estimates for the several districts of the Rajshahye Division. His reports for Purneah and Dinagepore, which we promised in the 5th para. of Page 160.

our despatch of last week, will be found in Appendix C.* to the thirteenth special narrative. Our telegram of this date contains a brief abstract of Sir Richard Temple's proceedings in this division; the details will be forwarded next mail.

* Pages 25 and 26.

We have the honour to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
NAPIER OF MAGDALA
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

No. 1588—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Calcutta, dated 19th March / issued 19th March } 1874.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 1250—S.R., dated the 5th March 1874, I am directed to forward herewith seven copies of the thirteenth special narrative (with appendices and enclosures enumerated below) of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal from the 6th to 19th March 1874, inclusive.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Appendices.

A. Note on movement of food-grains.
B. Return of food-grain despatched from Calcutta.
C. Sir Richard Temple's Minutes, Nos. 44 and 45, on the Purneah and Dinagepore districts, and the Bengal Government orders thereon.
D. Sir Richard Temple's Minutes, Nos. 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43, regarding the sale of Government rice, and the orders of the Bengal and India Governments thereon.
Sir Richard Temple's Minute, No. 46, on the grain requirements of the Dinagepore district, and the Bengal Government orders thereon.
E. Government of India orders and revised instructions for Relief Committees.
F. The Lieutenant-Governor's orders on the relief works system, with the Chief Engineer's note on all relief work schemes now in hand.

Enclosures.

1. Return of rainfall, weather, and prospects of crops for the two weeks ending the 7th and 14th March 1874.
2. Return of prices-current for the same weeks.
3. Patna district narratives, and resolution thereon.
4. Bhaugulpore ditto ditto ditto.
5. Rajshahye ditto ditto ditto.
6. Comparative return of crime in distressed districts for February 1874.
7. Commissioner, Patna's, letter reporting on the purchases of northern grain at Patna.
8. Circular No. 1296, dated the 7th March 1874, about all civil and relief officers looking after the payment of work-people.
*9. Return of work-people on Government relief works in the distressed districts.
10. Précis of the Central Relief Committee's proceedings up to the 4th March.

* This Return will be sent by next mail.

11. Burdwan divisional report of 11th and 12th March, and the district reports, with Government orders thereon, and the Government orders on the subject of the jute-weaving industry; together with the Lieutenant-Governor's orders about the reception of pauper immigrants in Calcutta and adjacent towns.
12. Chota Nagpore divisional report of the 3rd March, with the Palamow narrative and Government orders thereon.
13. Commissioner's report of the 11th March and district report upon the Nuddea district.
14. Lists of additional officers of different branches of the service posted to the famine districts for special duty.
15. Surgeon-General's report No. 1544, dated 18th March, with enclosures, showing how far medical requirements for the famine districts have already been met.

THIRTEENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF THE DROUGHT IN BENGAL FROM THE 6TH TO 19TH MARCH 1874.

THE weather of the fortnight has been variable and unusual. In Bengal more rain* has fallen than is usual at this time of the year. There have been hailstorms in parts of Hooghly, the 24-Pergunnahs, Moorshedabad, Maldah, Pubna, Furreedpore, Patna, Tirhoot, Sarun, Bhagulpore, and Purneah. But these hailstorms usually extend over very limited areas; and, so far as the reports show, the hail has done no appreciable harm to the crops, except in small tracts of Furreedpore, Bhagulpore, and Purneah. The hailstones which fell in part of Calcutta on the 8th March were of unusually large size; but so limited was the area of the storm that, though it hailed for nearly half an hour at one end of the town, at the other end there was no hail at all. The rain which has fallen over most parts of Bengal will have done good to all the crops now in the ground; and on the whole the spring crops of Behar have passed through the fortnight without any general injury from rain or hail; and these crops may be said to be now (19th March) quite safe. The weather and rainfall reports for the last two weeks will be found in enclosure No. 1. The Meteorological Reporter writes regarding the weather of the fortnight in Calcutta thus:—

Rainfall of the fortnight in inches at some of the principal district head-quarters.

Burdwan - - - -	1·81
Beerbhoom - - -	1·09
Calcutta - - - -	1·88
Maldah - - - -	2·76
Dacca - - - -	1·27
Sylhet - - - -	1·20
Tipperah - - - -	0·26
Patna - - - -	0·02
Tirhoot - - - -	0·21
Chumparun - - - -	0·50
Bhagulpore - - -	0·08
Lohardugga - - -	1·86

"During the first five days of March the weather was fine and seasonable, the wind dry and steady from between west and south. On the 6th and 7th it became cloudy and a little rain fell, and on the afternoon of the 8th a somewhat severe hailstorm passed over the southern part of Calcutta, lasting for 20 minutes. The hailstones were abundant, of spheroidal or ellipsoidal form, and of unusual size. One was measured 1½ × 1⅙ inches in diameter, and about Garden Reach some are said to have been picked up 5 inches in girth. Since this there has been rain at intervals of three or four days, making a total of 1⅓ inches since the beginning of the month. The temperature has been unusually cool for the time of year."

Price of grain.

2. Prices in Central Bengal are much the same, and in Behar are a trifle dearer than they were a fortnight ago. The only districts where there has been really great increase in price are in East Bengal, where prices have risen during the fortnight—

from 14 seers to 12 seers per rupee in Dacca.
„ 17 „ to 13 „ per „ in Mymensingh.
„ 18½ „ to 15¾ „ per „ in Sylhet.
„ 16½ „ to 13 „ per „ in Chittagong.
„ 13 „ to 12 „ per „ in Noakholly.

These high prices betoken either depleted stocks or else a very large demand for export into the famine districts throughout East Bengal. Exports of rice beyond Bengal and the Calcutta demand for exportation are much slacker than heretofore; and this slackness has been felt in the Backergunge markets, where prices have fallen during the fortnight from 15 to 16 seers per rupee. The apparent rise in the Behar quotations most probably have occurred in head-quarters towns only, for the district narratives of Behar (see enclosures Nos. 3 and 4) speak of prices being easier, and supplies being sufficient in all districts except North

Tirhoot and North Chumparun. The present quotations for some of the principal districts compare with the prices shown in preceding narratives as follows:—

	Number of seers of common rice sold for a rupee.			
	On 31st Jan.	On 14th Feb.	On 28th Feb.	On 14th March.
Burdwan - -	14	13	13½	13
Beerbhoom -	12⅜	12	12½	13½
Hooghly - -	11 to 12	10 to 10½	11½ to 12½	11½ to 12½
Calcutta - -	12½	10½	12¼	12½
Dinagepore -	13¼	14	14	12¾
Maldah - -	11¾	12½	12	12
Rungpore - -	11¼	11¼	11¼	11⅛
Dacca - -	16	16	14	12
Backergunge -	16½	13½	15	16
Chittagong -	18	17	16½	13
Noakholly -	17½	16	13	13
Patna - -	12	13	13½	13
Shahabad - -	13	11¾	12½	12¼
Tirhoot - -	10	10	10	9½
Chumparun -	11¾	11¼	11	12
Bhagulpore -	12⅝	11¼	11⅜	13¾
Lohardugga -	15½	16	16	15
Maunbhoom -	15	14½	14½	14

The price-current statements for the last two weeks will be found in enclosure No. 2.

State of the crops.

3. The lapse of another fortnight has made the prospects of the spring crop more assured, and unless there be very unusual weather, such as heavy rain or hail-storms, over large areas before harvest-time, the out-turn will be good, far better, indeed, than the people or the local officers, or the Government, had any ground for hoping six weeks ago. In the Patna, Shahabad, Bhagulpore, Monghyr, and Purneah districts, the yield of the spring crop will be equal to the out-turn of ordinary years. In Purneah the unusually large breadth of spring crops will compensate for the shortness of the out-turn in some of the northern tracts. In Gya the spring harvest will be very good, but the Collector estimates the area under crop to be only half the breadth of ordinary years; even if this estimate be somewhat within the truth, still the narrowness of the spring crop lands will greatly reduce the benefit to be conferred on Gya by the harvest which is now being reaped. In Chumparun, despite a little hail in one corner of the district, from one half to two thirds of an average harvest is expected, excepting only in the Ramnugger tract to the north, where the spring crops are very poor, and in Sarun, where the spring crop area is larger than in any other district; the yield is expected to be from two thirds to three quarters of an average spring harvest. In Tirhoot the out-turn is not expected to average more than half the usual spring crop yield for the whole district; and the cheena (a cheap and early millet), which was somewhat extensively sown in February, is not doing well. In Central and Eastern Bengal the spring crops have been and promise to be very good; the occasional showers of the last six weeks have done the greatest good to the root and vegetable crops, to the April rice (boro dhan) fields, and to the spring millets. All these miscellaneous and ordinarily insignificant food-crops have been sown this year very much more broadly than usual in every district of Bengal Proper.

In brief, it may be hoped that the rainfall of February, though it came so late that hope had almost gone, has placed several districts of Bengal and Behar beyond the reach of famine, and has contributed greatly to enable the less fortunate districts to meet, with the help of Government, the distress and famine that are now being felt in parts of the country.

Supply of grain.

4. The supply of grain is still sufficient for the demand at most of the larger markets, though at places in the north of Tirhoot and of Chumparun the supply is insufficient, and prices are very high. Sales of Government grain through the local dealers, or, failing them, through Government officers, have been sanctioned in the most distressed tracts of Bhagulpore, Dinagepore, Tirhoot, and Chumparun. In these tracts local trade is doing nothing, or next to nothing, to maintain the supply. For the Bhagulpore,

Purneah, and Dinagepore tracts, Sir Richard Temple has (see Minute No. 39 at enclosure D.) fixed 12 seers per rupee as the rate at which Government rice is to be sold to the public; this rate is for Bengal clean rice; other grains, such as the partially-husked Burmah rice, will be sold at proportionate prices. For North Chumparun the rate for the sale of Government grain to the public has been fixed at 11 seers the rupee; the rate at which the grain is given to the traders being 11½ seers, they thus make something under 5 per cent. commission on their transactions. In the Durbhunga sub-division of Tirhoot the supply of Government grain now in store is not large enough to enable the Government to sell freely to the public; moreover, the private stocks are as yet sufficient, and private grain is still being sold at a rate a little cheaper than the rate of 10 seers per rupee, which at present obtains on the Government relief works. The sale of Government grain to the public is only now beginning on any considerable scale, so that at present nothing can be said as to the results of the measure. No report whatever has been received that the Burmah or Saigon rice is not acceptable to the labourers; indeed, the several kinds of rice have become so mixed up together in the hurry of transport, that the distinction has not been very completely maintained.

Private trade in grain.

5. In South Behar, in parts of Purneah, in parts of Sarun, in Maldah, Rajshahye, and Bogra, and especially in Rungpore, private trade in grain is brisk. Rice from Eastern Bengal is being carried largely into the districts on the Brahmapooter. The Magistrate of Rungpore writes: "The rice which is brought for sale is nearly all imported; "very little of it is home produce. The southern part of the district is mainly "supplied by boats from Dacca and Serajgunge, the west from * * * * Dinage-"pore, and Bograh, and the north and east from Cooch Behar and Julpigoree." The Government possesses no statistics of the private importations which reach the distressed districts by many rivers and channels; but of the grain which is carried into Behar by private trade, the railway furnishes complete returns, which show that private traders carried by railway into Behar—

From the North-Western Provinces and Punjab	14,397	tons of grain during the last fortnight for which returns are available.
From Calcutta and places in Bengal - -	8,988	tons of grain during the last fortnight for which returns are available.
Total - -	23,385	tons during the fortnight.

This gives a total importation of 1,670 tons of private grain daily.

Supply of grain from the Punjab.

6. There is a great deal of grain still waiting to come down from the Punjab by rail into Behar, and the traders complain from time to time that the railway cannot carry all they want to send. The Government of India have been in communication with the East Indian and the Scinde, Punjab, and Delhi Railway Companies with a view of ensuring the best use of all the available means at their disposal, and the increase of their means if possible. That there must be an immense deal of grain in the Punjab which will, if it can, find its way into Behar, is apparent from many sources of information. During the present week the Lieutenant-Governor has received an offer of service from a produce-dealer in the largest mart of the Punjab, who writes, "the crops all over the Punjab are larger than "have been known for very many years;" and grain could be largely bought, he adds, "at a minimum of, say, 40 seers of wheat and 44 seers of gram" for the rupee. The price of wheat quoted for Arrah, a town on the railway, at the time this letter was written, was 13½ seers per rupee.

Disposal of grain imported into Patna.

7. In successive narratives it has been stated that private grain was flowing into Behar by railway at the rate of 1,000 to 1,500 tons a day, and that a very large proportion of these great importations were consigned to Patna city. Yet when the Commissioner of Patna set himself last week, under instructions from Government, to buy in the Patna bazar 40,000 maunds of grain, he was met by the assurance that there were no large stocks in the city, and that any large Government transaction of the kind would derange the grain trade most seriously. It may be inferred, therefore, that the grain privately imported has found, and is

finding, its way quietly and gradually into the more remote markets of South Behar, if not of North Behar. It must have been largely due to these importations, as well as to the operations of Government, that the price of grain has remained at a comparatively moderate rate over South Behar during the last four months, notwithstanding the failure of the rice crops and the high prices quoted at the beginning of the scarcity in November 1873.

Export of grain.

8. In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, the exports of food-grains from Bengal during the five months ending on the 28th February are shown in a new shape at Appendix A.* The total exports of food-grains from all Bengal for the current and the previous year are as follow:—

	Number of tons exported in	
	1872–73.	1873–74.
For the month of February - - -	65,715	34,241
„ five months from October to February	249,900	172,907

The export returns for the first half of the month of March are not yet quite complete, and therefore no figures for the last fortnight are given; so far as returns and telegraphic advices of the exports beyond sea have been received, it is apparent that the export of rice from Bengal to Europe and the Colonies is declining. The periodical market reports received from the Chamber of Commerce show that the demand for rice in Calcutta for exportation has been slack during the fortnight, and that wholesale prices in Calcutta have fallen about 8 per cent. during the fortnight. The imports of grain from beyond sea into Bengal have been—

	1873–74.	
During the four months ending on the 28th February - -	100,064	as against for the whole year 1872–73, an import of 10½ tons.
During the month of February -	60,068	

Of this total only a very few thousand tons are on *bonâ fide* private account.

Condition of the people.

9. The only tracts in which the condition of the people is clearly getting worse, and in which there is at present actual famine, are the three north-east sub-divisions of Tirhoot (with a population of two millions), and a comparatively small tract of North Chumparun, with a population of about 300,000.

Tirhoot, the Lieutenant-Governor's visit.

The last narrative will have shown that there was cause for uneasiness about the state of parts of North Tirhoot. Immediately after the despatch of that narrative the accounts from Durbhunga became still more alarming; there seemed reason to believe that there had been a considerable outbreak of famine there. Under these circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor thought it right himself to proceed to the spot in order to satisfy himself of the state of things, and to do all that he could to assist in dealing with the calamity. He was the more anxious to do this as so much has now been trusted to local officers on the spot, and Mr. Metcalfe, the new Relief Commissioner, specially charged with the relief of North Tirhoot, was proceeding to take up his duties, while Mr. Bayley, the Commissioner of the Division, was at hand. The Lieutenant-Governor was thus able to meet these officers on the spot where the greatest want had arisen, to concert with them the necessary measures, and to see Mr. Metcalfe fairly started in his task.

Condition of affairs in Durbhunga.

10. On the Lieutenant-Governor's arrival he found there could be no doubt that famine of considerable severity had set in through the tracts about Bahira, Hathee, and Singhya in the Durbhunga sub-division, east and south-east of Durbhunga. The people were flocking to the relief works in enormous numbers. Voluntary agency was unfortunately not forthcoming so freely in Durbhungah as in most other parts, and it had not been found possible to organise local labour arrangements so rapidly. The lower classes of this part of Behar are a most miserable and timid people, most difficult to move. At first none will come to anything new. When they begin to come, they come with a rush like a great flock of sheep. It was necessary to offer work for long, and search them out before they could be got to it. A very full and complete Government organisation was being gradually elaborated, but unhappily we are always liable to surprise among

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* Page 22.

such a people; and in a limited tract it proved that some of the poorer classes had begun to starve before that organisation was in full operation. There was no dearth of supplies in the country; they were forthcoming at a dear rate, and the population at large was not seriously affected, but many of the poorest of the labouring classes had become much pinched, and a few of the most wretched had reached the point of starvation. The character of the distress and of the population were both such that the free use of relief works is, more than anything, effective. These were very rapidly extended and very indulgently managed, all comers being admitted, even though their work was little more than nominal. It is believed that by this means widely-spreading want has been stayed. Meantime, special care is given to those who have starved or nearly starved; they are well supplied with food and necessaries. The arrangements for village-to-village relief in detail, already in progress, are pressed on as fast as possible. At this season the population who are on the works do not suffer from exposure, and all who are not much reduced seem almost happy and contented there, so much so that it may be difficult to get them home again.

Popularity of the relief works.

11. The Lieutenant-Governor went through 49,000 people employed on the largest works, extending over several miles; many of them were very miserable, but the only loud complaint and strong appeal to him which he encountered was from a large group of families collected together, who seemed the most reduced and miserable of all. When he came to inquire into their grievances, it turned out that they had been selected by Mr. Metcalfe as quite unfit for work, and were to be taken in and specially cared for. With loud wailings they protested against such treatment, and only prayed to be allowed to remain on the works. It is impossible to save the lives of many reduced children because the parents will not come to our relief-houses until sheer force is used, and that might create a panic. Except, however, these very reduced cases, the works suffice for the present.

Though wages are low and food dear, the indulgence which allows whole families to come on the works and receive payment makes them very popular, and enables the people to subsist. Women and children are much more numerous than men. It is, however, impossible to continue long to allow the numbers collected together to increase, and all efforts are now given to deal with the needy in detail. Some progress had already (17th March) been made in sifting the immense masses of people on the largest works; the able-bodied, who prefer good wages, are being kept on considerable works, where a stricter system can be enforced; the less able villagers, and those who are better at their homes, are being sent to petty village works; and those unfit for any work are being put on charitable relief. Commencement is also made of dealing with cultivators by advances.

Charitable relief organisation.

12. The Lieutenant-Governor, the Commissioners, and their officers have occupied themselves in carrying out the details of these arrangements under the general rules already laid down. A large European agency had been arranged for, but the Lieutenant-Governor found the native agency to be deficient. He has directed every effort to call out and use the village agency which the country affords to stimulate the landholders and their agents to get such paid native agency as the country affords; but superior native agency is not available. The population being Hindustanee, and more allied to the people of the North-Western Provinces than to those of Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor appealed to the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces for aid. That appeal was promptly responded to, and a number of selected native officers have been sent down by Sir W. Muir; they will be of the greatest use. Some good Bengalee officers and some Bengalees selected by the Commissioners of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions have also been sent to assist in the work. The native officers will be especially useful in many circles; and in some circles, where civil servants of limited experience of the country are in charge, native coadjutors will be invaluable, especially in dealing with that most difficult but most important part of our operations—the advance of money and grain to respectable cultivators, whom assistance may enable to tide over the period of distress.

General result of operations in Tirhoot.

13. The Lieutenant-Governor has visited both several parts of the very populous Durbhunga sub-division and parts of the two other specially distressed sub-divisions of Tirhoot, Seetamurhee, and Madhubunnee. In one part of Madhubunnee there seems to be some cause of apprehension, but the sub-divisional officer is going to the spot, and it is hoped that danger will be obviated. The Lieutenant-Governor has been happy to find a concurrence of official and non-official testimony (confirmed so far as he has seen by his own observation) that in these two sub-divisions, as well as in the greater part of the Durbhunga sub-division, the want which was certainly coming very rapidly on the people has been met and stayed. The means were found of managing relief works and giving aid in a rough way wherever it was most necessary, pending the completion of a more perfect organization. Everywhere there is great resort to the relief works. Everywhere other forms of relief are rapidly progressing, and the result has been to save the people from starvation. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts he may believe that it is only in the comparatively limited tracts above alluded to that actual starvation has been reached, and that in those tracts it is now stayed. Only three or four deaths are recorded as actually due to starvation; it may be feared that directly or indirectly a few more may have suffered, of whom we have no full information; but it is believed that everything possible has been done to arrest the evil, and that with the help of God we shall succeed.

Ramnuggur tract of Chumparun.

14. The relief officer of the northern and most distressed tract of Chumparun writes that "during the last few days there has been "a marked change for the worse in the condition of "the people throughout a large part of this sub-division." Prices have for some weeks been high in this tract, the people are for the most part poor, and the landlord does little to assist them. Regular charitable relief, village by village, began earlier in this tract than in any of the famine districts; and it appears that by such relief, and by the sale of Government grain to those who can pay, the distress will be met, and the people will be enabled to get through the hard season from March to August next. No cases of death from starvation are reported, though the village-to-village visitation has brought to light some hundreds of people who were unable to work, were much reduced in strength, and must probably have died before long if Government relief had not been given.

Other possible famine tracts.

15. The only other tracts in which the near approach of actual famine had been apprehended were parts of North Bhagulpore, part of South Monghyr, part of Sarun, part of Purneah, and parts of Dinagepore, Maldah, and Rungpore. Of North Bhagulpore the Magistrate was able to write: "I have been over a large extent "of country in all the worse tracts; * * * prices have "not only fallen, but grain is more easily procurable; * * * "should no damage be done to the spring crops by hail or rain, general distress "will certainly be averted till June." He adds: "There can be no question "that matters are more satisfactory now than they were a month or so ago." From the worst part of Monghyr the sub-divisional officer gives a favourable report of the condition of the people, and says that "he saw no signs of starva-"tion." Regarding the worst parts of Purneah the Magistrate reports that isolated cases of great distress are found, but there is no general distress. He adds that "as long as the supply of grain is kept up as it is at present, he has "no fears for the people." Regarding the worst parts of Sarun the sub-divisional and district officers report "that there is distress, but the people are "far from starvation as yet," and that "there have been no cases of starvation, "but isolated cases of distress are reported and are provided for." From Dinagepore the Magistrate reports that the people are "wonderfully cheerful "and sanguine about the future;" and Sir Richard Temple, after his tour through the Dinagepore district, writes (see Minute* No. 45, enclosure C.) "there is no marked distress yet reported, nor has any marked symptom come "under my observation." From Maldha the Magistrate writes: "No cases of "distress or starvation are reported;" and after visiting the worst part of the district, he says: "I am glad to find there is at present no cause for anxiety in "that quarter." From Rungpore it is reported that the excellent promise of

* Page 25.

the spring crops makes things look much more hopeful; but in some parts there is much distress, which is being relieved as it occurs, and at the relief houses there were a considerable number of people suffering from disease and starvation combined.

In some of the districts mentioned in this paragraph, severe distress is expected later in the year, and preparations are being made accordingly. But general distress has not yet appeared in these tracts, as it has unhappily in Tirhoot and North Chumparun. From several parts of the country, it is reported that, if it had not been for the measures taken by Government, there would have been many thousands of starvation deaths before this, and the prospect for the next four months would assuredly have been very much blacker than it now is.

Other districts classed as *distressed*.

16. Of the other districts and tracts classed *distressed* in November 1873, it may be said that the favourable rains of February and the activity of private trade have, so far as the local officers are able to judge, removed all present apprehension of general distress or famine. The condition of affairs in parts of the Burdwan, Presidency and Chota Nagpore Divisions, and in the Sonthal Pergunnahs, none of which were originally classed as *distressed*, will be noticed in subsequent paragraphs.

Sir Richard Temple's tour in the Rajshahye Division.

17. At paragraph 10 of last (the twelfth) narrative, it was stated that Sir Richard Temple was about to visit Purneah and the districts of the Rajshahye Division. At Appendix C. will be found his Minute, No. 44,* on the Purneah District. He found that the promise of a fine spring harvest had greatly improved the prospects of Purneah; he estimated that 240,000 people would be on the hands of Government for four and a half months, and that for their maintenance 6,50,000 maunds of Government grain would be required for the district. This estimate, which was somewhat in excess of that framed by the local officers and by the Bengal Government, has been accepted, and the required amount of grain will be carried into the district. Sir Richard Temple found the grain transport arrangements cheap and adequate; and he approved the circles which had been formed for the administration of charitable relief by the local officers. From Dinagepore Sir Richard Temple wrote (see Minute No. 45,† Appendix C.) that the relief circles formed were sufficient, but that native subordinates were required under the Relief Superintendents; that the grain transport arrangements were working well, and up to the requirements of the district; and that the cattle were in good condition. Sir Richard Temple noted the further requirements of the district in respect of Public Works subordinate officials and in respect of medical subordinates; these requirements are being met. The Government of India has been pleased to help Dinagepore and other districts by ordering selected native officers of the army to the famine districts for work as Assistant Superintendents of Relief Circles. At Appendix D. will be found Minute No. 46,‡ in which Sir Richard Temple puts the grain requirements of Dinagepore at 12,00,000 maunds, a quantity somewhat in excess of the estimate framed by the local officers and the Bengal Government. There is every ground for trusting that the whole of the increased allotment will be in the district by the time it is wanted; some of the grain will not be required until July and August, when, as Sir R. Temple points out, the inland waters will be navigable.

Grain from Upper India for Behar.

18. At paragraph 11 of last (the twelfth) narrative it was stated that the Government of India had authorised the purchase, through local dealers, of a quantity of northern grains, sufficient for the supply of Sarun, Shahabad, and the Soane Canal works. The weekly supply for these tracts had been 42,000 maunds, and the Commissioner of Patna has arranged (see enclosure No. 7§) for the delivery of this quantity of grain weekly by four of the chief grain dealers of Patna city; the price is to be 2¾ rupees per maund, inclusive of all charges for bags, railway freight, &c. The medical officer of Tirhoot, and also the Surgeon-General and Deputy Surgeon-General of the Indian Medical Department, had represented that it might be injurious if Government attempted to feed on rice only all the Tirhoot labourers and poor who were accustomed to mix barley and pulse or other nitrogenous food with their daily meal. The Sarun and Chumparun populations will have in the crops now reaped or ripening a very considerable

* Page 26.

† Page 25.

‡ Page 31.

§ Page 121.

proportion of nitrogenous grains; and, therefore, the Lieutenant-Governor decided to divert to Tirhoot the weekly suply of 42,000 maunds of northern grains (principally pulse) which the Government of India had permitted him to buy. This arrangement will relieve the pressure on the East Indian Railway from Howrah upwards to the amount of about 1,500 tons a week; it remains to be seen whether the Patna contractors, who will import their supplies direct from the North-Western Provinces, can obtain railway waggons to bring their grain down with sufficient regularity.

Despatches of Government grain.

19. The total despatches of Government grain from Calcutta during the fortnight under review were (see Appendix B) 9,80,090 maunds. Altogether 46,20,000 maunds (about 167,000 tons) of Government grain have been despatched to, or received in, the distressed districts up to Tuesday, the 17th March. The daily despatches by the East Indian Railway during the fortnight averaged 1,553 tons, which is considerably below the maximum which the Government of India (as stated in paragraph 12 of last narrative) fixed as the maximum daily despatch. The Government of India have been assured by Mr. Stephenson, the agent of the East Indian Railway Company, that by better traffic arrangements the full requirements of Government will in future be met. As a consequence of the limited carrying power of the railway, it has not been possible to send off daily sufficient grain to keep the local transport agencies at work; there were happily reserve stocks on the banks of the Ganges at Caragola and Jugdes Chuck, which had been collected before the local transporting power had been expanded to its present proportions; while the transport contractors on one important route broke down temporarily; and so, practically, there has been no absolute loss or grave inconvenience from the shortness of the East Indian Railway despatches. The South Behar Districts had, indeed, been unsupplied, but this was in accordance with the orders of the Government of India (see Clause I. of the second schedule in Appendix 9 to the twelfth narrative), and it may turn out to be quite safe to leave these districts without any further supply of Government grain whatever. Meanwhile, the carts which were collected for the transport of grain to Gya were diverted to Tirhoot and made useful there. The arrangements detailed at para. 11 of the twelfth narrative for relieving, to some extent, the pressure on the East Indian Railway, upwards from Howrah, are coming into effect; the 42,000 maunds a week from the North-West have been arranged for; and one steamer with flats has already carried from Kooshtea half a week's supply to Manick Chuck and Hyatpore; another steamer and pair of flats has been engaged for this line, and as soon as she is at work, the East Indian Railway will be relieved of about 70,000 maunds of upward freight per week. There will remain, however, to go daily by the East Indian Railway—

Arrah for Sarun - - - - -	5,000 maunds a day.
Arrah for Chumparun - - - - -	1,000 „
Futwah Ghaut for Tirhoot and Chumparun -	17,000 „
Barh Ghaut for Tirhoot - - -	11,000 „
Mokameh for Tirhoot - - - - -	6,000 „
Monghyr for Tirhoot - - - - -	3,000 „
Monghyr for North Bhagulpore - -	5,000 „
Sultangunge for North Bhagulpore - -	4,000 „
Colgong for Purneah - - - -	5,000 „
Caragola for Purneah - - -	5,000 „
Total - - - -	62,000 maunds, = 2,214 tons daily.

For every one of these depatches contracts or other arrangements for daily removing the grain into the interior have been made. During the last fortnight all these depôts except two (Barh Ghaut and Mokameh, which last is only newly opened) were despatching grain by cart into the interior at a rate equal to what is above given. So that even allowing for the relief given at Futwah Ghaut and Rajmehal, the East Indian Railway must carry 2,200 tons of Government grain daily from Howrah, without allowing anything for reserves at depôts across the Ganges, or for the supply of new requirements, such as Maunbhoom or the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

Mokameh siding.

20. During the fortnight under review a third siding from the East India Railway down to the Ganges at Mokameh was completed and opened. 6,000 maunds of Government grain is now going thither.

Eastern Bengal Railway.

21. The despatches of Government grain by the Eastern Bengal Railway averaged 804 tons a day; and that line can carry much more if need arises.

Ferrying grain across the Ganges.

22. All the grain received at the railway stations is now ferried over the Ganges quite as rapidly as it can be supplied from Calcutta. The only place regarding which any anxiety is at present felt is the crossing from Kooshtea to Godagaree, Manick Chuck, and Hyatpore. A good deal of this ferry duty used to be done by native boats, but now that the west winds have set in, they cannot get up the river within any reasonable time, and accordingly the Lieutenant-Governor has arranged that before the end of the month an additional steamer with two flats shall be put on the Kooshtea berth. The Lieutenant-Governor when he visited the Brah Ghaut ferry was doubtful whether all the five steamers and their flats allotted to the Patna Division crossings were really required there, and careful inquiry is being made on this point; meanwhile, until it is clear that the steamers are not or will not be required, they are not to be withdrawn.

Transport of grain from the River Ganges.

Sarun route.

Bunker Ghaut route.

23. The work of transporting the Government grain, mainly by cart, but partly also by pack-bullock and boats, from the depôts on the north bank of the river, is going on for the most part very smoothly and well. Taking the several routes in the order given at paragraph 19 above, we come first to the depôt opposite Arrah, whence every maund of grain, regularly as it comes, is removed by cart into the interior of Sarun and Chumparun. No reserve has yet been formed at this depôt. Next comes the Bunker Ghaut depôt opposite to Patna, whence from 25,000 to 28,000 maunds (about 1,000 tons) daily have been regularly carted away during the last fortnight. The pressure at Bunker Ghaut depôt has recently been slightly eased by taking some of the Chumparun grain *viâ* Arrah, but the transport contractors and officers on this route have worked most successfully hitherto. A reserve equal to about two days' supply has been collected at this depôt.

Chumpta Ghaut and other East Tirhoot routes.

North Bhagulpore routes.

24. From the Chumpta Ghaut depôt the transport contractors have not done nearly so well. They engaged to carry away 17,000 maunds of grain a day; for the first fortnight of their contract their despatches barely averaged 7,000 maunds a day, and at one time they were down to 3,000 maunds a day. During a part of the last week, however, they have worked up again to 12,000 a day; they have struck out another route from Monghyr up into South-East Durbhunga, by which they hope to carry 3,000 maunds a day. It remains to be seen whether the contractors will work up to their enagement. Grain is greatly wanted in the part of Durbhunga which they are to supply, and the Lieutenant-Governor, who was in consultation with the local officers on the spot, deemed it better to let the contractors redeem the ground they had lost rather than attempt to improvise a new agency. The contractors for North Bhaugulpore, who carry their grain from depôts opposite Monghyr and Sultangunge, have, during the fortnight, worked up to the terms of their agreement, and had carried away from the river side about 7,000 maunds a day.

Purneah route.

25. For the Purneah transport there are no large European contractors; the work is done by petty native contractors, who provide ten or twenty carts a-piece. Mr. Hankey, Transport Inspector, has given much attention to this route, and the Purneah transport agency, which at the beginning of February lifted barely 2,000 maunds a day from Caragola, has despatched, during the first ten days of March, 9,800 maunds daily.

Rajshahye Division routes.

26. The pack-bullock and cart routes from Hyatpore and Manick Chuck (opposite Rajmehal) into North Dinagepore and Maldah are already carrying between them 4,000 maunds a day, which is beyond the highest estimate previously made of their capabilities. From Godagaree and Rampore Beauleah daily despatches up to

8,000 and 9,000 maunds are being made into Dinagepore and Maldah besides about 2,000 maunds a day which the Northern Bengal Railway works are receiving *viâ* Dhaparee and the Burrul river. The Bograh District is transporting to its stores and onward into South-East Dinagepore all the grain it receives. Rungpore has hitherto sent on about 2,500 maunds a day from its depôt at Kaligunge on the Berhampooter. If the total allotment for this district should now be increased, the transporting power will no doubt be expanded.

General review of transport business.

Services of military officers.

27. The Lieutenant-Governor, when thus reviewing what is being done to transport Government grain into the interior of the most distressed districts, is glad to be able to say that the divisional and district officers of Bengal have in this matter been able to organise and to carry out all that was required, and more than was expected, of them. Sir George Campbell would add that the services of the officers of the Quarter-Master General's and Commissariat Departments have most zealously and effectively seconded the labours of the civil officers, and have, by maintaining the roads and by organising the long strings of carts, contributed most materially to the successful result which has, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes, been secured. Up to the present date the cattle which draw the grain carts are said to be generally in good condition, fodder and water has been everywhere provided, and with the exception of the Chumpta Ghaut failure, which is being remedied, there is no present sign of a break-down being probable.

Quantity of Government grain in final stores.

Out of the total of 167,000 tons of Government grain shown (at paragraph 21 above) as despatched to the distressed districts up to date, the quantities which have reached their final destination are by the latest returns,—

	Tons.
Patna Division - - -	43,808
Bhagulpore - - -	22,981
Rajshahye - - - -	14,877
Total - -	81,666

The returns on which these figures are based do not show the actual facts for some districts up to a later date than the 7th March, so that at the present time of writing there must be close upon 95,000 tons actually in store. As yet these stores have been hardly drawn upon at all, so that the relief operations will start everywhere with a considerable stock of Government grain in hand, a stock, moreover, which is being rapidly increased by the transport agencies of the several districts.

Relief works.

28. The fortnightly returns of persons employed on Government relief works will be found at enclosure No. 9.* The number of people receiving relief in this shape has increased enormously in Northern Tirhoot during the fortnight. Compared with the figures given in the last narrative (paragraph 18) the numbers employed daily stand thus:—

	Last fortnight.	Fortnight under report.
Patna Division - - -	162,267	234,249
Soane Canal Works - - -	36,000	29,589
Gunduck Embankments - -	19,240	25,615
Bhagulpore Division (inclusive of Kurrockpore works) - -	16,310	22,800
Rajshahye Division - - -	35,940	54,832
Burdwan Division, Nuddea, Chota Nagpore, and Cooch Behar -	11,754	19,219
Northern Bengal Railway - -	6,200	7,000
Total - -	287,711	393,304

At paragraphs 10 and 11 has been given a notice of what the Lieutenant-Governor himself saw on the Tirhoot works. There the people were gathered together in enormous crowds on single works; in Sarun, on the other hand, the work-people are scattered over more than a hundred and forty different works, some large and some small. In Sarun, Dinagepore, and Chumparun the works are supervised and directed mainly by civil officers, by planters, and by persons locally engaged. From Tirhoot there has been much demand for additional Public Works subordinates, and recently further indents for assistance of the same kind has been received from other districts. For the superior supervision of relief works sufficient arrangement has been made; an additional Superintending Engineer, two additional Executive Engineers, and some few more Assistants have been sent to North Behar. Two subordinates and one Assistant Engineer have been sent up to Palamow, where over 6,000 work-people are now employed daily. But other indents have not yet been complied with, because all available men are being sent to North Behar, in compliance with the requisitions of the local officers, supported by Sir R. Temple. The Government of India have most promptly complied with a request for the loan of 25 overseers from other Provinces; some of these men have already joined in North Tirhoot, and others are on their way. So far as is possible, all the demands for professional assistance will be met, even if it be necessary to take unpassed students from the Calcutta and Roorkee Engineering Colleges; but, as was explained in last narrative (see paragraph 19 and enclosure No. 7), the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that much may be done towards supervising works through the relief officers of all grades. Special orders drawing the attention of all civil officers to this part of their relief duties and to the need for seeing that the wages really reach the work-people have been issued. (See enclosure No. 8.*)

* Page 123.

Distinction between regular and merely subsistence relief works.

During the fortnight, Colonel Nicolls, the Chief Engineer, has presented a review of all the relief work schemes now in hand or projected, pointing out the weak points of each, and setting forth how far these works will suffice for the employment of all the labourers who may come upon the hands of Government. Colonel Nicolls' note has been circulated to officers in the distressed districts, together with orders directing that the labouring poor should, as soon as possible, be separated into (1) the able-bodied who can and wish to earn a full day's wage, and who should be employed on regular public works under engineer officers, and on the ordinary system; and (2) less competent work-people who can or wish to earn merely subsistence wages, and who should be employed in small numbers on petty works. These smaller works are to be under the management of civil and relief officers, and they should be, as far as possible, undertakings in which local residents take an interest, so as to secure effective supervision by local agency. These orders (see Appendix F.†) by no means imply that all people who want relief must be put on works of some kind, for the charitable relief by grants of food, by loans of money or grain, and by advances, will be outside the relief works. But inasmuch as the great pauper populations of North Behar seem very much disposed to come upon the works, and to prefer relief in that shape, it is desirable that the relief work administration should be systematised, and the previous instructions on the subject have been re-affirmed.

† Page 34.

Tools for work-people.

29. From Tirhoot also emergent indents have been recently received for a very large number (60,000) of tools for relief works. These have now all been supplied, but it has become necessary to order further supplies of tools, as the depôts in Calcutta were being cleared out. 45,000 more tools will reach Bengal from Agra during the month of March; 42,000 are at the present time being landed in Calcutta; 90,000 are still on the way out from England; these, together with such supplies as can be obtained locally during April and May, will, [illegible] believed, suffice for all demands. Up to the present date 126,000 hoes and picks have been supplied to the famine districts; 182,000 more are either in depôt or on the way from Europe and from Northern India.

Charitable relief.

30. Since the submission of the last narrative the Government of India has, in communication with the Lieutenant-Governor and the Central Relief Committee, made certain revisions in the "Instructions to Relief Committees," and has issued a very important order, dated the 6th March, reminding all local officers that "it is their duty to see that arrangements for the relief of distress are adequate within the area under their charge, and that they will be held responsible that no deaths from starvation occur which could have been avoided by any exertion or arrangements within their power and the means placed at their command." The working of relief committees and relief officers is placed under district officers and commissioners of divisions; much discretion is left to local officers, who are authorised to adopt

special measures to meet special emergencies. The invariable use of any test, either in the shape of labour or in the shape of cooked food, is not prescribed; and *the* great object set before all civil relief officers and relief officers is to search out distress and to relieve it in the best way the instructions allow or circumstances may permit. Special attention is drawn to the need for systematically and liberally making advances of grain to ryots and others who, though now in sore straits, may probably be able to make repayment in future years, and at present need food to sustain themselves and their families while the land is being prepared for the next autumn crop.

The text of the Government of India orders, with the revised "Instructions" and the Government of Bengal's Circular, will be found in Appendix E.*

* Page 33.

Organization of relief.

31. At paragraphs 22–25 of last (the twelfth narrative) was given some account of the progress made in organising charitable relief in each district. At paragraphs 10 and 11 of the present narrative have been related the arrangements making in North Tirhoot under the Lieutenant-Governor's own eyes. As yet the only tracts where there is already general distress or famine among large classes of the population are North Tirhoot and North Chumparun; and it may be well to give here, in the words of the Sub-Divisional officers in actual charge, an account of what has been, or was being, actually done up to the first week in March. The Sub-Divisional Officer of Durbhunga writes:—

"The system of relief which we are now carrying out, and which has been in its main features originated by Sir Richard Temple, differs radically from all systems which previous famines brought into operation. The key-note of our system is the prevention of the assemblage at any centre of large masses of indigent persons and the establishment in every village of relief operations, bringing to the doors of those able to work remunerative labour, and to the doors of those unable to work gratuitous relief.

"To this end Sir Richard divided the sub-division into two relief sub-divisions (allowing, however, the controlling influence of the Sub-Divisional Officer to remain), and re-divided these again into 12 Circles, and promised for each Circle a competent administrative officer; of whom, however, I with regret remark in passing, only three have arrived.

"The details of the system it was given to us to work out; for although certain rules were laid down by the Central Relief Committee at Calcutta, those rules were somewhat vague, and were burdened with returns and statements it would be impossible to submit. Those rules have since been cancelled. The system you have for this sub-division approved of is the following:—

"Premising that it was necessary to connect the Circle Superintendents or Sub-Committee Officers with the people, it was evident that the Circle should be sub-divided to such a manageable extent as to permit of the Relieving Officer being, if not in all cases, personally acquainted with the general condition of each group, at all events vicariously acquainted with the intimate state of every village. Therefore the Circle was sub-divided into as many village groups as would allow of one subordinate officer visiting daily, or at most once every two days, each village in the group. The maximum number of *whole* villages, which, with this object in view, could be safely included in a group, was fixed at ten. As Inspector and Executive Officer under the Superintendent for each group, an educated respectable resident is chosen, it being a most desirable thing that in the relief operations local knowledge should be, if possible, utilised. To aid the Inspectors so appointed in procuring information, bringing relief where wanted, and supervising village relief works, two peons (messengers) are attached to the Inspector, and the chowkidars (watchmen) in each village in the group are also to report to the Inspector the state of their villages daily. The Inspector is to submit daily to the Superintendent a statement under prescribed headings, showing the condition of the group under him. He is to see that sufficient work is provided for the storing, and that fit subjects for charitable relief are not denied it. He is to give orders on the storekeeper for raw materials, and is to see that the manufactured product is duly paid for by the storekeeper, and is to be responsible for the due expenditure of the money allotted for village relief work. This completes the intelligence and executive department, in which I have striven to utilise as much as possible local knowledge and neighbourly feeling.

"It would be manifestly useless to know where distress lay if we had not at hand the means to alleviate it. We had, therefore, to bring home to each group of villages remunerative labour for the strong and gratuitous charitable relief for the weak.

"This we did by opening, in a conveniently situated village of the group, a relief work, such as excavation of a tank, calculated to employ the people and benefit them in addition. We also established in each group of villages a local grain-store, drawing its supplies from the circle depôt at which the village labourers might procure food with the wages of their labour. Attached to this store is a depôt where cotton may be obtained by respectable females in indigent circumstances desirous of supporting themselves; and in charge of this local grain-store is a mohurir (clerk), whose duty it is to keep a few simple forms and make necessary returns to the Superintendent, see that grain is sold to the labourers and distributed to those on gratuitous relief. As a matter of detail, I may mention that this local grain-store, when established in a group in which there is a depôt, is entrusted to a bunneah (local dealer), the depôt-keeper in this case making returns. In all other cases the mohurir has a bunneah under him to sell. A peon is attached to the store.

"This is the outline of the system. Now I give you an example of its working. Being anxious to give Messrs. Marindin and Harris a clearer conception of their duty than any verbal explanation could give, I went with them to Bahera and formed a group around Bahera; on entering each village in the group we had all the poor collected. Those unable to work we at once put on gratuitous relief, subsequently forming a register of such, showing the number on the register of each, his name, residence, and quantity of gratuitous relief he was entitled to, and giving him a ticket with these particulars inscribed on it, and directing him to present it at the local store weekly, where the storekeeper having a duplicate of the register would dispense the requisite relief. Having done this we proceeded to determine what village relief works might, with due regard to the want of the people and the propinquity of imperial works, be commenced, and the village agency to work them. Having settled this point we proceeded to find out the number of females who were desirous of spinning cotton, and issued orders accordingly. Having seen all the village headmen and respectable residents, we finally appointed an Inspector, fixed on a local rice store, and in the case of this circle, appointed a bunneah to the charge of it."

The sub-divisional officer of North Chumparun writes :—

"The sub-divisional committee of Ramnuggur, with the two sub-committees at Bulthur under Colonel Boulderson and at Bagaha, are now in full working order. I visit Bagaha once a fortnight, when a meeting is held and measures for relief are discussed.

Joint-Magistrate, of Ramnuggur	*Chairman.*
Mr. Christien	*Members.*
" Moore	
" Blake	
" Brooke	
Sree Autar Missir, of Naryanpore	
Ramnarain, of Bagaha	

"The tuppah (Bulthur) has been divided into halkas (circles), and each member is to take charge of one. Lists of all the poor requiring relief are prepared by the putwarees (village accountants) and tested by the member-in-charge of the halkas, who is also responsible for the distribution of food to those in the lists whom he, after examining, finds unfit for work.

"At Bagaha we have a dispensary, hospital, and poor-house, and a native doctor from Hurnatar has arrived. Sickness at Hurnatar has, I am happy to say, decreased, so his remaining there is not necessary. The dispensary is ready, being a very conveniently situated house placed at our disposal by a native gentleman of the town. The poor-house is being built close by, and temporary relief is being administered in a shed near the thanna (police station). * * * About 200 persons unfit for work are daily fed at the poor-house, which Mr. Christien at present manages, and I am glad to say that great discrimination is used in feeding only those who really cannot work. At present the sub-committee confines its attention (in addition to managing the local poor-house) to the village-to-village relief system and to collecting statistics. I think it is better at first to do what is absolutely necessary, viz., to support those who otherwise must starve, and gradually to perfect the system in introducing the various rules laid down for committees. In my next fortnightly narrative I hope to be able to report that much progress has been made; at present I consider what has been done at Bagaha to be very satisfactory. An organised village-to-village relief system has been formed, which will effectually relieve those who most require it. A central poor-house and dispensary has been started, and the local information thus acquired, which will be placed before the committee at the next meeting, will enable us satisfactorily to enlarge our operations.

"At Ramnugger the dispensary, hospital, and poor workhouse are in full working order; the buildings are nearly complete; and, meantime, work is done in a shed and a small tent. 710 persons have received relief since the work has been started; 142 out-door patients have received medical relief, and all of these (710) were persons utterly unable to work, either from sickness, old age, or physical incapacity. In tuppah Deoraj I have under the village-to-village system 347 persons of this class who daily receive relief. These I have examined in person, and found they were utterly unfit at present even for the lightest work. Most of them have been reduced by sickness as well as want of food, and altogether the condition of these unfortunates is pitiable. I distribute food for these twice a week, and I am much assisted in this tuppah by Sheik Salamut Ally, an influential and public-spirited zemindar. In this tuppah the headmen of each village and the putwarees receive a certain amount of food sufficient to last the poor of his village of whom he receives a list (an extract from my register) and whom he is bound to supply twice a week. The greatest safeguard against abuse is the fact that the poor themselves know how much they are entitled to; and secondly, there is constant inspection both by Sheik Salamut Ally, who is a member of the committee, and myself. In this way this important tuppah is provided for, and similar steps for the others are also being taken. In my next fortnightly report I trust that generally throughout the sub-division our charitable relief system will be fully organised and in complete working order."

In the districts of Sarun, Monghyr, Bhagulpore, Purneah, Maldah and Rungpore, a good deal of charitable relief is being given at poor-houses, but the applicants (to the number of nearly 4,000 in all) are mainly beggars, sick and infirm persons, and destitute women who cannot work, and in ordinary years would be supported by private charity. In Rungpore and Sarun arrangements are being made to distribute advances of grain and sometimes of money to ryots and other residents who, in ordinary years, are well-to-do. In none of the other distressed districts is there reported to be any present need for charitable relief.

Central Relief Committee.

32. The Executive Committee of the Central Relief Fund have now at their disposal—

	Rs.
Indian Subscriptions - - -	5,08,539
English and Scotch - - -	5,20,990
Government contribution - - -	5,33,085
Total - -	15,62,614 = £156,261

They have drawn up and published a précis of their proceedings up to the 4th March (see enclosure No. 10).* As it would be costly and undesirable to maintain two establishments side by side in the famine districts, and as the responsibility for searching out and relieving distress rests upon Government and its officers, the Central Committee have withdrawn from executive control over the relief organisation; they grant funds to distressed districts on good cause being shown, and they will obtain, for the information of their subscribers and of the public, reports and accounts of all the charitable fund that may be spent. It has not been possible, without weakening responsibility and impairing the efficiency of the relief organisation, to maintain a clear distinction between the relief objects on which Government funds and those on which charitable subscriptions are to be spent.

* Page 124.

Advances. 33. According to the district reports the amount of advances made in the distressed and in other threatened districts up to the end of February was,—

	Rs.
Advances for purchase of grain - - -	10,53,185
„ for land improvements - - -	1,68,486
„ to Zemindars to help their ryots - -	2,55,359
„ to Municipalities under the Local Public Works Loans Act - - -	24,000
Total - - -	15,01,030

The fullest scope has been given to the Government orders in these matters in the Sarun District, where Mr. Drummond and his subordinates have advanced—

	Rs.
For purchase of grain - - - -	3,26,500
„ land improvements - - - -	51,853
„ advances to ryots - - - - -	1,34,789
„ Municipal improvements - - - -	10,000
Total - -	5,23,132

The latest district narratives (enclosure No. 3*) show that in Sarun advances for helping ryots are still liberally taken. Seeing that in most cases these advances will certainly be recovered, every rupee advanced is a clear saving to the public treasury and a benefit to the country, as it either secures the execution of permanent improvements, or else saves future relief expenditure which cannot be recovered. During the next few weeks one of the most difficult and important tasks which devolve on civil and relief officers will be the distribution of advances of grain to ryots in the tracts where the supply is absolutely short. * Page 75.

Burdwan Division. 34. Among the tracts which are not yet absolutely *distressed*, but regarding which the Lieutenant-Governor has had much anxiety, the Burdwan Division is the largest and most important. At enclosure No. 12† will be found the Commissioner's report, with the district narratives for that Division. † Page 144. It will be seen that prices, though high, are a little easier than they were a month ago. There is no general distress reported from any part of the Division. Supplies of food in the local markets are generally sufficient. More than 9,000 persons are employed on relief works; and a certain amount of relief labour is being given to people at their homes. The Collectors are gradually disposing of the applications for loans for land improvement; over Rs. 70,000 have already been advanced, and many private relief works are in hand. Charitable relief is being given at two places in Burdwan, at seven places in Hooghly, and at four places in Beerbhoom; at these relief-houses 252 people are being relieved, besides a number of pauper weavers who are supplied with materials, and the large number who daily attend the poor-houses maintained by the Maharajah of Burdwan. The Lieutenant-Governor has suggested (see enclosure No. 12) that one useful form of relief for the broken-down weavers of the Burdwan Division would be the introduction of the lucrative jute manufacture in place of the decaying cotton industry. The Lieutenant-Governor has also invited the attention of executive officers in Calcutta and its suburbs and in the towns on the banks of the Hooghly to the need for having works and possibly relief ready for pauper immigrants who may perhaps flock to the centres of population upon the Hooghly.

Chota Nagpore. 35. Colonel Dalton has now completed his tour throughout his division; he is satisfied that the chiefs of the Tributary States will not let their people starve; he is anxious only about Palamow, part of Maunbhoom, and perhaps a part of Hazareebaugh. The measures already taken for opening relief works and storing grain in Palamow will, the Commissioner anticipates, suffice to meet the distress; already 6,200 people are on the Government works in the sub-division, and the numbers are increasing. For

Hazareebaugh an allotment has been made to enable the Deputy Commissioner to make advances for the purchase of grain, and considerable grants have been made for public works (see enclosure No. 12).* In the parts of Maunbhoom nearest to the railway there are already threatenings of distress, the Deputy Commissioner has asked that Government grain may be imported. The question is awaiting Sir Richard Temple's decision on the spot; meanwhile the Deputy Commissioner has been directed to prepare his storage and carting arrangements. During the last fortnight the Behar demands on the railways have been so great that no grain could have been sent to Maunbhoom.

Nuddea.

36. The condition of Nuddea, as will be seen from the papers in enclosure No. 13,† is fairly satisfactory. The food supplies are sufficient, but the poorer classes are unable to buy food at present rates, unless they can earn wages on relief works. The Government and the many private relief works are supplying this requirement.

Sonthal Pergunnahs.

37. The latest narrative from the Sonthal Pergunnahs (see enclosure No. 4)‡ shows that there is no present need for anxiety in that district. Prices were at one time very high in one small tract where relief works were going on, and 10,000 maunds of government grain have been imported for the use of those labourers, but the grain has not yet been actually used, and prices have fallen. From non-official quarters reports of impending distress in the Sonthal Pergunnahs have reached the Government, but so far as can be ascertained there is no present need for special measures beyond the opening of relief works. Sir Richard Temple is at the present time meeting the Sonthal Pergunnah officers, and he will decide whether any further steps must be immediately taken.

Northern Bengal Railway.

38. On the Northern Bengal Railway works, and on the railway feeder roads, there are now about 7,000 persons employed. Labourers are abundant on the northern section of the line, but to the south in the Rajshahye district "labour is procured with difficulty." On the northern section of the line grain is obtainable by the work-people from the local markets at the price of 10 seers the rupee; on the southern section food is cheaper. Most of the labourers are paid by task-work; those who are on daily wages receive about 2½ to 3½ annas for a full day's work. As yet there is not nearly sufficient local labour available to finish the railway bank throughout its whole length.

Irrigation Department works.

39. The daily average of labourers on the Soane Canal works has fallen to 29,589. There is now much employment in the fields on the spring harvest, so that the local labourers are leaving the works. Food is supplied to the labourers from the local markets at about 12 seers per rupee. At one point on the works rice was selling at 9 seers per rupee, but wheat was at the same place obtainable at 14 seers. The number of labourers on the Sarun and Chumparun embankments has risen to 25,615 from 19,000, as shown in last narrative. The numbers are said to be still increasing; and as the embankment works will probably be completed by the middle of April, sanction has been given to excavating an irrigation channel (88 miles long) along the rear of the Chumparun embankment; this work had previously been approved by the Government of India. Details of the project for a similar channel behind the Sarun embankment are being worked up; and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes shortly to be in a position to ask sanction to the commencement of the high level canal which is to run through the north of Tirhoot and Chumparun from the Gunduck to the Koosee; the project has been completed in full detail as far as the Bagmuttee River. The reconstruction of the dam across the Damooda from which water is let into the Kana Nuddee is being pushed on.

Durbhunga Railway.

40. The State Railway from the Ganges to Durbhunga in Tirhoot is being rapidly pushed on. On the 16th March sixteen miles of line had been laid, and the material train was running up to the sixteenth mile. One engine and twenty ballast waggons constitute the whole of the present rolling stock, but parts of two more engines have arrived at Barh. The Engineer-in-Chief hopes to finish the forty-four miles into Durbhunga by the end of April; and effort will be made to get ample rolling-stock on to the road, so that large supplies of grain may be lifted directly the line is completed.

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* Page 146.

† Page 149.

‡ Page 98.

Returns of crime.

41. At enclosure No. 6* will be found the return of crimes against property in each distressed district during the month of February, as compared with previous years. It will be seen that the total of these crimes is nearly double the total for ordinary years. But the increase is not universal over all districts; for instance, in Rungpore, where there is much distress, crime is very little above the ordinary level; in Sarun also the increase is inconsiderable over the average of past years.

* Page 121.

Extra officers employed in the famine districts.

42. At enclosure No. 14 is a table showing the number of additional Civil Military Officers already employed in famine and distressed districts. The number is not yet complete, for the Native Civil Officers (over twenty in number) coming from the North-Western Provinces, the Native Officers of the Army, and the natives of Bengal specially engaged for work as Assistant Superintendents of relief circles, are not yet included in the lists. The names at enclosure No. 14 show that—

53 Covenanted Civil Servants,
60 Military Commissioned Officers of the Army,
68 Uncovenanted Officers of the Police and Native Civil Service,
22 persons specially engaged,

203 officers,

have already gone to the distressed districts. This number is exclusive of Public Works Department officers and subordinates, of the Companies of Native troops (Sappers and Native Infantry), and of the Non-commissioned Native Officers who have been sent. It will be seen from these lists that the Government of India have fully and promptly complied with the indents and requisitions made by the Lieutenant-Governor.

Medical requirements of the famine districts.

43. Happily there has, as yet, been no outbreak of cholera or other epidemic among any of the bodies of people collected on relief works, or on any of the grain routes. Many of the people who come for relief are, however, more or less emaciated, and some are suffering from different diseases. It has been arranged therefore that a small medical establishment shall be stationed in every relief circle, on some of the larger relief works, and at some of the larger grain depôts. Large and sudden indents have been made on the Medical Department for native doctors and other medical subordinates. At enclosure No. 15† will be found a report from Dr. Campbell Brown showing how these requisitions have been and are being met. The report is not a final report, but it shows that three officers of the Indian Medical Service, one Sub-Assistant Surgeon, and about sixty native doctors, have already joined their duty in the famine districts and twenty more are on their way. The Surgeon-General has caused packages of medicines and necessaries to be made up in Calcutta and sent to each native doctor who opens a famine hospital. The full staff of compounders has not yet been made up, but it will be completed before long. Next Narrative will show precisely where each medical subordinate is stationed.

† Page 151.

Small bags for Government rice and for relief-house purposes.

44. In a previous Narrative it was stated that the two-maund bags in which Government rice is packed were inconvenient for pack-bullock carriage and also for carrying grain on men's heads to relief centres and villages in the interior. Arrangements have been made whereby some sixty or seventy thousand tons of the Government grain will be packed in one maund and thirty seers (61 lb.) bags; and grain packed in these small bags is being sent to those parts of the country where pack-bullocks and small boats are chiefly used for transporting grain. At the same time 1,57,600 empty bags, to hold 30 seers apiece, have been distributed to the different districts, and will be available at grain depôts and relief centres for sending Government grain into the interior.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta,
The 19th March 1874.

APPENDIX A. to the THIRTEENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE.

NOTE ON MOVEMENT OF FOOD-GRAINS.

Sea-borne Traffic.

DETAILED returns showing exports of food-grains during 1872-73 and 1873-74, to certain specified foreign countries, to all foreign countries, and to non-Bengal British Indian Ports, are being compiled in the form prescribed by the Government of India in the following letters: Mr. Howell's, No. 856, of the 9th March (Department Agriculture); Mr. Barbour's, No. 1749, of the 13th March (Department Finance). The headings of this return differ somewhat from those heretofore in use, and it becomes necessary to procure certain particulars *de novo*, and thereafter commute in detail and aggregate from maunds into tons. It will not be possible to submit a detailed statement with the present Narrative. Meanwhile, in regard to aggregate results, the following table, compiled from that noted in the margin, with the substitution of the actual instead of the computed entries in respect of certain minor outports for February 1874, exhibits the exportation from 1st October to 28th February in the last and the present year respectively.

Received with Mr. Howell's, No. 856, of the 9th March.

TABLE showing Exports of Food-grain from the Bengal Presidency to Foreign Countries and to British Indian Ports beyond Bengal.

From 1st October to 28th February 1872-73.	Tons.	From 1st October to 28th February 1873-74.	Tons.
Rice of all classes, also paddy -	241,618	Rice of all classes, also paddy -	150,142
Other grains - - -	8,282	Other grains - - -	22,765
Total - -	249,900	Total - -	172,907

Inland Traffic.

Food-grain conveyed into Behar by Railway since the Drought.

FROM the 1st November to the 28th February the despatches of food-grain into Behar, upwards from Lower Bengal and downwards from the Upper Provinces, have reached 232,157 tons, namely 147,729 tons from below, and 84,428 tons from above, including, in both cases, the consignments on Government account. The figures represent the aggregate of actual deliveries at 33 railway stations from Buxar as the upper limit to Rajmehal on the Loop and Jamui on the Chord Lines as the lower limit. They are commuted from the East Indian Railway maunds into tons, at the rate of 27 maunds to the ton.

The *upward* despatches of food-grain have been as follow:—

Month: The four weeks of.	Upward despatches of all kinds.	Portion thereof representing Government despatches of rice from Howrah.	Remainder representing private traffic in rice and other food-grains.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
October (1st week reckoned 27th September to 3rd October) - -	17,978	—	17,978
November - - - - -	16,555	2,829	13,726
December - - - -	24,656	11,849	12,807
January - - - -	47,776	26,682	21,094
February (last week ending 28th February - - - -	58,742	47,875*	10,867
Total, including October -	165,707	89,235	76,472
Total, excluding October -	147,729	89,235	58,494

The *downward* despatches received in Behar from the 1st November to the 28th February were shown in the last Narrative as 84,428 tons, including consignments on Government account.

During March, in so far as reported, namely, from the 1st to the 7th, the *upward* despatches from Lower Bengal, including Howrah, delivered in Behar, were 18,020 tons, while the *downward* despatches from the Upper Provinces, also delivered in Behar, were 7,430 tons.

Taking railway despatches of rice to Behar from Howrah only, the progress during March, from the 3rd to the 17th, has been—total despatches, 28,925 tons, of which 23,099 tons on Government, and 5,826 tons on private account.

The inland importation of food-grain into Calcutta by the Eastern Canals, being for consumption within or for export beyond Calcutta seaward and inwards, were returned in the last

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* The despatch of Government grain shown in last Appendix A. as 49,482 tons during February, included 1,607 tons despatched per East Indian Railway to the Rajshahye Division, as well the quantity 47,875 tons sent to Behar.

Narrative at 146,910 tons from the 1st October to the 3rd March. Since then the farther progress from 4th March to 17th March has been 14,909 tons, making a total from 1st October to 17th March of 161,819 tons.

The private traffic by river registered at certain selected stations has been as follows :—

Registering Station.	River and course of traffic.	Period.	Quantity in tons.	REMARKS.
1. Sahebgunge - -	Up the Ganges -	1st to 14th March -	1,464	This is exclusive of Government grain going to Caragola.
2. Sahebgunge - -	Down the Ganges -	1st to 14th March -	1,447	This is exclusive of Government grain going to Hyatpore.
3. Goalundo - -	Up the Ganges -	26th February to 14th March.	3,227	
4. Kooshtea - -	Down the Gorai -	26th February to 14th March.	438	

J. GEDDES,
On special duty.

APPENDIX C. to the THIRTEENTH NARRATIVE.

No. 1469—S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, in the Statistical Department, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Calcutta, dated 14th March 1874 / issued March 1874.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit copies of Minutes, Nos. 44 and 45, recorded by Sir Richard Temple on the Purneah and Dinagepore districts, together with copies of the orders issued thereon by this Government.

2. I am to add that the Surgeon-General assures this Government, that the required number of native doctors can, he anticipates, be supplied from the Bengal Presidency, and from locally engaged practitioners. The Public Works Department of this Government is doing its best to supply the required number of overseers, and in this matter much help is being given by the Public Works Department of the Government of India.

3. I am to solicit that 20 selected native officers of the army may be sent for famine duty, of whom 10 should report themselves to the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, and 10 (who should be able to speak Bengalee if possible) should report themselves for orders at Rajmehal to Lieutenant Eliot, who will have orders ready for them. The officers selected should be young and active, and able to read and write vernacular fluently.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 1470—S.R.

COPY, without enclosures, forwarded to the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore and to the Relief Commissioner, Rajshahye, with request that orders may be ready for these native officers when they arrive.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Calcutta,
The 14th March 1874.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 14th March 1874.

Read—

The Honourable Sir Richard Temple's Minute, No. 45, dated 11th March, on the Dinagepore District and its requirements.

Order.—Ordered that copy of the Minute be forwarded to—

The Public Works Department, with the request that the overseers required as per paragraph 18 may be sent as soon as they can be obtained. If necessary, second and third year students from the Engineering College can be entertained, and certificates given them at the end of the famine according to the qualifications they may show on the present occasion.

To the Surgeon-General, Medical Department, with request that the native doctors required by paragraph 20 may be sent with compounders, and the needful supply of medicines, &c. It is understood that these 11 men are included in the 14 for whom the Relief Commissioner, Mr. Robinson, has separately indented.

To the Commissioner of the Division, and the Relief Commissioner, with the request that 10 native assistants may be appointed locally; and with the promise that 10 selected men from among the Native Civil Service Candidates will be despatched to Dinagepore not later than the 25th March, while the Government of India has been asked for the services of 10 officers of the Native Army.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 1471—S.R.

COPY of the Minute, with copies of the foregoing orders forwarded to—
The Commissioner, Rajshahye.
" Relief Commissioner, Rajshahye.
" Magistrate, Dinagepore.
" Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
" Public Works Department of this Government.
L. C. Abbott, Esq., on Special Duty.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Calcutta,
The 14th March 1874.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 14th March 1874.

Read the Honourable Sir RICHARD TEMPLE's Minute, No. 44, dated 7th March, on the Purneah District.

COPY of this minute will be forwarded to the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, with an intimation that the allotment of grain made by Sir Richard Temple, 6,50,000 maunds for the Purneah district, is accepted. By the latest returns, about 3,70,000 maunds of Government grain have already reached Colgong and Caragola for Purneah. It is not yet known how much grain has been, or is being given from the Kissengunge depôts for the north of Dinagepore; the previous arrangement was that 150,000 maunds should be so given, and as the route to Thakoorgaon and Raneesunkoil is quicker by the Purneah road than by the Mahanuddee, it will be best that the store-houses in north-western Dinagepore should draw 75,000 maunds from the Kissengunge and other Purneah depôts. For the rest, however, Dinagepore must now depend on its own transport resources, and the recent expansion of the Dinagepore transport quite warrants the Lieutenant-Governor in relying that the whole of the required supply will be in the interior of Dinagepore by the middle of June.

2. There will thus remain to be carried into or through Purneah 7,25,000 maunds. The rate of despatches from Caragola is now (7th March), over 8,000 maunds a day, or quite 2,50,000 maunds a month. Seeing that about 3,00,000 maunds have already been despatched from Caragola, it may be reckoned that from the 15th March to the 15th May, 4,00,000 maunds can be forwarded from Caragola. And, therefore, the Purneah district will be able to supply itself by that route. But in order that the Mahanuddee may be worked as an alternative route, the Government grain officer will be instructed to send to Kooshtea, sufficient grain to give 75,000 maunds for transport up the Mahanuddee, in boats to be collected and sent down by the magistrate-collector of Purneah. The total Purneah supplies will stand thus:—

	Mds.
To go by Caragolah - - - - - - -	6,50,000
To go by Godagaree and the Mahanuddee - - -	75,000
Total - -	7,25,000
Of which will sent over into North Dinagepore - - -	75,000
Balance, being the supply for Purneah proper - - -	6,50,000

3. With reference to paragraph 21 of the minute, the Commissioner is directed to post two circle officers to the remaining Purneah circles, from among the civil and military officers at his disposal. The Government of India have been asked to send 10 native officers of the army to Bhaugulpore for duty in Purneah, and 6 other native assistants will be sent from Calcutta not later than the 25th March, unless the Commissioner can engage local men.

4. The Public Works Department will be requested to send the five additional overseers as required at paragraph 25 of the minute.

5. The commissioner will be requested to convey the thanks of Government to the three zemindars of Rampore, Saifgunge, and Chakanee who have exerted themselves to help their ryots.

6. The surgeon-general will be moved to arrange for completing at an early date the staff of medical subordinates (paragraph 22 of the minute), and to send with each native doctor a compounder and a supply of medicines, &c.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Minute No. 45, by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., dated Dinagepore, the 11th March 1874.

I have visited some of the worst parts of the Dinagepore Division, and conferred with the Relief Commissioner, Mr. Robinson, and the Collector, Mr. Lowis; and I have conversed with many natives of all classes. I will defer making a complete report till I have seen some places which yet remain to be visited. Meanwhile, I desire to make a preliminary report on certain things which I have ordered, or which need to be supplied by Government.

2. As regards quantity to be supplied, the collector calculates that 400,000 persons may need assistance at the worst period; and that 1,000,000 of maunds will be required, which quantity has been ordered. Whether this quantity will suffice is a question on which I will offer an opinion after completing the round of the district; meanwhile, it is certain that this quantity will partly, if not wholly, suffice.

3. The grain is sent partly by the Eastern Bengal Railway to Kooshtea, and partly by the East Indian Railway to Rajmehal and Sahebgunge; it is sent on partly by boats and partly by carts. The carts come chiefly from the north of the Dinagepore District. I have seen something of the transport arrangements, and so far as I have seen, they are efficient.

4. No contract system, large or petty, is adopted with the carts. The Government officer deals direct with the cartmen. The rate of payment is fairly liberal, tantamount to two or three pice per maund per mile. It is to be remembered that the carts have to go long distances; the cattle which I have seen are in good condition. The collector is considering the arrangements for the supply of fodder. I will examine this subject further.

5. Already 200,000 maunds have arrived at the depôts of the district, and at least 50,000 maunds per week are arriving. Thus the commissioner and the collector are justified in their confidence that the million of maunds will be stored by the rains.

6. It is to be remembered that the river navigation to the upper parts of the district, though not yet open, will be open by the rainy season. This is important, as the distress is expected to last unto the middle of August.

7. There is no marked distress yet reported, nor has any marked symptom come under my observation; yet there has been a very great loss of food supply almost all over the district, and there is probably a large deficiency of grain. The prices of grain in the distressed tracts are seldom above, and are more often below, 10 seers the rupee. Distress might, therefore, break out at any moment; the outbreak of distress and the rapid rise of prices have, probably, been retarded only by the demonstration of the preparations of Government.

8. If such distress should break out at any moment, there will be a quarter of a million of maunds or more at hand wherewith to meet it, stored in 27 depôts placed in convenient localities in the distressed tracts.

9. But 13 depôts yet remain to be supplied with grain. The commissioner and the collector have had their special attention drawn to this, inasmuch as it is so important that some supplies should be available everywhere wherewith to check distress wherever it may manifest itself.

10. The commissioner and the collector consider that there is reason to apprehend a serious deficiency of food in the following tracts (designated as thannahs):—

Raneesunkoil.
Hemtabad.
Kaliagunjge.
Gungarampore.
Ghora Ghât.

I have seen some of the places, and have no doubt of the general fact. I have therefore authorised the commissioner to cause Government grain to be sold under clause *g*, Rule 3, Part II. of the Relief Rules, at a retail rate of 12 seers the rupee; which rate I fix after conferring with the commissioner and the collector in reference to the prices at the nearest marts accessible by rail or river.

11. I find that 13 relief circles have been fixed. They seem to be appropriate and of manageable size; whether they are altogether sufficient is a question on which I will offer an opinion after completing the round of the district.

12. Officers have been appointed to all these, of whom nine have arrived, and three yet remain to arrive.

13. Two assistants (natives) are required for each of the 13 circles, making up (with 3 in reserve) 29 in all. These have not yet been appointed. I have requested the commissioner to cause as many of these to be appointed as he can find in the district, on salaries of 100 and 80 rupees per mensem. The collector states that he can find 10 such persons; the rest, 19, cannot be got on the spot, and must be found elsewhere. I have requested the commissioner of Rajshahye (Mr. Molony) to send nine on the above salaries, to arrive at Dinagepore not later than the 1st April, their travelling expenses to be paid; and I have asked that 10 selected native officers from the army may be sent as soon as possible to Dinagepore.

14. I have begged the commissioner to ensure that every village in the distressed tracts shall be visited once a week by the responsible establishments in each circle.

15. The commissioner has shown me a map of relief roads, which form a tolerably complete network throughout the distressed tracts. The total length amounts to 420 miles. Whether this arrangement will suffice I cannot say till I have seen more.

16. There are many old tanks to be excavated or new tanks to be made. By existing orders the collector has to obtain a subscription of two-thirds of the amount before commencing the work. I have requested the collector to get the subscription if he can, and to use his best endeavours; but if he cannot, and if the work be needed urgently for relief, then to execute it at Government cost.

17. At present there is an executive engineer, Mr. Mackenna, with professional assistants, employed on three trunk lines not included in the above statement of relief roads, which serve as relief works. He does not appear to be wholly under the commissioner or the collector, and his position requires further consideration.

18. Meanwhile, there are no public works establishments at all attached to the 13 relief circles. I shall, therefore, beg that Government may be pleased to cause 13 overseers to be sent as soon as possible.

19. I have seen some 7,000 relief labourers out of the 32,000 reported to be at work. The men were in good condition for the most part. They receive a liberal rate of wages, 2½ annas per diem, and the women 2 annas.

20. No subordinate medical establishments have yet arrived in the 13 circles, save two native doctors. Therefore, at least 11 more are required. I shall beg that Government may be pleased to cause these to be sent as soon as possible.

No. 98, dated Dinagepore, the 11th March 1874.

From L. C. ABBOTT, with the Honourable SIR R. TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., to C. E. BERNARD, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I AM directed by the Honourable Sir R. Temple, K.S.C.I., to forward copy of a minute, No. 44, dated 7th March 1874, regarding the condition of the Purneah District.

I am to draw attention to paragraphs 16, 21, 22, and 25, and to suggest that the recommendations therein contained may be carried out.

MINUTE by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I.—(No. 44, dated Dengra Ghât, the 7th March 1874.)

HAVING visited the Purneah District and travelled from Caragolah in the south to Kissengunge in the north, passing through those parts of the district where there has been the greatest failure of the crops, I have to record the following observations and directions :—

2. There was throughout the district a serious want of rain during last autumn, which caused a considerable failure of rice, the principle product. On the other hand, the rubbee or spring crops were sown more largely than usual, and owing to the recent rains the yield will be fair. To the south on the Ganges indeed there is the promise of a fine spring harvest. Thus, though there will be destitution here and there, in most parts there will not be general distress.

3. But there will be distress localized in certain parts of the district where the failure has been much worse from a particular cause, which is this: The rivers Mahanuddy and Poonar usually inundate the adjacent lands where fine rice crops are raised. On this occasion the inundation failed and the crops were lost, which form three-fourths of the sustenance of the people for a year. Here also the people have sown some spring crops, which, owing to recent rain, are doing well. Otherwise, the case seems to me to be bad, nearly as bad as in any of the places in North Behar which I have seen.

4. The tracts thus especially affected from failure of inundation and of rain, and which have the worst degree of distress, are—

	Population.
Thannah Kusba Amour - - - - - -	114,147
„ Bulrampore - - - - - -	115,961
„ Kudbah - - - - - -	134,158
Total - -	364,266

5. The tracts affected above the average by failure of rain which have the secondary degree of distress are—

	Population.
Thannah Bahadurgunge - - - - - -	173,511
„ Kissengunge - - - - - -	144,164
„ Purneah - - - - - -	148,619
One-third of „ Arrareah - - - - -	60,947
Total - -	527,241

The total of the population more or less distressed, then, amounts to 891,507 souls.

6. The question then arises as to what proportion of this population may be expected to need assistance from Government in some shape or other during the period of distress which is about to begin.

7. The Collector, Mr. Kemble, has calculated the number at 130,000, of which 45,000 pertain to parts other than the distressed tracts, leaving 85,000 for these tracts. The latter number, taken on the population of these tracts, amounts to 10 per cent. The Collector's estimate is carefully made with per-centages separately taken on each caste or class as given in the Census statements.

8. The Commissioner, Mr. Barlow, makes a similar calculation (adverted to in my Minute, No. 28, of the 19th February), whereby the number comes out at 150,000, which amounts to 17 per cent. on the population concerned.

9. Now, if a proportion were to be assumed at all similar to that taken for the distressed tracts in Northern Behar, then a much higher number would come out. On that principle 40 per cent. would be assumed for Kusba Amour, Bulrampore, and Kudbah, and 20 per cent. for Bahadurgunge, Kissengunge, Purneah, and one-third of Arrareah. According to that the total would come to 251,154, a number greatly in excess of that given by the Collector and the Commissioner. To this, too, there would have to be added proportionally 50,000 for the rest of the district, bringing up the total to 301,154.

10. On the other hand, while the distressed tracts in Northern Behar derive little or no succour from private trade, are comparatively remote and inaccessible, and are somewhat widely separated from prosperous tracts, the distressed tracts in Purneah are receiving much benefit from private trade, are easily accessible by means of a trunk road and a navigable river (Mahanuddy), and are close to tracts blessed with good harvests.

11. I should therefore consider it sufficient for safety to assume 30 per cent. for Kusba Amour, Bulrampore, and Kudbah, and 15 per cent. for Bahadurgunge, Kissengunge, Purneah, and part of Arrareah, which gives a total of 188,365 souls, to which must be added 50,000, for the rest of the district, making a total of 238,365, say 240,000.

12. The period of distress will probably commence towards the end of the current month (March), and will last till the middle of August, when the bhadoi or August rice comes in, say four and a half months on the whole.

13. The Collector's estimated number, 130,000, at three-fourth seer per head per diem, gives for four and a half months the quantity of 328,000 maunds. The Commissioner's estimated number, 150,000, gives a quantity of 380,000 maunds. In order to provide a margin for safety he has brought up the quantity to 500,000.

14. The number according to my estimate gives a quantity of 607,000 maunds, to which it may suffice to add a small margin for safety, bringing the total up to 650,000, or six and a half lakhs of maunds.

15. Already a provision of five lakhs of maunds has been made, and local transport has been arranged accordingly. Of this quantity some two and a half lakhs have already arrived, leaving two and a half remaining lakhs to be brought in.

16. According to my view an additional quantity of one and a half lakhs (to make up six and a half lakhs) will be needed. The resources of the district would certainly suffice for the transporting of this quantity were it not that a quantity of one and a half lakhs will have to be transported by the carts of this district for the service of the Dinagepore District. But as this service has been undertaken, the Purneah carts cannot do more than transport six and a half lakhs without unduly interfering with private trade.

17. How then would the additional quantity of one and a half lakhs be carried? Well, the River Mahanuddy passes by Dengra Ghât, the very centre of the distressed tract, and is navigable up to that point during even the hot months.

The Collector made special enquiries, at my request, and he appears to have a good hope of being able to transport this quantity by water carriage. I have requested him to arrange the collection of the boats as soon as possible. The grain would be brought to Kooshteah by the Eastern Bengal Railway, and would thence pass for a short way up the Ganges, and then enter the Mahanuddy.

18. I have seen the carting arrangements throughout and consider them efficient. The work is done through petty local contractors (natives), and the rate of charge is cheap, much cheaper than in the neighbouring districts. There does not seem to be any difficulty in respect to fodder.

19. The following relief circles have been arranged by the Commissioner in accordance with the principle which we settled together at Soopool in February:—

1. Purneah.
2. Dengra.
3. Kudbah.
4. Bulrampore.
5. Kusba Amour.
6. Kissengunge.
7. Bahadurgunge.
8. Arrareah.

The Collector seems confident that these circles are sufficient, and I believe that they will prove so.

20. Certainly in the worst tracts the officers will have a manageable area. There are 27 grain depôts, but this number may be added to with advantage, especially in the worst tracts, so that the depôts may not be more than five or six miles apart. I have pointed out this to the Collector.

21. Civil officers have been posted to six out of the eight circles, two circles have yet to be filled, and I have written separately on this point. In all the circles native assistants have to be supplied. This may, I hope, be managed as soon as the native officers selected from the army shall arrive.

22. A subordinate medical establishment will be required for each circle. I have applied separately for this.

23. I have examined with the Collector the map of the relief roads. The lines form a tolerably complete network throughout the distressed tracts, and have a total mileage of 505 miles. With all these, it seems to me that some road or other will be within reach of almost every village, say within a distance of two to four miles.

24. Unfortunately the soil of this district is not suitable for tanks, consequently one means of providing relief works is lost. The cattle are here watered from the rivers or rivulets, which are so abundant. The improvement of village tracks will, however, afford the minor sort of employment which may be required.

25. Fortunately the district has a more than ordinary strong staff of District Engineers, five in number. There are also five Overseers, but five more are wanted, and for these I have applied separately.

26. The labourers on the relief works, according to latest accounts, hardly exceed 7,000, a number much smaller than what we might expect to see under the existing circumstances of the district. The wages, two annas a day for the better kind of labourers, and one and a half annas for other labourers, seem fair. It may be, however, that owing to the demand for labour for waste lands the ordinary rate of wages is higher than in the Bhagulpore and Tirhoot districts. I have drawn the special attention of the Collector to this matter, and it may be expected that when the Government grain begins to be sold at 12 seers for the rupee, then the number will rapidly increase.

27. On the recommendation of the Collector, I have authorised Government grain to be sold from the depôts of the circles of Kusba Amour, Dengra, and Bulrampore at a rate of 12 seers for the rupee, that being the rate recommended by the Commissioner. Despite the exertions of private traders, there is reason to fear a deficiency of food arising at any moment in the tracts above named.

28. I learn from the Collector that more than Rs. 60,000 have been taken as advances by traders of Purneah for the importation of grain, mostly in small sums of Rs. 1,000 to 2,000 by each man. The grain is chiefly imported from Sahebgunge.

29. I have specially requested the sub-divisional officer at Kissengunge to make advances for sustenance or for the purchase of seed to the cultivators in that neighbourhood, as the need of such advances there was specially represented.

30. The Collector reported that the following native gentlemen, zemindars, had exerted themselves to help their tenantry during the trouble:—

Baboo Ram Chunder Dass, of Rampore; Meer Muhummed Kasim, of Peerhawa, Saifgunge; Doola Jat, of Chukanee.

On the other hand, I was unable to learn that either of the two Rajas of Kugra or Kissengunge had done anything on this occasion, and I had to admonish the Raja of Kugra in respect to his duties in this matter.

31. I have had the advantage of meeting Colonel Burn and Mr. McQueen, and learning from them the fortunate condition of the large pergunnah of Dhurumpore belonging to the Durbhunga Raj, which pergunnah is situate in part near the Koosee and in part near the Ganges. I myself passed through the part near the Ganges, and saw that the crops were excellent. Colonel Burn and Mr. McQueen described the autumn and winter harvest as having been good, and the promise of the spring harvest being equally good; but they doubted whether any real assistance could or would be afforded by the people there to the distressed portions of the district.

32. There were no signs of distress being imminent at the moment of my visit, but under the circumstances of the district it is impossible to say how soon distress may break out. In that event, however, the supplies at hand, 250,000 maunds, ought to enable the Collector to apply an immediate remedy.

33. I have in conclusion to state that the Collector, Mr. Kemble, appears to me to be very well fitted to cope with any difficulty which may arise, and able to construct with discretion and promptitude the operations necessary for the prevention of famine in his district.

P.S.—In accordance with the view expressed in paragraph 16 above, I have to recommend that an additional quantity of one and a half lakhs of maunds may be sent forward by the Eastern Bengal Railway to raise the total allotments for the Purneah District to six and a half lakhs of maunds.

APPENDIX D. to THIRTEENTH NARRATIVE.

No. 93., dated Dengrah Ghât, Purneah, the 7th March 1874.

From L. C. ABBOTT, Esq., with SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, to the Honourable C. E. BERNARD, Acting Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I AM directed to forward copies of minutes Nos. 39., 40., and 41., dated 5th March 1874, regarding the sale of rice from Government depôts in certain distressed districts of the Bhaugulpore and Patna divisions and the rate of wages to be allowed to labourers on relief works in the Bhaugulpore division.

MINUTE by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 39, dated 5th March 1874, en route to Caragolah.

THE Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has asked me for further instructions relative to the order given in my minute No. 26, of 19th ultimo, paragraph 4, regarding the sale of Government grain.

I think that throughout thannahs Soopole and Bongaon, and in the distressed half of thannah Mudehpore (Bhaugulpore division) there is such grave reason to apprehend a serious deficiency of food that grain ought at once to be sold from Government depôts.

The price should be fixed according to clause 8, rule 3, part II. of the rules for relief committees. The rate at Sahibgunge, which I have just visited, is 12 seers the rupee; the rate at Patna was the other day 13 seers. On the whole, I considered that the rate of 12 seers may be allowed in the above-mentioned tracts, and I authorised the Commissioner to proceed accordingly.

The agency of private trade should be employed as much as possible, care being taken that the grain is sold only for relief and not for trading or storing. But if the local authorities cannot find such agency, they may retail the grain in the best way they can.

Further, the Commissioner wishes the above order to apply to the following tracts in the Monghyr district:—

Buktearpore (including all villages in the police outpost of that name) is conterminous with the distressed tracts of Durbhanga and Mudhobanee, and separated from the Ganges Valley by much swampy ground.

The thannah of Sekunderpore and the southern half of the thannah of Sheikpore, excluding the town of Sheikpore.—This tract I have partly seen and knew to be distressed. I authorised the Commissioner accordingly.

In none of the tracts specified above is there any mart whatever.

The price of a rupee for 12 seers is for Bengal rice. The rates for other food-grains will be fixed by the Commissioner on the same principle.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore for information and guidance.

L. C. ABBOTT,
with SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, on tour.

Dated the 5th March 1874.

MINUTE by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 40, dated 5th March 1874, en route to Caragola.

THE Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has represented to me that the sale of Government grain at ten seers the rupee is at famine price, and that help to real sufferers from scarcity is virtually denied under such terms. Mr. Barlow would suggest the sale by Government of Bengal rice at twelve seers for the rupee.

Under instructions recently issued to sub-divisional relief committees (clause 8, rule 3, part II.) the sub-divisional committee may now arrange for the sale of Government grain through the agency of local traders at the price fetched at the nearest large mart. Looking to the price at Sahibgunge and at Patna, I have authorised the sale of grain from Government depôts in certain tracts of the Bhaugulpore and Monghyr districts at the rate of twelve seers for the rupee. I consider that the same rate is applicable to the adjoining tracts of the Tirhoot district, and I accordingly request that the grain authorised to be sold by the former orders on this subject in the Mudhobanee and Durbhanga sub-divisions, and which orders are contained respectively in my minutes Nos. 29 of 21st February, and 31 of 22d February, may be sold at the rate of twelve seers for the rupee.

COPY forwarded to S. C. Bayley, Esq., Commissioner of Patna, for information and guidance.

COPIES to sub-divisional officers of Durbhanga and Mudhobanee.

L. C. ABBOTT,
with SIR R. TEMPLE.

MINUTE by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 41, dated 5th March 1874, en route to Caragolah.

I HAVE examined, with the Commissioner, the relief labour returns for the Bhaugulpore district. They may appear small at first sight, but I find that the relief works in the Nareedigur pergunnah (Soopole sub-division) are excluded; these works are under the court of wards, and may fairly be included. I saw myself within 3,000 and 4,000 labourers on these particular works, and the addition of these would make a considerable difference in the total of the return.

I am glad, however, to find that the attention of the Commissioner is being given to the important subject of attracting labourers to the relief works as the best means of checking the beginning of distress. It seems to me that the following rates should be observed in reference to the need of preventing our relief operations from causing a permanent increase in the rate of wages.

As I understand it, the rate of 1¼ anna per diem is proper for labourers of the lowest class. To these no task-work system is applied. This rate is more than a common fixed labourer receives ordinarily (one anna), but it is admitted that 1¼ anna must be given during high prices to those who labour on relief works at even a slight distance from home. Two annas would be allowed only for a labourer who can work somewhat better than a villager, to whom some task-work system is applied. This is the rate ordinarily given to a public works labourer, and to a professional coolie.

I beg that whenever two annas are given, such system may be enforced as may ensure the rate being restricted to the better kind of workmen.

I observe that task-work means work done under the eye of a supervisor.

I hope that the rate of 12 seers for the rupee for the sale of Government grain may suffice to attract villagers to the works at 1¼ anna per diem.

The authorisation to construct or clear out village tanks as relief works will conduce, I hope, to the same result.

To the distressed poor of both sexes the task-work system cannot be applied. As much work must be obtained for them as they can fairly do, and no more. Any enforcement of a labour test may repel these people, and cause ultimate danger to life. But it is better to obtain a little, even the smallest amount of work, tkan to give gratuitous relief. The object should be to search out these poor people village by village, and to induce them to resort to such works, which ought always to be within reasonable distance. The offering of piece-work (which is really a contract without rate of wage) is very good whenever the people will accept it, and I am glad to find that the Commissioner resorts to it whenever practicable.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, for information and guidance.

L. C. ABBOTT,
with SIR RICHARD TEMPLE.

The 5th March 1874.

No. 97., dated Dinagepore, the 10th March 1874.

From L. C. ABBOTT, Esq., C.S., with SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of minutes Nos. 42 and 43, dated 7th March 1874, recorded by Sir Richard Temple.

MINUTE No. 42, by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Dengraghât, the 7th March 1874.

THE Collector of Purneah has brought to my notice that a serious deficiency of food is to be apprehended within the circles of Bulrampore and Dengra, and requests that the sale of Government grain from the depôts within those circles may be authorised. I authorise the sale accordingly, at a price of 12 seers for the rupee, which appears proper on the grounds set forth in my minute on the sale of grain in the Bhaugulpore district, which price is, I know, approved by the Collector and the Commissioner.

MINUTE No. 43, by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Dengraghât, the 7th March 1874.

THE sub-divisional officer of Kishengunge represents that it is immediately necessary to make cash advances to the poorer classes of ryots, to enable them to purchase seed-grain from the mahajuns.

2. Here, as elsewhere, the better classes of ryots keep their own seed-grain, but the poorer classes get their seed from the mahajuns, who now refuse to give it without cash or without security.

3. The sorts of early rice (called locally juneera and bhudai) ought to be sown from now to the beginning of April. The collector thinks that the sub-divisional officer should be authorised at once to make advances to the ryots, and I request that this may be done in every case where there is a reasonable expectation of repayment.

4. Such advances may be made either for the purpose of obtaining seed or for ordinary subsistence, and they may be made either in cash or in grain, preferably in grain.

5. The sub-divisional officer ought to make such advances, with such supervision as may ensure the assistance reaching the right person.

6. I bear in mind that this ought to be done by the zemindars. But about here the two principal zemindars (Kugra and Kishengunge) do but little. The zemindar of Kishengunge is much involved. They should, however, be reminded of their duty, especially the zemindar of Kugra.

No. 1,368.—S.R., dated Calcutta, the 10th March 1874.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

In anticipation of the next special narrative, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, three copies of Sir Richard Temple's minutes Nos. 39, 40, and 41, and of Mr. Abbott's covering letter thereon.

No. 873, dated Calcutta, the 11th March 1874.

From Arthur Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

In reply to your No. 1,368 of the 10th instant, with enclosed minutes by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, Nos. 39, 40, and 41, of the 5th instant, regarding the sale of rice from Government depôts and the rate of wages to labourers on relief works, I am directed to express the approval of the Governor-General in Council of the proceedings reported.

No. 921, dated Calcutta, the 13th March 1874.

From Arthur Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

In continuation of my letter, No. 873, of the 11th instant, communicating approval of the proceedings reported in your No. 1,368 of the 11th idem, regarding the sale price of grain in certain districts, I am directed to say that this approval must, of course, be considered subject to the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal on the spot.

No. 102, dated Dinagepore, the 12th March 1874.

From G. H. R. Hart, Esq., on special duty, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am directed to forward, for submission to his honour the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of a minute, No. 46, dated 11th instant, containing Sir Richard Temple's estimate of the grain requirements of the Dinagepore district.

Minute No. 46, by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., dated Dinagepore, the 11th March 1874.

After consulting the relief commissioner and the collector, and several of the best informed natives in the Dinagepore district, I estimate the amount of grain to be supplied by Government at 12 lakhs of maunds. This amount is somewhat in excess of the local estimate of 10 lakhs.

2. The worst thanas are—

	Population.
Ghoraghât	16,925
Ranee Sunkal	78,696
Pateeram	66,866
Gungarampore	75,196
Kalliagunge	94,728
Hemtabae	87,089
Total	419,500

The next worst are—

Rajarampore	197,106
Bungsharee	78,288
Putneetola	122,700
Poorsha	48,803
Nawabgunge	46,573
Peergunge	89,296
Total	582,766

3. The worst period of distress will be three months, from 15th May to 15th August. There will be two months before this period and two months after, in all four months, of more or less distress.

4. In the worst thanas I take 60 per cent. of the population as likely to need aid from Government at some period or other, and 30 per cent. in the next worst. In the remaining thanas of the district the collector does not think that any considerable supplies from Government will be needed.

5. Accordingly my estimate comes out as follows:—

Population of worst thanas	419,500 60	
	251,700	
of which 60 per cent.		= 251,700
Population of second worst thanas	582,766 30	
	174,829	
of which 30 per cent.		= 174,830
∴ Total population to be considered		= 426,530 3
		4) 1,279,590
		40) 319,897
Whose daily consumption at ¾ seers per head per diem will be maunds		7,997 30
And their monthly consumption, maunds		239,910
		Mds.
Then, two months at ½ rate		= 239,910
	239,910 2	
	4) 479,820	
	119,955	
Two months at ¼ rate		= 119,955
	239,910 3	
Three „ at full rate	719,730	= 719,730
Total for 7 months		= 1,079,595
Add allowance for wastage, 5 per cent.		53,980
		1,133,575
And allow for safety, 5 per cent.		56,679
Total		1,190,254

or say 12 lakhs of maunds.

6. Transport arrangements have been made to bring 10 lakhs into the district by June. The remaining 2 lakhs can be brought into the district by water carriage after June; but they are required at Kooshtea (Eastern Bengal Railway) by the 1st June.

No. 1,485—S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Calcutta, dated 14th March / issued March 1874.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit copy of Minute No. 46, by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, on the grain requirements of the Dinagepore district. The Lieutenant-Governor has now directed that the storage space at Kooshtea be expanded, so that as much as 1,00,000 of maunds may, if need arises, be there housed for despatch to Godogaree.

2. The Commissioner of Rajshahye has been asked to report, after communication with Mr. Robinson, where the additional 2,00,000 maunds should be stored; as it depends upon the locality to which the grain is to go, whether it should be sent by the Mahanuddee or by the Atrai. Mr. Molony has also been asked whether he advises the construction of any additional large storehouses besides those for—

1,00,000 maunds at Kooshtea.
1,00,000 „ „ Godagaree.
50,000 „ „ Old Maldah.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1486—S.R.

Copy, with copy of the Honourable Sir R. Temple's minute, forwarded to—

Mr. L. C. Abbott.
Mr. Toynbee,

Also to the Commissioner of Rajshahye and the relief commissioner at Dinagepore, with a request that the storage accommodation at Kooshtea may be increased, and that any further necessary storage arrangements on the rivers may be ordered at once; and that report may be made thereof, together with specification of the locality in which the extra two lakhs should be stored and the route by which it should go up.

Appendix E, to Thirteenth Narrative.

No. 1308—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, to the Commissioners of the Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye Divisions, and to the Magistrates and Collectors of Distressed Districts.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,
Calcutta, the 8th March 1874.

I am directed to forward copy of the revised instructions to relief committees as modified by the Government of India in communication with the Lieutenant-Governor and the Central Relief Committee, and at the same time to enclose for your information copy of the resolution No. 813;* dated 6th March, of the Government of India in the Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce Department, under which the revised instructions were published in a Gazette Extraordinary, and by the light of which they should be carried into effect. These instructions supersede those of the 24th January, forwarded to you by my No. 267—S.R., dated 26th January.

*See Part II., pp. 135 and 136.

2. It has been arranged with the Central Relief Committee that the officers of Government shall have executive control over the relief operations of all the local committees, and that the functions of the central committee shall be limited to the collection and distribution of funds and the receipt of reports. This separation of functions will prevent any risk of divided responsibility in dealing with distress. Consequent on this arrangement the distinctions between *distressed* and *very distressed* districts laid down in previous orders falls to the ground, and the orders conveyed in Mr. Mackenzie's letter, *No. 1071—S.R., dated 26th February, to the secretary to the Central Relief Committee, cease to have effect.

* N.B.—This letter was not conveyed to the local officers by the Government, but has been circulated to them by the Central Committee.

3. The executive functions of the local committees will remain to them; and it is only necessary at present to express the Lieutenant-Governor's confidence that they and the Government officers working with them will fulfil, to the utmost of their power, all that the general instructions now circulated lay down. The local committees are to apply their funds to the objects enumerated in the revised instructions, or to any of them, and should apply through the divisional commissioner to the central committee for the aid they may require. Nothing necessary under the instructions is to be omitted for want of funds; and the officers of Government will give their best attention to secure that funds nowhere fall short.

4. The "additional instructions" of the Central Relief Committee, which were under consideration, but had not, it is believed, been formally promulgated, are hereby cancelled; and the Circular No. 703—S.R., dated 16th February, from this Government, in which allusion is made to those additional instructions, is hereby also cancelled, together with any other orders founded upon them. The explanations contained in the first part of paragraph 3, and again in paragraph 4 of that circular, regarding the system of relief works are still correct, and no change is intended in that respect; but the remarks regarding the supply of cooked food, as a test of distress, cease to be binding on relief committees or Government officers.

5. Should any orders in expansion of those now issued be received, they will be circulated hereafter. Meantime the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the present letter with the revised instructions will suffice for all immediate wants. Thirty copies of this circular and of the annexures are forwarded to each of the districts of North Behar, and twenty to each of the other distressed districts. Magistrate-collectors are requested to take special care that a copy is in the hands of every relief committee and relief officer. Further copies can be supplied on indent from the secretariat.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1309—S.R.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioners of Burdwan, Chota Nagpore, and the Presidency Divisions, and to the Deputy Commission, Sonthal Pergunnahs, for information with reference to docket No. 268—S.R., dated the 26th January last.

No. 1310—S.R.

COPY of this circular and of this enclosure forwarded to the secretary to the Central Relief Committee.

No. 1311—S.R.

COPY forwarded to L. C. Abbott, Esq., on tour with the Honourable Sir R. Temple.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 8th March 1874.

APPENDIX F. to THIRTEENTH NARRATIVE.

Nos. 31-32T.

From A. MACKENZIE, ESQ., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the COMMISSIONERS of PATNA, BHAGULPORE, and RAJSHAHYE, to the ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER of PATNA.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR, Dated Durbhunga, the 16th March 1874.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has had before him a note by Colonel Nicolls, Secretary to Government in the Public Works Department, on the relief works in your division, of which a copy will be sent you from Calcutta. I am to request, with reference thereto, that by the aid of the public works establishments you now have, you will do your utmost to render the works both sufficient and efficient. From what the Lieutenant-Governor has himself seen, he is inclined to think that, while it is at first difficult to get the people to our works, on the other hand, in some parts of the country, when they take to them in great numbers and in so poor a state that we cannot refuse them or exact much labour from them, the rush becomes so great that we may have almost the whole population on our hands, and it may be very difficult hereafter to get them back to ordinary habits and occupation.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks no time should be lost in carrying out the classification (already ordered in the Patna division, see extract annexed,) of relief works under two heads; first, those where full work is exacted under professional management and good pay given; and, second, charitable light work where small pay is given. The really able-bodied labourers should be strictly excluded from the latter and sent to works where they must actually give a proper tale of work; and every effort must be made to reduce those light labour works where the numbers are becoming enormous by employing the people in local works where individuals have an interest in making them do as much as they can. This might be managed by making it a condition of advances that the people of particular villages are taken charge of and in other ways. Everything will depend on local circumstances; but every nerve should be strained to avoid the evil of demoralising the population by paying them in large bodies for a mere pretence of work.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

EXTRACT from Orders given by LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR at DURBHUNGA regarding Division of Relief Works.

"As regards works the whole of the works are to be classified thus—

(1.) Work under public works officers on which real labour will be exacted and full wages paid.

(2.) Works under the circle officers on which the labour given is less effective and for which superior professional supervision is not required. The rates on these would be mere subsistence rates.

In regard to wages, a minute of Sir Richard Temple's for the Bhagulpore Division, dated 5th March, may be adopted in this division also; the following extracts show what is intended:

'The rate of 1½ anna per diem is proper for labourers of the lowest class. To these no task-work system is applied. This rate is more than a common hired labourer receives ordinarily (one anna), but it is admitted that 1½ anna must be given during high prices to those who labour on relief works at even a slight distance from home. Two annas would be allowed only for a labourer who can work somewhat better than a villager to whom some task-work system is applied. This is the rate ordinarily given to a public works labourer and to a professional cooly.

'To the distreased poor of both sexes the task-work system cannot be applied. As much work must be obtained from them as they can fairly do, and no more. Any enforcement of labour test may repel these people, and cause ultimate danger to life. But it is better to obtain a little, even the smallest amount of work, than to give gratuitous relief. The object should be to search out these poor people village by village and to induce them to resort to such works, which ought always to be within reasonable distance. The offering of piece-work (which is really a contract without rate of wage) is very good whenever the people will accept it, and I am glad to find that the Committees resort to it whenever practicable.'

It was subsequently agreed that all the large road-work now going on or already planned should be under the Department Public Works, and any irrigation work of an important character that may be determined upon; all other works to be under the circle officers.

Each circle officers is to have a supervisor of works of some kind attached to him.

The return of labourers on works of all kinds in each circle are to be sent up by the circle officer, the number on each class of work being distinguished. This is to be separate from the Public Works Departmental returns. The Department of Public Works' officers are to return the number of these labourers to sub-divisional officers, and to work subject to their general control as regards employment of labourers, payment, &c.

Strangers coming to village works to be registered in the village where they labour and live for the time.

More efficient sanitation where large works are going on is much required and must be given. A mehter gang should be formed to dig each night suitable trenches (chosen men and women from the labourers must see that they are used) and close these in next day after work."

(True Extract.)

A. MACKENZIE,
Secretary with the Lieutenant-Governor on tour.

NOTE by COLONEL J. E. T. NICOLLS, R.E., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Public Works Department, on the Relief Works of the Distressed Districts.

I SUBMIT the following remarks in accordance with the Lieutenant-Governor's directions to prepare lists and maps of the relief works, with notes.

2. The lists have been based on those received from the scarcity and relief department, which have been amplified from various subsequent communications from that department, from the fortnightly list of labourers received from each district, &c., and from the fortnightly narratives.

3. The maps have also been compiled from those furnished by the scarcity and relief department, and received from superintending engineers; and from information in this office, and in the above-named lists and narratives. The lists and maps are connected by the district numbers on the lists being entered on the corresponding roads on the maps.

4. Many of the relief works are district roads lying between places not generally known; and notwithstanding the assistance afforded by the skeleton maps supplied by commissioners to the scarcity and relief department of this Government, it has been a matter of some little difficulty and time to find out these places, and to lay down the road correctly: even now we have not been able to find out all, but the exceptions are few, and the maps may be accepted as correct up to the 21st February as far as known in this office, except as regards 440 miles of road organized in Northern Tirhoot by the Honourable Sir R. Temple, K.C.S.I. There probably are other additional works of which no intimation has yet reached me.

5. I propose to consider the subject under the following main heads:—

I.—The nature and extent of the relief works, and the extent to which they may be expected to afford relief.

II.—The engineering aspects of the works.

6. Information is not available for a very full consideration of these questions, but it seems desirable to do the best we can with the means at command. The works under the irrigation branch of this Government are shown in the maps, but not otherwise noticed; and the works under the Durbangah Raj and other estates of the court of wards are not included, as I have no knowledge of them.

I.—The nature and extent of the Relief Works, and the extent to which they may be expected to afford relief.

7. The relief works consist principally of roads, but in some districts, principally those in the north of the Patna division, *viz.*, Sarun, Chumparun, and Tirhoot, some very heavy works are proposed in the way of improving river and drainage channels, schemes for drainage and embankments, making tanks and wells, reservoirs, &c.

8. The relief works on roads consist of—

Repairs to existing roads.
Raising and improving existing roads.
Making entirely new roads.

9. The repairs to existing roads are mainly the repairs that would be made by the district committees in the course of the ordinary operations of the year. But in some instances they appear to have been enlarged in consequence of relief funds being available for this purpose, and from the necessity of making relief embrace the whole area of a district.

10. These repairs were ready for immediate operation, and it was the policy of Government that district funds should be exhausted before the relief funds were touched. This class of work has consequently been the first to be brought into use. It is obvious from its nature that this class of work is that which will afford the most wide-spread relief, and that which will soonest come to an end. In some cases it will have ceased to afford relief before the stress begins.

11. The second class, raising and improving existing roads, covers a less area than the preceding, but it will last longer.

12. Making entirely new roads will provide large quantities of work in places, but for the most part these places seem to be comparatively few.

13. It would appear from these remarks that, as the distress becomes more severe, the means of meeting it will become less, and more contracted.

14. It seems desirable to note how how far this view of the question is borne out by the information afforded by the fortnightly narratives and returns of labourers.

PATNA DIVISION.

Shahabad District.

15. In this district the ordinary district roads do not appear to have been treated as relief works, so there is generally no information about them, nor can it be said how long they will last. The return up to the 21st February last shows only 12 relief works in progress, of which one is for ordinary repairs, eight are not on the list, and only three are regular relief works on the list. The ordinary repairs must, I conclude, be nearly exhausted. The relief works seem to have been scarcely touched.

Gya District.

16. Relief works appear to have been commenced in February; most of these are ordinary repairs, but two are regular relief works. As noted further on (paragraphs 49 to 56), five out of the nine relief works seem scarcely in a state to be commenced, but the two that have been begun are not of these. Only one work is calculated to last beyond the end of March, and that one only until the end of April.

Patna District.

17. The returns from this district are prepared with unusual clearness. No works held in reserve for special relief have been commenced; the ordinary repairs, expanded as already explained, have been carried on, and it would appear from the return to 21st February that in 11 cases only out of 21 have the district allotments been exceeded, and the cost fallen on famine funds, only two of the reserved works have been commenced.

18. In each sub-division some work is shown as likely to last until May, and none for longer. There are so many reserved works untouched, that there scarcely seems reason for apprehension of there being scarcity of work, especially when referring to the comparatively satisfactory condition of this district consequent on the late rains.

Sarum District.

19. The fortnightly list of works up to 21st February is a formidable one as regards the number of works entered, but every work, even making bricks, seems included. It is noticeable that out of the 181 works entered, only 15 will last until the end of May next and one until June; two tanks until the end of April, six tanks until the end of March. Of the remaining works, some are now finished, and none will last beyond the current month.

20. After the current month, the main reliance of the district would appear to be wells, tanks, and drainage channels. The total cost for these is entered at 6¼ lacs of rupees, but no details have been received of the works proposed to be carried out with this large sum, and it seems very doubtful whether the drainage projects are in at all a fit state to be put in hand though they seem to have been commenced.

Chumparun District.

21. The works entered in the list for this district are neither numerous nor extensive, and there are considerable doubts as regards some of the most costly of them. More works will undoubtedly be necessary, but from an application just received from the superintending engineer for additional establishment, the subject is evidently receiving attention; and from the last fortnightly list it would appear that additional works have been begun.

22. In the return of labourers the information as to the time during which the works would afford employment has not been given, except in a few instances; two works are shown as likely to last until the end of May.

Tirhoot District.

23. The latest complete return of labourers (up to the 21st February) shows that, with three exceptions only, annual repairs are in progress in this district. Several of these are entered as providing work for four, and five for seven months; but as some of these only show a few* men at work, it seems probable, that the length of time refers merely to such limited employment of labourers. If, as would appear, the regular relief works are scarcely touched, there should be a good deal of work to fall back upon, provided the works entered are such as should be carried out, of which there is some doubt.

* (Several are under 10.)

BHAUGULPORE DIVISION.

Monghyr District.

24. Numbers of people have been very steadily employed on every relief work since the commencement of December, and this, it may be supposed, has been first of all on the ordinary district roads, and then on their expansion for relief purposes. Recent correspondence has shown that in the south-east corner of this district (Jumooee sub-division) more work is wanted, and the Commissioner has been specially looking the matter up. He has provided additional work in the shape of one or two additional roads, and an extensive system of minor roads connecting the neighbouring villages with the various lines of relief roads. In the Sudder sub-division one work is entered, as providing work for about five, and one for 7½ months; in the Jumooee sub-division one for 6 months; and in the Begooserai sub-division one for 5½ months, all from the end of February. The remaining works are shown as likely to last less than a month and a half.

Bhaugulpore District.

25. In this district 13 relief works out of 21 seem to have been commenced up to the end of the month. Four roads in the northern portion of the district where distress is great appear capable of providing work for three, and in one instance four months. Those nearer the Ganges for three or four months, from 1st February.

26. Regarding those south of the Ganges very much is not known.

Purneah District.

27. In the Ararea and Kissengunge sub-divisions all relief works seem to be in hand, but not so in the Purneah and Kudbah sub-divisions. Some of the more important works seem likely to afford employment for some time.

Sonthal Pergunnahs.

28. The remarks in the last return of labourers up to the 7th February is "No real distress is felt as yet." All the works in progress are entered as likely to afford employment up to the end of September next.

29. This district has not yet been declared a distressed district, but I notice it as completing the division.

RAJSHAHYE DIVISION.

Maldah, Rungpore, Bogra, and Moorshedabad Districts.

30. The probable time for which the works would afford employment is not noticed in the returns of any of these districts.

Dinagepore District.

31. Some of the works are already reported finished. The late fortnightly returns up to the 7th February show that some works have been already completed, that two works will last until May, and one until the end of that month.

Rajshahye District.

32. Four works are shown as likely to last until July and one until August next.

33. The general indication afforded by these returns would seem to be that there is a sufficiency of work in the Patna division south of the Ganges; that there is an insufficiency in the northern districts, especially the works in Sarun, Chumparun, and northern Tirhoot, and the same

as regards northern Bhaugulpore. Elsewhere in the Bhaugulpore division they appear to be doing fairly, and, excluding railway feeders, the same in Rungpore, Bogra, and Malda, Rajshayhe and Moorshedabad, provided no great stress occurs. In Dinagepore a great deal of concentrated work is provided by the railway feeders, but it would seem as though the better part of the ordinary relief work would come to an end during next month.

34. At the same time, I must remark, that I do not consider the inferences from these returns as altogether trustworthy. When the work is small or tolerably near completion, the estimated period of lasting is probably sufficiently correct; but not so in large works, or those spread over long periods. In these cases some calculation is necessary, based on an estimate which has not been prepared in many cases. Officers, with their hands full, are also not very likely to attend to such matters, and many of these returns do not give the idea of having been carefully prepared in the point under notice.

35. There is another very important consideration in reference to the estimated time of a work lasting; viz., to what number of men do such entries refer; to the number actually at work; to an anticipated increase; or to what? It would be easy for the local officers to make these entries with very considerable accuracy, if all other considerations were cast aside; but this cannot be. The best arrangement that occurs to me is to let the entries refer to the time in which 100 men could complete the work. This would not admit of the period of lasting being ascertained at a glance at the return; but, probably, it would be advantageous that such entries should be looked into and considered, and not absolutely accepted on faith.

36. If the work were a very large work, the time might be calculated with reference to 2, 3, or 400 men, or more, as might be convenient, a note being made of the unit assumed. By this means, and by referring to the numbers actually employed, and to the increase and decrease that might be expected, a tolerable general opinion could be formed of the sufficiency of the works.

37. It may, and probably would be said, that this is taking up the time of officers already very fully employed, and this is very true; but it is of as great importance that relief works should not suddenly cease as that they should be vigorously pushed on. An overburdened officer is likely to look to the present rather than the future, and requiring these entries should ensure an amount of attention to an important point which might not otherwise be given, whilst it would then be in the power of others to remedy any local shortcomings.

II.—Engineering aspects of the Work.

38. It is not possible to say anything very special or definite about the majority of the works, regarding them as engineering projects. Some of the entries on the lists are of works that have been previously discussed and considered, and here the ground is clear. But regarding the majority of the works particulars are not known, and it seems only possible to deal with them by general remarks. Indeed, in most cases, the cost is under Rs. 10,000 for each work, and according to the rules for district works under which relief works are being carried out, all such works should be dealt with and sanctioned locally; so that, as regards the mass of work, nothing whatever would be known to Government beyond the mere fact that a certain thing had been done for a certain sum of money. These works being to relieve labour for the most part unskilled, and being almost entirely simple earthwork; the power to work up to an expenditure of Rs. 10,000 implies a power to undertake projects of a far more important character than are usually carried out within the limit.

39. There are several engineering points of importance to be considered in connexion with projects for roads running through flooded country such as exist in many parts of Bengal; these are—

1st. The safety of the road itself, the height to which it should be raised, the waterway to be given, &c.

2nd. The effect of the road on the drainage and condition of the country, as in the way of increasing and extending the floods, thereby causing loss to the landholders and cultivators, and subjecting Government to claims for compensation, or from diverting the direction of flood discharges, changing the course of rivers, &c.

3rd. The effect on the sanitary condition of the country from the obstruction and change of the drainage, with consequent increase of malaria.

40. Full attention is generally given to the first point. The second point may receive a little attention from the local officers; and the third would probably receive none, for the position is not well established. Still it is desirable in every instance, and imperative in some, that the road should obstruct the drainage as little as possible. To lay out a road properly requires time and care, enquiry, and experience. I fear that these requisites must be wanting in many instances, for the urgency of relief requires that something should be done at once, and many of the officers employed on the relief works are quite new to Bengal, and totally inexperienced as regards its floods and peculiarities.

41. My experience of cases that have occurred on the northern bank of the Ganges, no less than such general considerations as the above, together with the remarks that occur in the correspondence connected with these relief works, lead me to view with considerable apprehension the ulterior effects and results of what I may call the indiscriminate construction of roads in the trans-Gangetic districts.

42. It is true that the works are in many instances being carried out under professional advice, and I have no doubt that the local officers concerned will do their best, but from the nature of the case, it is impossible for them to do what should be done.

43. In making these remarks I must not be understood as meaning that the best that could be done has not been done in permitting these works to go on as they are going on. There was possibly no alternative. But I would wish by these observations to impress as much as possible

the necessity for care, and to direct attention to the possibility of substituting other works for roads, such as tanks, &c., an end which is also of importance in consequence of the gradual decrease of relief works as already noticed.

44. By these preliminary explanations I would also wish to indicate the principles on which the subsequent remarks will be based, and to show, that under the circumstances of the case, it is possible to do little more than give general cautions and observations.

45. Proceedings on these views I would remark as follows on the various works on the lists.

46. The only general remark that seems necessary in regard to the repairs and raising of district roads seems to be that care is necessary in the latter case. Want of funds often tends to insufficient waterway, and though this may be of little importance when a road is but slightly raised, and any excess of water can find relief by topping or breaching the road, yet it may become of great consequence, both to the road and to the country, when the former is raised so as to be safe above the floods.

Shahabad District.

47. *No.* 45, *Bhabooa to Mohuneea, Rs.* 8,666, and *No.* 47, *Chynepore to Durgoutee, Rs.* 11,851; in the western corner of the district are heavy works, apparently passing through flooded country. *No.* 51, *Soasua to Bickrumgunge, Rs.* 15,960, crosses the drainage for 42 miles. These seem to require particular attention. Nos. 47 and 51 being over Rs. 10,000, the projects should have been submitted to Government, but they have not yet been received.

48. As the Sone canal works command this district very fully, the ordinary relief works ought apparently to occupy a subordinate place.

Gya District.

49. There are four very heavy works, which being over Rs. 10,000 each, the projects should have been submitted to Government, but they have not been received yet.

50. *No.* 2.—*Baroon and Behta Road,* 70 *miles, Rs.* 50,000. In February 1869 the following orders were issued to the Commissioner of Patna:—

> "It is believed that there is no traffic on this road, and apparently little chance of any. The Sone flows close by the road on one side, and one of the main irrigation canals will do the same on the other. The Lieutenant-Governor therefore thinks that there is no necessity for making this road anything more than a good district road, and to do this no large expenditure will be necessary, as the length from Baroon to Saidabad is already completed, and a district road now exists from Saidabad* to the Dinapore Railway Station."

* Saidabad is beyond the Gya District

51. The completed portion being within the Gya District, it is incomprehensible how it is proposed to expend Rs. 50,000 on this road. Canal works are in active progress alongside the road, and afford relief. Work should not be permitted on this road without special necessity and explanation.

52. *No.* 3.—*Nowadah to Warisaligunge,* 13 *miles, Rs.* 32,000. This road crosses a country difficult from being traversed by the river Sukree and watercourses, and from the system of irrigation usual in this part of the country. It requires special consideration, and if there is any probability of work being required on this road, the project should be submitted immediately. This project appears to be connected with a proposal from the Monghyr District, on which I remarked† as follows:—

> "It will, the undersigned believes, pass through a rich part of country, and if continued to Nowadah, it would open a new route from the eastward to Gya; but to construct it thoroughly will cost a considerable sum, even if the River Sukree be left unbridged. The most expensive bridging is, however, in the Gya District, and it might be worth while to make the portion in the Monghyr District, even if the other were left untouched. The detailed estimates which are being prepared will settle this point. The Superintending Engineer (Captain Russell, R.E.) reported as follows on this road in the early part of 1868. Accordingly, last season, I reconnoitred this part of the country, and now beg to annex a rough sketch, and to report the conclusions at which I arrived with respect to the route shown in red. There are no difficulties between Nowadah and the Sukree. The Sukree crossing is about 2,000 feet wide, and every villager from whom I inquired stated that the river does not spill over its banks until some 15 miles lower down. Considering the fetch of the river, and the capacity of the channel here and lower down, I think this information is correct. From the Sukree for several miles there are no obstructions; a few small irrigation channels are crossed, and some surface drainage must be provided for. Near the village of Baghibuddiya is a nullah (originally a paen), about 50 feet across, fetching from an ahrah or tank at Murooa a few miles south. A little further on, near the village of Sumhuree, there are two small paens, also fetching from tanks near Mahibra. I am not sure that the channels are correctly shown in the sketch, for I could not follow them. The villagers had released the water in the tanks, and the fields were inundated. The route then crosses a high and level tract as far as the villages of Sumhuree and Murooa; near the former is the Kouriharee River, about 60 feet across, and near the latter a larger stream or torrent. The route then meets the Nattee River, 100 feet across, with sandy bed and shallow channel. This spills over its bank for a few yards in heavy freshes."

† Vide Memorandum from this Office, No. 468, dated the 27th January 1874.

53. If this road does not form part of the road alluded to in these remarks, the requisite alteration of alignment should be made, and the two districts should work in unison, so as to have one good road.

54. *No.* 7.—*Jehanabad to Hoolasgunge,* 18 *miles, Rs.* 30,000. This heavy work crosses very difficult country, and the project, if required, should be carefully got up at once. The work is one that should not be commenced until the project has been approved, except under urgent necessity.

55. *No.* 9.—*Bela to Kazirserai,* 10 *miles, Rs.* 23,000. The last remarks apply equally to this project.

56. *No.* 1.—*Behar and Rajowly Road.* A portion of this road has been completed. It would be well if a report were made of what is intended to be done, as assistance might be given from the reports and correspondence in this office regarding this road.

Patna District.

57. It has been necessary to obtain the details for raising the roads held in reserve from another return submitted some weeks previously, and the entries may not therefore represent exactly what is intended; but taking these entries as they stand, the following remarks are called for.

58. *Nos.* 51 *and* 55 *and* 52 *and* 56 are roads from the *Buktearpore and Futwa Railway Station to Raneebaugh* viâ *Behar and Hilsa;* and portions of these roads cross the heavily flooded land immediately south of the East Indian Railway. It appears to be only contemplated to raise them to a small extent, and there does not seem to be any objection to doing this so as not to interfere with the floods, and yet, as they subside, to have a roadway that from being slightly raised would soon dry: but anything like an attempt to carry a raised road above the level of these floods should be peremptorily forbidden until approved by Government on regular plans and estimate. It would cost an immense sum, and the most careful preliminary investigation and consideration would be necessary.

59. *Nos.* 41 *and* 59, *Mussowree to Ekangarserai, and Behar to Ekangarserai,* cross difficult flooded country, and require care as in previous cases.

60. *No.* 60, *Giriak to Nowada,* appears to belong to the Gya District, and to have been provided for in item 1 of that district.

61. *Excavation of tanks in the Sudder Sub-division* is contemplated to the extent of *Rs.* 32,000, but no details are given.

Sarun District.

62. The map shows this district to be well supplied with roads, and this would appear to be borne out by the circumstance that only two new roads are proposed. Both of these, *No.* 39, *Buragaon to Gopaulgunge,* 12 *miles, and No.* 40, *Sewan to Bussuntpore,* 20 *miles,* seem to require particular attention as they cross the drainage.

63. This district is peculiar in having brought forward proposals for a large amount of work, not mere road earthwork.

64. *No.* 2.—*Rs.* 32,055 are asked for, for the *construction of bridges, &c.* It seems doubtful whether this will be of much use for relief purposes, as carriage will be necessary for carting fuel, bricks, and lime, and it will also be required for carting rice.

65. *No.* 3.—*Sinking wells along roads, Rs.* 50,000. If these are to be pucca wells, their construction will be a great boon to the district, and a work that will be thoroughly appreciated by the people. The carriage difficulty just alluded to may, however, stop or nullify the work, which after all would only furnish employment to a limited number of special workpeople. If the wells are cutcha, the number would be great, probably 2 per mile on the average; their value would be transient.

66. *No.* 4.—*Excavation of tanks at places, Rs.* 1,50,000. This seems likely to be more profitable work than roads. There will be permanent benefit, with but little subsequent outlay; the benefit will, however, be restricted to a few people. The tanks do not appear to be very numerous according to the map. There are only 40 shown on the map which would give an average of Rs. 3,750 each. Thirty-three appear to be in progress from the fortnightly list.

67. *No.* 5.—*Improvement of different Drainage Channels, principally in Thannahs, Bussuntpore, Mushruk and Pursa, Rs.* 3,00,000. None of the promised projects have been received. Projects of this nature require very great care and inconsiderable special and professional knowledge; if they are injudiciously made, much harm may be done, or a good deal of money may be wasted, and any of these projects that it is proposed to carry out soon should be submitted without delay.

68. *No.* 6.—*Cutting of an irrigation channel along the Gunduck Embankment from Doomurrea to Hussunpoora, about* 46 *miles, Rs.* 2,00,000. This project is one that has been considered in the irrigation branch; the probable cost is understood to be about double the sum mentioned. It should not be carried out without the approval of the Government in that branch.

69. *No.* 7.—*Drainage of the Hurdea Chur, Rs.* 31,000. This project was submitted in July last in such a crude state that it had to be returned. If the work is now required as a relief work, the project should be amended and re-submitted. It is not one that should be commenced in the haphazard sort of way in which it first came up.

70. The amount of expenditure proposed is now entered as Rs. 31,000; the cost of the drainage scheme was then entered as Rs. 21,420; but there was another work along with it for extending embankments amounting to Rs. 9,682, making Rs. 31,102. It is probably now proposed to carry out both schemes; if so, the embankment portion should be forbidden, as it is a part of the Gunduck scheme now in the hands of the Irrigation Department, and should not be taken up without reference to that department.

71. The fortnightly list of workpeople, show works that are not included in the original lists, *e.g.*, an extensive tramway road is in progress employing about 8,000 workpeople per diem, and it may perhaps be noted here that the Court of Wards appears to have 114 tanks in progress, and the Chuprah manager, 11 tanks and 7 wells.

Chumparun District.

72. Ten new roads are contemplated, but the works seem to be of an unimportant character, as is the case with the repairs to be carried out; were it otherwise, considerable care would be necessary; and considering the increase of want in this district since the foregoing remarks were drafted, more work must be now contemplated than is implied in the list. The special superintending engineer should look particularly after these works.

73. Of the *other works besides roads, No.* 1.—*Embankment to protect the Segowlee end of the Segowlee to Raxoul Road,* 4 *miles, Rs.* 6,000, requires careful consideration. The amount to be spent on this earthwork implies a large and important work, which should not be left to the local authorities for disposal.

74. During last month I submitted* remarks on the undermentioned two proposals:—

No. 2.—*Repairing, deepening, and clearing out a series of large reservoirs which extend from the Nepal frontier on the north towards Dhaka, Puddumker, &c., to the Tirhoot boundary, including the clearing out of the channels or waterways connected with these series of reservoirs, and thus forming them into a chain of waterworks extending across the district, Rs.* 15,000.

No. 3.—*Connecting the Harai with the Dhanowti River by making a deep cutting of a mile in length near Barwat Seyna, south of Bettiah, and thus bringing the water of the Gunduck into the Dhanowti, Rs.* 15,000.

75. The information supplied was insufficient for any decision, and the projects were noted as being such as might prove of great importance, but requiring careful consideration and investigation, and as evidently such as should not be undertaken without great caution.

Tirhoot District.

76. The proposed relief works in this district are of the description to which the preliminary remarks apply, and in some instances very strongly.

77. The following roads run across the drainage, in some instances close to considerable rivers; the works are heavy; and if not properly done, may be productive of very bad consequences.

No. 1.—*Koolwah Ghât to Meetunserai on the Mullye Road,* 1½ *miles, Rs.* 1,000, *raising from* 2 *to* 6 *feet.*

No. 3.—*Boosrah Ghât Road,* 4 *miles, Rs.* 3,000, *raising considerably in places.*

No. 6.—*From Bajitpore Mowh to join the road between Dulsingserai and Shapore Pattaori Road at Mudhudabad,* 2 *miles, Rs.* 2,000, *to be raised about* 5 *feet.*

No. 8.—*Dulsingserai to Nurhun,* 12 *miles, Rs.* 4,000, *to be considerably raised in places, and a bund to be raised through a chowr.*

No. 14.—*Bunded road near Nundnee in the south of the district on the road from Shapore Oondee to Dulsingserai,* 2 *miles, Rs.* 6,000, *to be thoroughly repaired, raised, and strengthened.*

No. 18.—*Hatee to Singhia outpost,* 10 *miles, Rs.* 2,000, *to be raised.*

No. 19.—*Durbhungah to Baherah Thannah,* 14 *miles, Rs.* 5,000, *to be raised.*

78. The following remarks are called for in regard to *other works besides roads:—*

No. 1.—*A new embankment to be raised across the chowr from Tajpore Ghât to Phoolwaria on the Mullye Road, varying from* 8 *to* 14 *feet, length* 3 *miles, Rs.* 11,000; *this is however a road.* From every point of view, this seems to be a work of very great importance. The work apparently forms part of the main road running north from Mozufferpore to the Nepal frontier. The object appears to be to cut off the spill of the Bhagmuttee River over its left bank for a distance of three miles. If this work is merely strengthening the existing road so as to avoid all chance of ordinary breaching, then there may be no objections to it. But if it is more than this, and if it is to restrain a flood which, wholly or in part, at present finds its exit to the eastward over the road, the expediency of the work is very doubtful. It would relieve the country to the eastward, but only at the expense of some other parts of the district over which the restrained flood would be thrown.

79. *No.* 2.—*Changing the course of the Boorgunduck, opposite to Mozufferpore, by cutting a channel through the original bed of the river about* ½ *or* ¾ *of a mile, Rs.* 12,000. A special report has been made† regarding this work. If urgently required for relief purposes, it seems to be a work which might be carried out with probably only a small amount of harm, and no very great good; but the whole question, of which this is a part, is one of those requiring full investigation and consideration.

80. *No.* 3.—*Clearing out the bed of the Jogeah and Gogra Nullah for drainage purposes, length* 20 *miles, Rs.* 7,511.

No. 4.—*Repairing and strengthening of the zemindaree bund from Harouli towards Hajipore and joining it with the present Gunduck embankments, length* 4 *miles, Rs.* 3,000.—The Irrigation Department should be consulted on these projects. The latter seems intimately connected with the Gunduck embankment project, which that department has now in hand.

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* *Vide* memorandum No. 301, dated the 16th January 1874.

† *Vide* my note dated the 16th February 1874, of which a copy was forwarded, under date the 21st idem, to the Commissioner of the Patna Division, to the Superintending Engineer of the Northern Circle, and to the Special Superintending Engineer of the Patna Division, trans-Gangetic districts, with memoranda Nos. 1073, 1075, and 1076.

81. As the embankment is zemindaree, it would appear to be more proper to treat the expenses under the usual rules for such embankments, than as a relief work.

82. *No. 5.—Clearing of old tanks and excavating new tanks.*
No further information received.

BHAUGULPORE DIVISION.

83. The lists of special relief works in this division are not in such a complete state as those received from the Commissioner of the Patna Division. The bare names of the roads are entered without general observations regarding what is to be done, and in some instances without the length. The absence of any intimation of the probable expenditure also prevents any opinion regarding the work contemplated being formed in this manner; so that I have little to go on save a general personal knowledge of the subject.

Monghyr District.

84. The roads in the south-east corner of the Monghyr district have already received a good deal of discussion* in several notes that I have submitted from time to time, so that I need not further allude to them now, nor do any of the roads in Monghyr south of the Ganges seem to require particular notice.

85. North of the Ganges there are two roads of considerable length, viz.,—

No. 9.—Bulkar to Rosrah, 50 miles.
No. 10.—Tirhoot Road, 44 miles.

86. The following order was passed from this office in February 1869 on the latter road:—

" The improvement of the main road between Monghyr and Mozufferpore was the subject of a " good deal of correspondence in 1861 and 1862, the result of which was that the road from " Mozufferpore to Dulsingserai was transferred to the officers of this department for im- " provement and maintenance. Between Dulsingserai and Monghyr it was found that the " country was subject to heavy inundation, and it was calculated that to make a good " unmetalled road without bridges would cost about five lakhs of rupees, a sum which the " Lieutenant-Governor thought quite disproportionate to the value of a road running, as this " one does, parallel to the Ganges. This length was accordingly left in the charge of the " local civil officers, the Commissioner of Patna being requested (*vide* the memorandum from " this office, No. 953 of the 28th February 1862,) to arrange for the construction of a " thoroughly good unmetalled road from Dulsingserai to the Ganges near Dhuneyspore."

87. These remarks probably apply with equal force to Road No. 9.

Bhaugulpore District.

88. Some of the roads south of the Ganges have been constructed and reported on by the Public Works Officers. Some skill is necessary in dealing with these mountain torrents, and the floods which they throw down on the plains. The river Chundun has been a source of great trouble at times.

89. North of the Ganges, No. 1N., the *Muddehpoora Road* has already been the subject of discussion,† and I believe that the Special Superintending Engineer is about to bring forward proposals regarding the lower part. I may here re-produce a paragraph of my memorandum marginally cited.

" It will be observed that in places the embankment is from 20 to 24 feet high; that at places " it runs through what may be called a sea, where it is exposed to great injury from waves; " that, even in its incomplete state, and where it had escaped from floods through breaches, " there were petitions of injury to crops. The late Commissioner, Mr. A. Money, C.B., " thought‡ that Government would be probably 'cast in " damages in suits brought by the Zemindars or Vil- " lagers' if there were not proper waterways. Raising " embankments such as seem contemplated is a matter " that appears to the undersigned to require great care and serious consideration, and it " seems to him that, before such works are allowed, the question should be brought forward " in a complete manner for consideration."

90. This extract will help to explain the large cost noted above (paragraph 86) regarding road No. 10 in the Monghyr District.

91. *Roads No. 4N., Narainpore to Sunbursa, 12 miles, and Moagama to Morkoha, length not given, and No. 5N., Milki to Gonolee, 10 miles.* These are off-shoots at the lower end of the Ganges, and Muddehpoora Road, and being under similar conditions of country, may be noted as probably heavy works, although their lengths are short.

92. I may here remark that the local authorities should be prohibited from attempting to carry out raised roads along the northern portion of the Monghyr District, and such portion of the northern portion of the Bhaugulpore District as is within the influence of the Ganges. If the

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* *Vide* paragraphs 1 to 4 of note dated 3d December 1873, forwarded with memorandum No. 5890 dated the 10th idem, and memorandum No. 468, dated the 27th January 1874.

† *Vide* Proceedings, Local Communications A. for January 1868, Nos. 28, 30, and 33-34.
Proceedings, Communications A. for February 1868, Nos. 33-34.
Proceedings, Communications A. for March 1868, Nos. 1-3, of which a copy was forwarded with memorandum from this Office No. 5890, dated the 10th December 1873.

‡ *Vide* his letter, No. 166, dated 25th November 1865, to the Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, (Proceedings, Local Communications A. for January 1868, Nos. 29-30).

questions were fully brought forward, the enormous expense, and the many difficulties, would probably render any prohibition unnecessary. But we have seen that, under present circumstances, such works may be hastily taken up, and that such caution is necessary.

93. The question, moreover, is not merely one of expense. Tampering with and changing the courses of such floods as arise from the large affluents of the Ganges which join this river within the distance above noted, complicated as these floods are by the floods and back-water of the Ganges, are matters not to be lightly undertaken. The effects may be momentous, both as regards the country and the Ganges itself.

94. Little is known of the northern portion of Bhaugulpore. It seems to be country more or less under water, but not presenting features of very marked difficulty.

Purneah District.

95. The district of Purneah is traversed by one large river, the Mahanuddy. Within no great number of years a larger river, the Koosey, has run through the district, changing its course from time to time until it has become for the present the western boundary of the district. In consequence of these changes the lower and western part of Purneah is traversed by depressions, and deserted beds of the river. There are also many smaller rivers, and altogether the construction of raised roads throughout this district, as seems proposed, is a matter of remarkable difficulty.

96. The Ganges and Darjeelling road has shown how expensive and difficult it is to deal effectually with these floods. The experience gained from the heavy floods of 1862 and of 1870 points this out, and shows what a delicate matter meddling with these floods is.

97. Almost every one of the proposed roads comes within the influence of extensive floods, and in regard to these proposed roads it seems only possible to say, judging from past experience, that, if they are to be properly raised roads, extensive and serious expense, difficulties, and complications, must be contemplated.

Sonthal Pergunnahs.

98. A portion of the relief works consists of railway feeders and other roads which have been reported on and discussed in this department. The executive engineer should be guided by the orders issued from time to time in each case. If he has not got them already, they can be obtained from the superintending engineer, or from the executive engineer, Bhaugulpore district.

99. The roads run through a country which our experience shows requires a good deal of investigation and consideration to determine the best and most economical road.

RAJSHAHYE DIVISION.

100. The information regarding the Rajshahye division is not in a satisfactory state. One district, Pubna, has not yet been classed as a distressed district. Of the remainder, there are lists of relief works from three,—Dinagepore, Rajshahye and Moorshedabad,—but not from the remaining districts,—Maldah, Rungpore, and Bogra. This omission has been supplied, as far as practicable, from the works entered in the fortnightly lists of laborers and from the fortnightly narratives.

Maldah District.

101. There is no regular list of roads from this district. Several new roads are projected; this seems to be a district where, in some instances, particular care is necessary as regards floods.

Dinagepore District.

102. This is a district of which we have not intimate knowledge in the office. The old Darjeeling road passed from south to north on very favourable ground. Major Lindsay remarks in his report that through the Dinagepore district "the line (of "railway) is an easy one." But in his letter* of December last the Relief Commissioner observes, "I have assumed "that the general height to which roads will have to be "made will be from three to four feet; and according to a "scale furnished me by the district engineer, the cost of "earthwork three feet high would be Rs. 770 a mile, and Rs. 1,127 for four feet. I have taken "the average of the two, and put down the estimated cost at Rs. 950 a mile on all roads, and I "do not think this will be very far from the mark either way. A record is duly kept, and has "been from the commencement, of the number of coolies employed on each line of road. You "will see from the above that I estimate the roads connecting with Purneah emigration roads "to cost Rs. 85,780, the roads on which work has been begun, or is going on, to cost Rs. 1,01,150, "and the proposed roads to be made in case of necessity to cost Rs. 2,29,900, at a uniform rate of "Rs. 950 a mile. Of course, if the roads are only made two feet high, the cost would be much "less, but they would certainly all go under water or be washed away in the rains."

* No. 73., dated the 18th December 1873, to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division, of which a copy was received with endorsement No. 272 S.R., dated the 26th January 1874, from the Statistical (scarcity and relief) Department of this Government.

103. This representation would seem to require some modification. A country so generally under water, as would be gathered from these extracts, would be well nigh uninhabitable, and intersecting it with roads would be a serious undertaking.

104. It would appear, however, from some of the remarks in the list of roads, that "there are "cart tracks down all the high lands which run uniformly north and south;" and on some of the cross works it is noted that bridges of considerable size, or heavy earthwork, will be required.

105. The inference to be drawn from these remarks, coupled with what has been noted in paragraph 102, and the circumstance that the district is traversed from north to south by several large rivers, seems to be, that north and south roads are comparatively easy, and require little raising, while the east and west, or the cross drainage roads, are difficult and heavy works, which require a good deal of raising, and call for particular attention to the bridging, which is likely to be unusually heavy.

106. I make these remarks partly because if this average calculation is accepted and acted upon, it may prove very deceptive. The quantity of work on difficult roads may be much more than is anticipated, or a great deal of unnecessary work may be done on easy roads. The estimate would, indeed, appear to be more than usually uncertain.

107. In his letter[*] submitting the list of works, the relief commissioner remarks, "All the "officers I am employing are unprofessional men as far as "engineering is concerned, but the work they are doing is "equally unprofessional, as it merely consists in raising or "repairing and improving existing lines of roads. We have "not attempted anything in the shape of heavy bridging, but are merely putting in small bamboos "or tâl tree bridges where we can, and leaving the larger gaps for future consideration."

[*] No. 73, dated the 13th December 1873, quoted in margin of paragraph No. 102 of this note.

108. The course pursued in regard to bridging is judicious, and if "raising or repairing and "improving" mean little more than merely filling up breaches, and restoring a road to its former and usual condition, nothing need be said; but if, under these terms, a road, which at times may be extensively topped by floods and submerged, is to be raised above all floods, then the matter is one which requires professional investigation and consideration.

109. The foregoing remarks refer to the list originally submitted by the relief commissioner. Lately, on looking over the fortnightly narratives, several additional roads are noted as having been commenced. These have been marked down, as far as possible; but we have not always been quite sure that we are correct as regards the places mentioned, and the course of the roads.

Rungpore District.

110. There is no regular list of roads from this district. The relief works seem to be little more than improvements of old tracks and roads, and the principal point for attention seems to be the extent to which the raising may interfere with the floods, as noted in paragraph 108.

Bogra District.

111. This is another district from which no regular list has been received. The best has been done to complete a list from the fortnightly narratives and returns of labourers. The new work would appear to consist of railway feeders which are, I presume, under the superintending engineer, Northern Bengal (State) Railway. Regarding the remainder information is uncertain.

Rajshahye District.

112. There is a list of roads from this district, but the work to be done on the roads is not shown. I gather from the fortnightly narratives that two feeder roads are to be under Major Lindsay, and that there are two new local roads; the remainder are ordinary district roads.

Moorshedabad District.

113. From this district also the list of roads was unclassed, but they appear to be all repairs to district roads except in two instances,[†] the projects of which are apparently to be submitted.

[†] No. XXVIII., road from Berhampore to Hureeaparah.
 „ XXVIIIA., road from Hurreeaparah to Nowada.

114. There is a scheme for draining Berhampore,[‡] which has been sanctioned, and is to be carried out by Mr. Wickes.

[‡] By a drainage out from the Station to the Gobra Nullah with a branch drain to Moydapore, *vide* letter from this office, No. 850, dated the 12th February 1873, to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division.

115. I had hoped to be able to present something like a general statement of the probable cost of these relief works, rough though it might be, but the idea proves to be utterly hopeless.

116. There is good information regarding probable cost from the Patna division, none whatever from the Bhaugulpore division, and the same from the Rajshahye division, except as regards the Dinagepore district, and here the calculations are based on a general average, which, I am afraid, is not of much value.

117. It may, however, be useful to throw what information there is, including the ordinary district road expenditure, into a tabular form, as follows:—

District.	Ordinary District Road Repairs.		Improving existing Roads.		New Roads.		Other Works besides Roads.	
	Length.	Cost.	Length.	Cost.	Length.	Cost.	Length.	Cost.
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Shahabad - -	945	32,140	142	44,849	199	53,160	—	4,000
Gya - -	183	10,551	—	—	211	1,46,219	—	—
Patna - -	428	66,800	256	Information not given.	40	Information not given.	—	32,300
Sarun - -	756	27,910	—	—	32	16,000	—	7,65,055
Chumparun -	325	29,100	187	10,040	159	8,850	—	36,000
Tirhoot - -	1,098	63,764	240	47,800	27	5,500	—	33,511
Total - -	3,730	2,30,265	825	1,02,689	668	2,29,729	—	7,70,866
Monghyr - -	189	31,420	100	—	101	Information not given.	—	—
Bhaugulpore -	—	83,485	70	Information not given.	33	Ditto.	—	—
Purneah - -	559	29,711	—	—	288	Ditto.	—	—
Sonthal Pergunnahs	225	24,140	88	32,503	264	Ditto.	—	—
Total - -	973	1,68,756	258	32,503	686	—	—	—
Dinagepore -	275	32,538	117	1,11,150	346	3,17,580*	—	—
Maldah - -	189	31,000	111	—	26	Information not given.	—	—
Rungpore - -	118	30,750	284	Information not given.	30	Ditto.	—	—
Bograh - -	265	6,265	—	5,000	84	Ditto.	—	—
Rajshahye - -	280	46,605	9	18,078	137	Ditto.	—	—
Moorshedabad -	365	24,046	168	5,460	326	Ditto -	—	Information not given.
Total - -	1,492	1,71,204	689	1,39,688	949	3,17,580	—	—
Grand Total -	6,195	5,70,225	1,772	2,74,880	2,303	5,47,309	—	7,70,866

* Exclusive of feeder roads to the Northern Bengal (State) Railway, about which no information has been given.

The lengths of roads are for the most part entered from measurement on the map, the information not being available from the lists.

J. E. T. Nicolls, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal
in the Public Works Department.

The 21st February 1874.

Enclosures 1 to 15 to Thirteenth Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873–74 in Bengal, from 6th to 19th March 1874.

Enclosure No. 3.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 17th March 1874.

READ—

THE District Narratives of the Patna Division for the fortnight ending on the 7th March.

The narratives were received punctually, the latest, those for Tirhoot, having reached Calcutta on the 13th March.

Patna.—The bazaars in the Patna district continue to be well supplied with grain of all sorts, and private import trade is active: prices would be lower but for the purchases made by Government for the Hutwa Raj and Tirhoot. The weather has been all that could be desired during the fortnight, with the exception of one local shower of rain accompanied by hail: more than double the usual amount of cheena has been sown down.

The outturn of the rubbee everywhere promises to be very satisfactory. Harvesting is being generally carried on throughout the district, and will occupy the poorer classes for three weeks or more; a twelve-anna crop is generally expected. The Magistrate has not seen a single case of distress in his visits to the local fund works, nor a single man, woman, or child employed on them who could not give a fair day's work if willing to do it. The monthly return shows 239 cases of thefts, &c., as against 167 and 183 in corresponding months of previous year, so that the increase in crimes against property is not very great in the Patna district. There was a diminution in the average daily attendance of labourers on relief works, partly to be accounted for by the harvesting of the rubbee crops. Of the 67,500 maunds of Government grain allotted to the district, about four-fifths had reached their final destination and been stored. The people are not taking advances for the purchase of grain or for agricultural improvements. The Magistrate had taken no steps to afford gratuitous relief, being of opinion that none would be necessary: he was proceeding to carry out the instructions contained in the recent Government order in regard to providing relief-houses against possible inroads of destitute people from North Behar into the Patna and Dinapore cities.

3. *Gya.*—There is no dearth of food in the Gya district, but prices continue to be exceptionally high; and though the wheat crop is excellent, only 10½ seers per rupee are obtainable, whereas the rate is 16 and 17 seers at Patna. The sub-divisional officer reports at length on the tract of the Nowada sub-division, regarding which apprehensions had been entertained. The late rains have done much good, not only saving half the rubbee crop, but also improving the grass and consequently the cattle, and enabling the people to break up their rice lands. Mr. Beames writes that the state of things is everywhere all that can be desired, and that the price of food has fallen in most places, while troops of cattle are everywhere employed in carrying grain, straw and merchandize about the country in large quantities.

All the sub-divisional officers unanimously pronounce the crops to be excellent; the road-works are deserted in order to secure the harvest; only 843 people are on the relief works; but crimes against property are more than twice as numerous as in ordinary years. Private importations of grain into Gya are increasing; the means of transport have proved sufficient. Twenty-one storage centres as previously reported have been fixed upon for the district, and above a lakh and a quarter of maunds stored; the gratuitous relief required by beggars and infirm persons appears to be judicially given. The non-arrival of Government grain at the Gya stations was due to the whole power of the railway being occupied in supplying the more emergent needs of North Behar; it is satisfactory to learn that the carts selected for the Gya grain were utilised elsewhere.

4. *Shahabad.*—The supplies in the Shahabad bazaars are reported to be still sufficient; imports of grain are still large, 1,10,000 maunds of private grain having been brought into Shahabad by rail during the fortnight. Prices of rice have fallen perceptibly in Arrah; the price of coarse rice is 12 seers a rupee, in some parts of the district 10½, and at Rughonathpore 14 seers. Favourable reports had been received of the condition of the spring crops in most sub-divisions, and no harm had been done by the heavy thunder-storm of the 5th March; in the absence of any unusual calamity the spring harvest may be regarded as safe. The condition of the labouring and agricultural classes has generally improved, though the beggars and the infirm were undoubtedly being pressed; for the able-bodied the harvesting of the crops, the canal and road-works provide plenty of employment; they are in hand at some places, and will be commenced at others. Out of 1,37,000 maunds of Government grain required for the Arrah, Buxar, Sasseram, and Bhubooah sub-divisions, 65,000 have been received. Besides the district relief committee and the committees for sub-divisions, nine sub-committees for relief centres have been selected in Arrah, and ten in Sasseram; they are under arrangement elsewhere. Fourteen places have been fixed on as work-houses or centres for the distribution of food and gratuitous relief, and committees of supervision have been appointed. Measures have been also taken to distribute to each subordinate officer sums for disbursement on charitable relief when necessary, and to provide light labour such as rope and thread-making. The average daily number of persons employed on the relief works was 1,279.

5. *Tirhoot.*—As the Lieutenant-Governor is now in the Tirhoot district, and is giving orders himself on every point, it is not necessary to remark at length on the two Tirhoot Narratives which are full and interesting.

Head Quarter relief charge.—It is satisfactory to learn that the relief officer is able, after visiting the tracts and villages where matters were worst, to report that "no deaths have occurred "attributable wholly to starvation." Relief works are open, or are being opened, in all the distressed neighbourhoods. It is well that Mr. Gordon should have been able to find local men who can efficiently man the eight relief circles in the Head-Quarters Sub-division. The condition of the people in the Hajeepore and Tajpore Sub-divisions is clearly better than at the date of last Narrative, 9,314 labourers appear to be employed on the relief works, of whom less than half are in the Head-Quarters Sub-division. Looking to what Mr. Gordon says of general distress in several parts of the Mozufferpore Sub-division, the numbers of relief works ought certainly to be increased. Private importations of grain seem to be exceedingly small; and it will be necessary to expedite the transport of the allotted quantities of Government grain to the distressed tracts of Mozufferpore Sub-division. Now that inspectors for the relief circles have joined, regular charitable relief must be systematically and extensively given in the shape of advances of grain to ryots, or of distribution through jeyt ryots to destitute women and other villagers who may be unable to work. Returns of the recipients of such relief must be given in next Narrative.

6. *Durbhungah relief charge.*—It is clear that there is real famine among the poorer classes in parts of Durbhunga and Mudhoobunnee and perhaps in the south-east corner of Seetamarhee. Three deaths from starvation are reported, all of which occurred in Durbhunga; but from several quarters severe distress and some suffering is reported. The people are coming to the relief works in immense numbers; on one work alone the daily average of labourers rose from 7,000 to 28,000 persons. Altogether 96,532 labourers are employed on Government and Court of Wards' works, besides 5,208 on private works. Some of the work done by these people is very small indeed; there had been peculation and mismanagement on the works, but this is now being remedied.

7. Mr. Macdonell's account (paragraph 29 of the Narrative) of the way in which he is administering charitable relief and bringing relief to the doors of the people is interesting; but it is not clear that he is utilising the local agency to the utmost; no mention is made in his scheme of the putwarees, who constitute the most intelligent village agency in Tirhoot. Sir George Campbell has, during the last ten days, been arranging for posting skilled native officers, borrowed from the North-Western Provinces, to the relief circles and sub-circles of Durbhunga. But it seems extraordinary that in East Tirhoot alone the local officers should have been unable more fully to utilise local agency, both for supervising relief works and for directing charitable relief. In two districts, so very differently constituted as Sarun and Dinagepore, many thousands of workmen are employed on relief works, paid regularly, and kept in comparative comfort by an agency improvised locally, and supervised mainly by the local civil officers.

8. The amount of Government grain stored in the Durbhunga Sub-division with its 867,000 persons, so many of whom are actually in distress, is as yet unhappily very small, only 50,000 maunds. The Chumpta Ghât transport agency had temporarily broken down; Sir George Campbell has made arrangements for at once hurrying up more grain by new routes, *viâ* Mokameh and Monghyr. Meanwhile, the private stocks of Durbhunga town are lasting in the most unexpected way; and the dealers, perhaps influenced by the knowledge that immense Government importations are on the road, are selling at comparatively moderate rates; and thus the people are tiding over the month of March. During the next four months, there can be hardly any fresh food-supplies, for the spring food-crops of North Tirhoot are very inconsiderable. The Government supplies, however, when they arrive and are distributed, will support, for several months, the great bulk of the population, so that the possible exhaustion (paragraph 8 of the Narrative) of the private food-stocks need cause less anxiety, provided only they last until the Government grain becomes available. In Seetamarhee, which is supplied mainly by the Bunker Ghât transport agency, the Government food-stores are already very much larger; and it may there be safe to begin making sales and advances of grain to all who are in absolute need.

9. *Sarun.*—The supplies of grain in the local markets of Sarun are still sufficient, and prices are nowhere above 10 seers per rupee; out of the quotations for thirty places, at only six marts was the price of coarse rice dearer than 11 seers per rupee. The spring crop, which in Sarun covers a large area, may now be "considered assured" with an out-turn equal to two-thirds of an average crop. The condition of the people is on the whole fairly good, though in some tracts distress is expected to occur later in the year. The average number of persons on the relief works has risen to 91,512 during the last fortnight; but owing to the spring harvest, the number fell at the end of the fortnight to 76,714. The transport and storage of Government grain continues to go on smoothly and expeditiously.

10. With regard to Mr. Hudson's remarks, paragraph 30, on the difficulties in the way of making advances, the Lieutenant-Governor would refer to the Relief Committees' instructions recently circulated, which authorize advances of grain to ryots who are absolutely in need, and to whom advances cannot be made through or on the responsibility of the zemindars. Now that there is enough grain in store in Sarun, the Magistrate-Collector can, on application, obtain from the Commissioner sanction to such additional sub-deputies or circle officers as he may require to give effect to the orders regarding grain advances to ryots.

The Lieutenant-Governor is satisfied with Mr. Drummond's assurance that there is "no "immediate necessity for any large scheme of charitable relief." But in view of what is said at paragraphs 15 to 18, of the need which Mr. Hodgkinson finds for a village-to-village inquiry in

Hutwa, and of the necessity for special officers to deal with grain advances business, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that in the two or three worst thannahs, some additional relief organization must be required; and he begs that distinct proposals on this subject may be submitted to him during his coming visit to Bankipore.

11. *Chumparun.*—Over the greater part of the Chumparun district, prices were easier and the spring crops promised fairly well. But in the Ramnugger sub-division matters are worse, the condition of the people is less hopeful, and the prices of the coarser kinds of food had risen to 8 and 8½ seers per rupee. Private trade was almost at a stand-still, and the sub-divisional officer had begun to sell Government grain to the public through the local traders at 11 seers a rupee.

The daily average of people employed on the relief works is now 53,825, inclusive of those on the embankments. Grain transport work appears to be going on well; but now that sales to the public have begun in Ramnugger, and are likely to be considerable, the stores in all the Ramnugger depôts must be largely and promptly replenished. Mr. Howe's account of his charitable relief operations shows that Sir Richard Temple's confidence that he would prove equal to the difficult charge of Ramnugger was deserved. But the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to receive with future Narratives, more complete statistics of the persons in receipt of charitable relief.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1556—S.R.

COPY, with copies of the District Narratives, forwarded to—

The Commissioners of Patna, Bhagulpore, and Rajshahye.
The Relief Commissioner, Rajshahye.
The Magistrate-Collectors of Patna, Gya, Shahabad, Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun.
The Relief Officers, Durbhunga and Ramnugger.
L. C. Abbott, with Sir Richard Temple, on tour.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Calcutta, the 17th March 1874. Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. A, dated Bankipore, the 8th March 1874.

From A. C. MANGLES, Esq., Collector of Patna, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I have the honour to submit herewith my narrative regarding the state of the district for the fortnight ending the 7th instant.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. The several bazaars at head-quarters and in the interior of the district continue to be well supplied with grain of all sorts, and the harvesting of the rubbee crops, which is now going on generally throughout the district, has largely supplemented the supplies brought from other places. Judging from the large importations which are daily being made by private traders, I have no doubt whatever in my own mind but that the supply will be quite equal to the demand in this district, provided that trade is allowed to take its own course, and that Government does not step in and become a purchaser from our local markets. Already considerable quantities of grain have been, under the Commissioner's orders, purchased for the Hutwa Raj and for Tirhoot from the city, which has, I am convinced, tended to prevent our prices going down so much as they otherwise would have done had not these purchases been made; and it was only this morning that a large number of mahajuns came to my house of their own accord and expressed their anxiety as to what would be the consequences should Government make the large purchases in the local markets which they heard it intended doing.

3. The following were the prices of grains obtaining during the fortnight:—

Patna.

	Seers.
Rice (best)	11
Ditto (common)	13
Wheat	15
Barley	18
Jowar	19
Maize	16
Gram	18½

Barrh.

Rice	10½
Gram	16
Maize	14½
Wheat	11½

Behar.

Rice	11½ to 12
Maize	17
Gram	16
Wheat	12
Kulthi	18

Dinapore.

Rice	12 to 12½
Maize	15½ to 16½
Mussoor	18
Khesari	16 to 16⅛
Wheat	13 to 15
Gram	17 to 17½
Peas	17½ to 18½

4. In the interior of the Sudder sub-division, rice is selling at from 10 to 13 seers. Maize 15 to 17, wheat 14 to 15, barley, mixed with peas, 19. The only place where rice is selling at the highest price given, *i.e.*, 10 seers the rupee, is at Moosowri, bordering on the Gya district, where its high price is no doubt owing to the large quantities which have been exported into Gya, but I trust that we shall have no actual distress in this quarter, as the rubbee crop is most favorably reported on by Mr. Rattray, my Salt Superintendent, now employed on famine work, who writes as follows:—

"The out-turn of the rubbee is promised in all directions as very satisfactory. Gram and mussoor now nearly off the ground form the principal crops, and were planted in rubbee as well as in paddy lands. These, I was informed by those gathering them, have yielded from 12 to 15 maunds per beegah; wheat and poppy have been grown on the banks of the river Poonpoon, Marchar and Dardah, and near wells; the former is of a good height and looks promising. The crop is also being cut on the plains."

5. There was no rainfall during the early part of the fortnight sufficiently large to allow of its being measured, except at Behar, where they had ·11, and where it is reported to have done much good to the cheena lately sown, and to the backward wheat. Yesterday, in the middle of the day, there was a sharp shower of rain, mixed with hail, which seemed to follow the line of rail from Futwah to Barrh, but was of no great width. I have not heard at present how much fell, or whether any damage was caused by it or not. With this exception the weather during the fortnight has been all that could be desired for the bringing to maturity the late crops, and the harvesting of the earlier ones. In Behar the cultivators, taking advantage of the small amount of rain they had, have sown down from 45 to 50 thousand beegahs in cheena, against from 18 to 20 thousand beegahs, which are in ordinary years put under this crop. Sugar-cane has also been largely cultivated, which would lead one to suppose that the people are in no immediate want of food, as it is a crop which takes a long time coming to maturity.

6. The harvesting of the rubbee crops of almost every description is now being generally carried on throughout the district, and will afford labor to the poorer classes for another month or three weeks. In writing under this head the sub-divisional officers of Barrh reports—"yield everywhere has been good, and the cultivators seem contented." In Behar the sub-divisional officer informs that the rubbee of every kind has yielded far better than was at first expected, and goes on to say—"no one, nay even the most covetous ryots, could wish for a better crop." In Dinagepore, Captain Playfair estimates the crop at from an eight to twelve-anna one, but in this, from all that I have heard from natives, I cannot help thinking that he is under the mark. In the Sudder sub-division, with the exception of a small portion of it in the south-west corner, where, owing to want of moisture, a large quantity of land was left uncultivated, it is reckoned that we have a twelve-anna crop.

7. During the fortnight no cases of misery or starvation have been brought to light; and though I have now visited nearly all the local fund works which are in progress throughout the district, I have not seen a single case of distress nor a single man, woman, or child employed on them who could not give a fair day's work for a fair day's wages provided they were willing to do so. The cry was general on all the works for higher wages, but this I refused to comply with, as I am of opinion that those now given are quite high enough, and because those asking, from the way in which they did, it would appear to have been under the impression that they were conferring a favor on Government in coming to the works at all, and not Government on them in having works ready for them.

8. The new railway sidings at Futwah, Barrh, and Mokamah have afforded labor during the fortnight to a large number of those seeking it. Though the number of people employed on our roads is considerably in excess of what it is in ordinary years, I am not prepared to say that this is any sign of distress, for had we in other years done the same amount of work, and occupied the same time over it, thus giving the people time to collect, I think we should have had quite as many as now come to us.

9. One case of grain-robbery, or rather attempt, was reported by the police during the fortnight, resulting in the death of one of the owners of the grain who was killed by *lattee* blows. From what I can hear, however, the robbery was not intended, but the paying out of an old grudge. The case is still under enquiry. Sixteen cases of theft of grain were reported, but all of a petty nature. I annex the crime return prescribed by the Government letter, No. 4801, of the 20th December last. It shows 239 cases of theft, house-breaking, &c., during the month, against 167 in the corresponding month of 1873, and 183 of 1872.

B.—Relief Works.

10. The average daily number of laborers employed on the different roads and relief works throughout the district was 6,529 against 6,956 as given in my last narrative. The falling off may be accounted for by the laborers now finding plenty of work in the fields, and by my having stopped the work in some localities where it was evident that there was no demand for labor. The map and report called for by Government order No. 712—S.R., of the 16th ultimo, will be submitted in due course, though I do not think that I shall find it necessary to make any alterations in the proposals already submitted by me in December last.

C.—Transport of Food.

11. The subjoined statement will show the figures of import between 15th and 20th ultimo as per latest returns received:—

	Rice.	Wheat, oats, and barley.	Jenera.	Other grains.
By rail - -	294,638	31,734	41,298	165,702
By river - -	550	100	3,610	1,540
Total -	295,188	31,834	44,908	167,242

or a grand total of 539,172 maunds, whereof 162,551 maunds were Government grain, and the remaining 376,621 maunds were made up from private importations. These figures do not include the receipts at the Futwah siding, the report from which has not yet reached this office.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

12. Out of the 67,600 maunds allotted to this district, I have up to date received 58,822 maunds, of which 53,088 have reached their final destination and been stored in golahs in the interior; the remainder could also have been sent, had it not been that I wished to interfere as little as possible with private enterprise, and that I was already using a very large number of carts in the transport of treasure, baggage of troops, &c., &c., across the Ganges.

E.—Advances to Private Parties.

13. No advances were made during the fortnight either for the purchase of grain, or for agricultural improvement. In the one case, if for no other reason, this can be accounted for from the fact of those who have already made purchases finding it difficult to sell what they have bought owing to the abundance of the rubbee harvest which is now being reaped; and in the other, to the fact of the laboring classes preferring the lighter work of cutting crops to that of making embankments.

F.—Charitable Relief.

14. Being of opinion that no gratuitous relief would be necessary in this district, I have taken no steps under this head during the fortnight, but I will now carry out the instructions contained in paragraph 2 of the Government Resolution dated the 3rd instant.

Dated Gya, the 9th March 1874.

From A. V. Palmer, Esq., Collector of Gya, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I have the honor to submit my fortnightly report on scarcity and relief in Gya district, for the fortnight ending Saturday, 7th March.

A.—State of the Country.

2. The bazars continue to be well supplied. Some of the new spring crop has already found its way into the market. There is no dearth of food, although the quoted prices still continue exceptionally high. Wheat, for instance, of which an excellent crop in the district is assured, and which is procurable at Patna at 16 and 17 seers per rupee, is obtainable here at the high rate of 10 seers 8 chittacks per rupee.

3. The annexed table will show the reported price currents during the past fortnight in the chief bazars.

Bazars.	Wheat.		Barley.		Rice, 1st sort.		Rice, 2nd sort.		Millet.		Maize.		Gram.	
	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st February.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st February.
	M. S.	M. S.	M. S.	M. S.	M. S.	M. S.	M. S.	M. S.	M. S.	M. S.	M. S.	M. S.	M. S.	M. S.
Gya - - -	10 8	10 8	15 0	14 8	8 4	8 4	10 4	10 0	15 0	14 0	13 4	13 8	13 8	13 0
Nowada - -	11 8	11 0	16 0	13 0	—	—	11 12	11 4	14 0	13 0	13 0	12 0	14 8	12 8
Johanabad - -	13 0	13 0	15 0	14 0	9 0	9 0	10 0	10 0	—	—	13 12	13 12	15 0	13 12
Aurungabad - -	12 0	12 0	14 8	14 0	9 12	10 0	10 12	11 0	14 0	13 0	14 8	13 8	14 8	13 14
Daoodnuggur -	14 0	11 8	16 0	10 0	10 8	10 8	10 12	11 0	—	—	14 0	14 0	15 0	13 0

4. Prices have been pretty stationary, with a tendency to improve.

5. There has been no rainfall to speak of during the past fortnight, nor is any now required.

6. Since submitting the rainfall report, two days ago, I have heard that about ½ inch rain and hail fell at Aurungabad. The sub-divisional officer reports the fall to have been very partial, and to have been succeeded by bright sunshine. It is not anticipated that it will have done much harm.

7. In the Nowada sub-division, Mr. Beames has, during the last fortnight, visited the south, south-east, and west of his sub-division. As this is a tract, regarding which His Honor has expressed apprehensions, I extract this portion of his report and submit it.

1. "Since writing my last report I have visited Rujowlee, Govindpore, Nowadah, Puchumba, Kowakole, and Pukreeborwan on the east, and Nordigunje, Joongi, and Hessooa on the west."

2. "At Ruwjowlee, on the 22nd February, I found everything in a good state, the rubbee crop in first-rate condition; and with the exception of 20 beggars, all of whom were diseased and incapacitated for work, every one appeared to be well-off and far above want."

3. "On the way to Govindpore, 23rd February, I passed through the large village of Akbarpore, where a constable is stationed. He is an intelligent man, and assured me that no case of distress had come to his notice, with the exception of one professional beggar, who was in a rather emaciated condition, and who was getting food daily from the people of Akbarpore. He said that this man could not be induced to go to Rujowlee, as he preferred the people's charity to that organised by Government."

4. "I then went to Akbarpore, passing through the villages of Khaira, Korinund, Dunnear, and Kohilla, in which, as you may remember, it was reported to me that there was distress, when I first took charge of the sub-division, and in which I reported the rice crop to be so good."

"The state of the crops, of the people, of the cattle, and of everything visible, was all that could be desired and most satisfactory."

5. "We then reached Govindpore (23rd February). With the exception of a few people here, who I mention under the head of "charitable relief" everything seemed doing well; and as to the future of this place, they say that the mohwa fruit will be a great stand-by to the people in distress.

"I may here mention that wherever I have been throughout the sub-division the effect of the late rains has been not only to save half the rubbee crop, but also to bring up the grass everywhere, to which circumstance the greatly improved condition of the cattle is attributable; and to enable people to break up their dhan lands, which they would not otherwise have been able to do, and which, I am told, will be productive of great benefit to the next dhan crop.

6. "Leaving Govindpore, 24th February, we passed through the Delwar hill pass and came into the Sear plain, and passed through Sear and Rupow to Nowadih.

"The rubbee crop is somewhat scantily grown, but very good wheat there is of it; the condition of the people and also of the cattle is unexceptionally good.

"The only thing to be regretted is, that the people don't seem alive to the necessity of sowing cheena and other crops, which might be of great service to them during the time of possible scarcity; and it is now too late to impress on them the importance of this.

7. "From Nowadih I went to Kowakole and Puchumba, where there is an outpost.

"The head constable told me that everything was going on well, and that there was not one single case of distress anywhere in his ilaka at present.

"He also said that the mohwa fruit was so abundant in this part of the country that he did not think people would suffer at all.

"I told him to keep me accurately and constantly informed of whatever took place, as I was so far off that I could not know unless he informed me, and he promised to do so.

8. "I then returned to Nowadih, and next day went to Pukreeburwan (25th February). This place has been so frequently spoken of of late that it will be sufficient to say that up to the present time there has been no change in the state of things.

8. "Returned to Nowada on the 25th, where I stayed up to the 1st of March, as I had my hands completely full of work there.

9. "Sunday, 1st March, came to Nardigunge; the crop for 2 miles out of Nowada is very thick, but principally opium. Then comes a long strip of country, where there is a large and long tract of cultivation, extending all along from Giriuk on the north to Toongi on the south, and two miles broad.

"I learnt that this crop is all bhowlie; it is as fine a crop as I have seen anywhere, and mostly rubbee food-crop; not so much opium, as I noticed elsewhere. Condition of the people good.

10. "2nd March. Started for Toongi. The whole way to Toongi there was a very large amount of rubbee crop, and the people busily employed in harvesting it.

"I am told to-day by the Assistant Engineer of Gya that the contractor on the Pukreeburwan road has now only 60 men at work, and that the rest have gone to cut the crops, and that he cannot get any more till the harvesting is over. This shows, I think, that until the rubbee crop is harvested, we shall not have many people on our hands."

13. The state of things is everywhere all that can be desired. The price of food has fallen in most places.

15. "I am very glad to notice everywhere troops of cattle employed in carrying grain, straw, and merchandize about the country in large quantities. This looks as if the people were making up for lost time."

8. All my sub-divisional officers are unanimous in pronouncing the crops excellent. The harvesting of peas and mussoor is approaching completion, and of the other spring crops it has commenced. This, and the collection of the opium, gives ample and acceptable occupation to all labourers. In fact, our road works are deserted in order to secure the harvest, and this is as it should be.

9. The condition of the people still continues good, and I have no doubt that it will remain so for another month, *i.e.*, till the rubbee is harvested. The mango, which may fairly be considered as a food-crop in this district, promises very well. It has been found necessary to afford some minor relief to the class of professional beggars, who, from the high prices, are unable to get a sufficiency by begging. This will be dealt with under "charitable relief." There have been no ascertained cases of misery or starvation.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

13. One additional work (from Gya to Puraya, distance 10 miles) the Executive Engineer has been requested to mark out. This work has not yet been reported on or sanctioned. It is necessary to inquire first whether there are engineering difficulties in the way. When the sight of the new jail is fixed on by Inspector-General, the preliminary arrangements and brick-making will give employment to large numbers.

14. I have no information of any classes other than the ordinary coolies and beldar having come on to the roads. In fact, these classes are leaving the roads now temporarily, as above observed, to gather in the harvest, The statement, which will be submitted on Wednesday to the Public Works Branch of the Bengal Secretariat, will give all detailed information of relief operations.

15. The daily average of persons at present employed on roads is only 843.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD-GRAIN.

16. The annexed table will give an approximate account of private food-supplies from outside during the fortnight:—

Bazaars.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, 1st sort.	Rice, 2nd sort.	Maize.	Gram.	Total.
Gya - - - -	800	176	182	1,801	293	374	3,625
Nowada - - - -	—	—	—	100	14	14	128
Jehanabad - - -	26	30	18	20	27	30	151
Aurungabad - - -	30	—	8	72	—	25	135
Daoodnuggur - - -	250	60	1,200	1,800	45	230	3,585
Total -	1,106	266	1,408	3,793	379	673	7,625

17. This gives a total of 7,625 maunds against 5,105 maunds during the previous fortnight. I annex a comparative statement showing private importations into the Sudder bazar of Gya alone as compared with the previous fortnight:—

	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, 1st sort.	Rice, 2nd sort.	Millet.	Maize.	Gram.	Total.
This fortnight - -	800	176	162	1,801	—	293	374	3,606
Past fortnight - -	457	218	184	1,648	26	412	209	3,154

Thus showing a total of 3,606 maunds as against 3,154 maunds imported last fortnight.

18. Our means of transport have been sufficient, and have answered the expectation I formed; and had our grain-supplies from Government been delivered with any sort of punctuality, our entire consignment would by this time have been received, stacked, and stored.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

19. It may be in the recollection of Government that I fixed on three classes of storage centres in this district. The last class I do not expect to have to use.

20. I annex a list, showing the several store-centres fixed upon, with the quantity of grain stored at each. The main-store will be retained at main-centres, to feed minor-centres as circumstances may require. It is not desirable to have too large a store at minor-centres, more especially when there is no difficulty in supplementing them during all seasons of the year.

Statement of Store-Centres with amount of Grain stored at each.

Storage Centres.	Quantity stored.	Total.
	Mds.	Mds.
Gya	26,248	
Bela	3,012	
Sherghotty	4,279	
Utree	3,930	
Borochutti	922	
Ticaree	2,004	
Futtehpore	991	
Imanagunge	518	
		41,974
Jehanabad	16,368	
Urwul	11,880	
Gundhar	3,073	
Kinjur	1,996	
Hoolasgunge	605	
		33,922
Nowada	21,469	
Kadirgunge	2,814	
Pukreebarwan	1,872	
Rujowlee	3,993	
		30,148
Aurungabad	13,212	
Ruffigunge	2,000	
Kootoomba	3,002	
War	2,553	
		20,767
Total		1,26,811

21. I require about 24,000 maunds to complete my allotment. No more grain is required at Buktearpore. The carts waiting there were utilised by the Deputy Magistrate of Barh in sending grain to the Tirhoot side, hence they were not detained nor was demurrage necessary.

E.—Advances to Private Parties.

22. These advances are of two descriptions—

1st.—For purchase of grain, under rule 4, Bengal Government circular, No. 80.
2nd.—For land improvement, under land improvement advance rules.

23. Under the first head, there has been only Rs. 1,200 advance made during the past fortnight in two cases.

24. Under the second head, I submit the following statement:—

Name of Applicant and Right held by him.	Nature and Locality of Work for which Advance is applied.	Amount of Advance applied for.	Period within which the Work is to be completed.
	Jehanabad Sub-Division.	Rs.	
Hemun Singh and Rewa Singh, tenants (ryots).	Embankment in Fureedpore Uswar, Pergunnah Okree.	100	4 months.
Nehal Singh, tenant (ryot)	A pucca well and embankment in Dehoori, Pergunnah Bhelawar.	205	6 do.
Mussamut Salimun, zemindar	3 pucca wells and embankment in Goureepore, Kharaj, and Chiri, Pergunnah Bhelawar.	900	5 do.
Syed Burkat Hossein himself and Kurpurdaz of Dildar Hossein, zemindars.	1 pucca well and embankment in Uttri Putty, Pergunnah Ekil.	300	4 do.
	Aurungabad Sub-Division.		
Roy Hetnarain Singh, zemindar	Repairs to an old embankment on an Ahra in Singhpore, Pergunnah Kootoomba.	200	Before 30th June 1874.
Huaunath Singh and others, zemindars.	Ahra in Mouza Manohari, Pergunnah Kootoomba.	249	July 1874.
Hurnath Singh and others, zemindars.	Pyne and Ahra in Surdiha, Pergunnah Kootoomba.	200	July 1874.
	Total	2,154	Granted.

Statement showing Applications for Advance for Land Improvement received during the Fortnight.

Sub-Division.	No. of Applications received.	No. disposed of.				Total disposed of.	Pending.
		Application granted.	Application rejected or withdrawn.	Reported to Commissioner.	Returned.		
Gya - -	20	1	12	—	—	13	7
Aurungabad -	78	26	31	2	6	65	13
Jehanabad -	35	6	2	—	2	10	25
Nowada - -	The return for this sub-division having been incorrectly prepared has been returned for revision.						

F.—Charitable Relief.

25. Matters are much as they were last fortnight. A proper distinction between those forming a light-labor gang and those gratuitously relieved does not appear to have been made.

26. Hitherto, those gratuitously relieved have been relieved by payment of pice. This will shortly be changed to cooked food.

Jehanabad - -	66
Nowada - -	56
Pukreeborwan - -	20
Bujowlee - -	15
Aurungabad - -	5

27. I annex in the margin the number of professional beggars reported as relieved.

28. Relief to such men will, during the next fortnight, have to be given from Sudder Station. I desire to see by practice what plan is best, when it will be communicated to sub-divisions for adoption. My present idea is to assist these men by giving them a cooked meal, say twice a week, but not to congregate them together and so engender disease.

29. Meetings have been held now at Gya, Jehanabad, Urwul, and Nowada, and people generally have come forward handsomely to aid relief.

No. 350 F, dated Arrah, the 10th March 1874.

From H. W. Alexander, Esq., Collector of Shahabad, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to submit my seventh fortnightly narrative for the period ending on the 7th of March.

A.—State of the Country.

Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazars.

The supplies in the principal marts in the district are reported to be sufficient; grain is still being largely imported by rail. The pea and gram crops are being harvested, and this has helped to increase the local stock. The new rubbee is coming in from the North-West Provinces.

Kind and prices of grain selling at one or more special principal marts.

In Appendix A. is given the kind and prices of different grains selling at the chief marts in the district. In some few instances the price of rice has risen, in others a slight fall is noticeable; upon the whole, however, there has been a very perceptible fall in prices.

Any information in regard to the amount and stocks of grain in the hands of zemindars and others.

3. No additional information has been acquired in regard to this. The sub-divisional officer reports that "the information on this head regarding the stocks in the Bhubbooa sub-division, already furnished in former narrative, has been corroborated by police inquiries."

Rainfall, if any; state of crops, the condition of the people, actual facts as to any known cases of misery and starvation, grain thefts or robberies, and condition of any particular tracts.

4. During the last week the weather has been cloudy and unsettled; on the night of the 5th of March there was a heavy thunder-storm accompanied by slight rain. This appears to have been pretty general, although rain is not required now. No harm has been done to the crops by that which has fallen.

The condition of the rubbee in the Arrah and Buxar sub-divisions is favorably reported on; and in the Sasseram sub-division is said to be everywhere good, except on the table-land. In the Bhubbooa sub-division, excepting the small area irrigated from the Doorgaoti, the rubbee is reported as below the average; and, in particular, "surson," peas, and rahar, owing to damage from frost, are not expected to yield more than half an average harvest.

The crops generally (excluding the loss occasioned by frost) are certainly in a better condition than they were at the end of January last; and, any unusual calamity apart, they may be regarded as safe so far as they have been sown.

The condition of the laboring and agricultural classes has improved; artizans, and the very poor, may be regarded as not worse off than they were a fortnight ago; pressure is no doubt being felt by those who subsist entirely on charity and from bodily infirmities are incapable of labor; and arrangements have been made to relieve all such cases which call for succour.

For able-bodied men there is plenty of employment in cutting the crops which are being harvested, and on the canal and road works.

No known cases of starvation have been reported. There has been no remarkable increase in the number of grain thefts and robberies. In four out of twelve cases the amount said to have been stolen exceeded ten maunds.

In regard to the condition of special tracts, I have nothing to add to the information furnished in my last narrative.

Relief works are being carried on in those parts of the Arrah and Buxar sub-divisions which are considered the worst, and in the Sasseeram and Bhubbooah sub-divisions; those portions of the country, namely, Chand and Akberpore and Rohtas generally, are reported to be better off than they were, and relief works are being started in each locality.

B.—Relief Works.

Full details in regard to all such works in progress will be furnished in the statement called for in Circular No. 5,718, dated 3rd December last, due on the 11th instant.

In addition to the work alluded to in my last narrative, work has been commenced during the fortnight on the road from Gurhunee *viâ* Sikreta to Bihta, in the Arrah sub-division.

In the Buxar sub-division work is going on on the roads from Khyree to Poorunda and from Chousa to Jumoaon, as reported in the last narrative. In addition, work has been commenced on the road south from Doomraon to Nowanuggur; and the road from Rughunathpore railway station to Sarya, the levels of which are being taken, will be commenced in a day or two.

In the Sasseeram and Bhubooah sub-divisions, in addition to the roads alluded to in the last narrative, work will be at once commenced on the roads between Hatta and Doorowli and Chand and Kudjura.

C.—Transport of Food.

Grain is still being imported in considerable quantities by local merchants; full particulars in regard to such importations during the fortnight will be submitted when they are received from the Traffic Department, East Indian Railway. Government grain for Sarun is being daily conveyed to the Barabra Ghât on the Ganges from the railway station at Arrah. I hear a large quantity of grain is to be conveyed by this route for storage in the Chumparun district. I only trust that when I may receive further consignments of grain for this district, I may not, owing to the above competition, find myself without the means of transport. At present no inconvenience is being felt, and the means of transport appear sufficient for all present requirements, both of Government and of private importers. By river the importations have only amounted to 937 maunds of wheat, gram, Indian-corn, and bajra, from the districts of Ghazeepore and Goruckpore. In the Buxar sub-division grain is being steadily imported by private traders. In the Sasseram sub-division 2,508 maunds of grain are said to have been imported from outside. These figures do not include private importations by rail, which in the said sub-division amounts to 5,484 maunds and in the Bhubooah to 1,302 maunds.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

A very small quantity of grain has been received for this district during the fortnight under report. I have on more than one occasion reported what my further requirements are, and have requested that they may be complied with, and as soon as possible.

To the Arrah sub-division, out of 716 maunds said to have been despatched 516 maunds 37 seers 8 chittacks only were received during the fortnight, making in all a total of 22,026 maunds 2 seers 8 chittacks received up to date, all of which has been stored in the central golahs.

In the Buxar sub-division 21,060 maunds of grain have been received, and the whole amount stored in the central depôts.

In the central depôts of Sasseeram,
Chennary,
Tilothoo,
Nassrigunge,
Bhubooah,
Jehanabad,
Chainpore,
Chand,
Mohunnia,
22,010 maunds have been stored. The sub-divisional officer reports that "there has been a deficiency of about 700 maunds in the grain despatched and received."

In regard to sufficiency of stocks for Government purpose I have separately reported that I require for the—

Arrah sub-division - - - - -	50,000 maunds.
Buxar ditto - - - - -	30,000 „
Sasseeram and Bhubooah - - - -	57,000 „
In all - - - - - -	1,37,000 „

I have only received up to date 65,096 maunds 12 seers 8 chittacks, so that a balance of 71,904 maunds remains to be received and stored.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

No advances have been made during the fortnight under report. Four applications have however been received for advances for purchasing grain aggregating 4,600. In regard to these inquiries are being made, and they will be disposed of during the next fortnight.

For advances for land improvements a few applications have been made, and final orders will be passed in regard to some after due inquiry has been completed, and in other cases reported favourably on, the advances will be made after the necessary bonds have been executed.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

No actual relief operations have commenced beyond giving assistance to a few people here and there reported on as requiring aid. With reference to Circular No. 1251—S.R., dated the 5th March, I have to report that a district committee has been formed, and a sub-divisional committee for each of the sub-divisions of Arrah, Buxar, Sasseeram, and Bhubooah. In addition, for the Arrah sub-division, such committees have been selected to manage the relief centres at—

1. Bihigunge.
2. Shahpore.
3. Gurhnee.
4. Peroo and Dunwar.
5. Jugdispore.
6. Powna.
7. Sundais.
8. Sahar.
9. Sikreta.

These places are also the sites of central golahs.

In the Buxar sub-division sub-committees remain to be formed.

For the Sasseeram sub-division sub-committees have been selected for the relief centres at—

1. Akberpore.
2. Tilothoo.
3. Chennary.
4. Kurgahur.
5. Kochus.
6. Dinareh.
7. Bubnowl.
8. Dungaeen.
9. Nokha.
10. Nassrigunge.

For the Bhubooah sub-division arrangements are being made to form sub-committees.

No special relief sub-divisions have been as yet opened and officered, or regular relief circles opened and manned by special officers, planters, zemindars, and other residents.

The following places have been fixed on as workhouses or centres for the distribution of food and gratuitous relief, and committees of supervision have been appointed:—

Arrah Sub-Division.
1. Arrah.
2. Gurhnee.
3. Nonore.
4. Dunwar.

Buxar Sub-Division.
1. Buxar.
2. Chousa.
3. Saraya.

Sasseeram Sub-Division.
1. Sasseeram.
2. Nokha.
3. Kochus.
4. Akberpore.

Bhubooah Sub-Division.
1. Bhubooah.
2. Jehanabad.
3. Ramgurh.

A meeting was held of the district relief committee on the 7th instant, and it was resolved that rules should be drawn up for the guidance of the members of each sub-committee, under the instructions issued for the guidance of relief committees. A copy of these rules in English or the vernacular will be forwarded to each member. It was further resolved that a sum of Rs. 1,000, out of the amount raised by subscription on the 19th ultimo, should be sent to each subordinate officer for commencing charitable relief directly it might prove necessary to do so. Certain sums of money were further set apart for the purchase of "moonj" and "sunn" for rope-making, and for uncleaned cotton to be spun out into thread; it being resolved that light labour of this nature should be given at each and all of the relief centres wherever necessary. A copy of the proceedings of the committee held on this day have been already forwarded to the Secretary to the Central Relief Committee in Calcutta.

No. 168, dated Durbhungah, 7th March 1874.

From C. F. WORSLEY, Esq., C.S., on special duty, Tirhoot, Northern Division, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honour to submit my Narrative of Scarcity and Relief for the fortnight ending Saturday, 7th March 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. In Seetamarhee sub-division the supply of food-grains has been nowhere scarce except in Jalleh Thannah jurisdiction. Prices are stationary, but have a tendency to rise. In paragraph 11 of my last narrative I mentioned that I had authorised the sub-divisional officer to sell Government rice in small quantities at Jalleh and Cheerout. He now reports that sales were commenced at these places on the 4th instant.

3. In Madhoobanee sub-division prices have slightly fallen at some marts; rice is quoted at lower rates towards the frontier, but as the grains chiefly sold are urid and makai the fall perhaps is more nominal than real.

4. In Durbhungah sub-division the supply of food-grains still continues to be sufficient at the Durbhungah and Rowserah bazars, but elsewhere the supply has become more scarce. In Bahera and Singhiya markets rice is not procurable, and other food-grains are steadily rising in price. 'Kurthee,' a grain rarely eaten by the people in ordinary years, is now one of the commonest articles exposed for sale in Bahera. The sub-divisional officer reports that in the Bahera bazar he saw a bunneah who had just exchanged a seer of kurthee for one and a half seers of mustard-seed, or, in other words, for nearly three times its normal value. This, though an isolated case, is believed to be a fair illustration of the recklessness to which the cultivators are driven by urgent necessity of food.

5. The subjoined statement shows the kinds and prices of grain selling at some of the principal marts.

Name of Mart.	Wheat.	Barley.	Common rice.	Lesser Millet.	Maize or Indian-corn.	Gram.
Seetamarhee - - -	10½	14	10	14	14	12½
Jalleh - - - -	—	—	9½	12¾	12¾	12¾
Madhoobanee - - -	10	15	10	12	12	12
Deodha - - - -	8½	—	11¾	11¾	11¾	—
Durbhungah - - -	10	14	10	13½	13	—
Bahera - - - -	11½	—	9½	12	11½	—
Singhiya - - - -	10½	14½	8½	11½	10½	—

6. On the subject of stocks the sub-divisional officer of Madhoobanee writes:—"I apprehend that no great stock of grain is in the hands of any of the traders, but I have as yet received no reliable information on the subject. The fact, however, that places such as Junjharpur, where large relief works have been started, have been supplied from local resources shows that there is still some grain in store. The people everywhere cry out that there is none, but in the pergunnahs, where, according to Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 29, grain is now being sold at ten seers per rupee, no buyers come forward."

7. On the same subject the Durbhungah sub-divisional officer writes:—"I may mention two interesting facts during a visit to Puhudee village. I came on a bunneah's shop in which rice was exposed for sale; the bunneah told me he was selling for 12 pucca seers the rupee; on enquiry however, into the truth of this statement, I found it to be quite incorrect. I believe it was made under a mistaken impression that a dear shop would be the object of official displeasure. I found that in this bunneah's store-rooms there was a large quantity of rice, probably 1,000 or 1,500 maunds. On another occasion I found that a bunneah, in a village where rice was not procurable at any price, had some stored in his dwelling-house. These are mere isolated facts, but they tend to show there is grain in the country."

8. But what to me seems a far more remarkable fact is the facility with which the town of Durbhungah has hitherto supplied, and continues to supply, the enormous mass of labourers congregated on the Durbhungah-Bahera road within three miles distance of the town. During the last fortnight the number of labourers on this work has increased from 7,000 to 28,000, and the average daily number for the present week must be quite 23,000. The labourers come, some from 5, some from 10, and a few from 15 and 20 miles distance; while the villagers living near the line of road flock to the works in hundreds. All tell the same story. They say there is no grain in the villages, and that their only resource is to come to our works. I have not spoken with even one labourer who will admit that there is any grain in his own village. The daily supply of grain drawn from the town by these labourers cannot be less than 300 maunds, and I can only account for the stationary condition of the market by the supposition that the bunneahs are now well aware of the immense quantity of grain that Government has determined to import, and are anxious to sell all they can at the highest possible rate, *i.e.*, at a slightly lower rate than that of Government grain. Holding this belief, I must express my firm conviction that prices can no longer be regarded as any index whatever of the amount of private stocks, and that grain will continue to be sold at nearly the existing rate until it is wholly exhausted. There will thus be a sudden, general, and complete failure of grain. How to make the failure more gradual is a very difficult question. I am inclined to think that Government stores should be laid down at once along lines of road-works in places beyond the reach of large towns and bazars, that many of the labourers should be drafted to such parts, and that they should be in a manner compelled to buy Government grain. To provide against an absolute and sudden failure of grain along any of our lines of works, I have directed the Executive Engineer to run up temporary huts for storage of grain at intervals of every three miles.

9. There were light showers of rain in Seetamurhee and Durbhungah sub-divisions on 5th instant, and last night (6th) there was a thunder-storm at Durbhungah. The rain that fell, however, has been scarcely more than sufficient to lay the dust. Up to the 5th there had been no rain in Mudhoobannee.

10. In Seetamurhee sub-division the crops have been much benefited by the rain that fell in February. Wheat, barley, gram, masoor, and karoi are reported to be doing well. Rabar, it is said, will yield a 12-anna out-turn. Cheena sowings have been completed, and moong and early dhan are being put in the ground.

11. In Mudhoobannee sub-division the crops are reported to be "as they were last week, except that moong and cheena have been to some extent sown." But the sub-divisional officer has very little hope of these sowings turning out well, as the people generally are not watering the lands.

12. In Durbhungah sub-division the continued drought has injured the cheena and moong sowings, which had been largely made. In very few fields has the cheena come up, and the people fear that it will not come to much.

13. The Seetamurhee officer mentions several cases of severe distress which have come under his notice, and which he has thought right to relieve. There is evidently great want and suffering in certain villages of the special tract of Mahind and Ranhowly, and about Ramtoul matters are becoming worse. In the southern part of Jalleh thana the labourers on relief works are described as being "all thin and half-starved." In the south-eastern part of the sub-division the people are said to be "in the worst state possible;" and the sub-divisional officer seems to think that grain should be distributed to the middle classes in charity. Sufficient employment

has been provided for the lower classes, but until our relief circles are filled, adequate arrangements cannot be made for the relief of high caste families. Mr. O'Reilly's efforts to introduce cotton spinning and other light domestic work among this class of persons have been successful. I would recommend that in all cases where high caste families accept employment, and there is reasonable prospect of eventual repayment, relief superintendents may be empowered to lend month by month small sums of money to the heads of such families for the better support of themselves and children. To lend money in lump sums for this purpose would, I think, be very injudicious, but under a system of instalments the benefit might be withdrawn or suspended as occasion required.

14. The Mudhoobunnee officer reports that "the people are much straitened and turn out now in very large numbers on the relief works," and that "although many hungry people come in, no cases of actual starvation have come under his immediate notice, except four persons sent in by the police to Mudhoobunnee dispensary at different times, all of whom are doing well."

15. The Durbhungah officer writes as follows upon this subject:—"Regarding the condition of the people, I have, with regret, now to place on record a fact which, from my previous reports, you are prepared for,—that many of the lowest castes of Hindus, Musahars, Domes, Koirees, &c. (besides low class Mussalmans), who are numerous in the eastern portions of this division, are suffering from actual famine. Want shows itself most in the young and aged, and during my late tour I have seen old men and young children in a very precarious condition indeed; of course, all such cases were at once put on gratuitous charitable relief. I have in a specimen group reduced to practice the rules you have approved of for the organisation of circles, and Mr. Harris and Mr. Marindin, for whose guidance I put the rules into practice, are engaged, the former in organising the Hathee, and the latter the Dosonta, Circle. Mr. Aikman has also joined his appointment (*i. e.,* that of 2nd sub-divisional officer at Hathee). I hope to be able in my next report to say that in the circles for which superintendents have arrived no person is in want of food who is either unable to work for it or willing and able to do so. During the fortnight three cases of famine-death have come to my notice. Two of them occurred on the Bahera relief work, the deceased being children in arms; the third was the case of a workman on the Durbhunga road relief work. In neither case did I see the bodies, but I was informed they were quite emaciated, and I think they may be fairly recorded as famine-deaths. They are the first which to my knowledge—and I have striven to put myself in the way of information of all kinds—have actually occurred; and watching, as for months I have watched—the gradual advance of starvation on the people, I do believe that till now the limit of endurance has not been crossed. I have mentioned that actual famine now prevails among certain low caste Hindoos. I am bound also to say I have seen several Brahmin villages, some of the inhabitants of which were lean; but they were not famine-stricken. It is hard to believe the reports one receives about the condition of Brahmins. As an instance of this I may mention that some days ago I received information that several Brahmins were on the point of death from starvation at a place near Chuck Mehsee on the Poosha road. Their names were given. Having been sent for, they turned out to be by no means famine-stricken, and to one only was it deemed at all necessary to afford any aid."

16. Regarding the death of a labourer on the Durbhunga-Bahera work, I may add that I saw the body on the evening after the man died. I was inspecting the road when some labourers came up and informed me that a man had died the previous day from starvation, and his corpse was lying inside a "muth," or small Hindoo temple. I went into the "muth" and saw the corpse, which was that of a man apparently about 60 years of age. It was very emaciated indeed. I ordered the body to be sent to the hospital for examination, but the next morning I learnt that my order had not been obeyed, and that the body had been burnt. I believe myself that the death was caused by starvation, and that but for the close supervision which all the civil officers of Durbhunga exercised over the work from that day (27th February) many more such deaths would have occurred before now.

17. A statement is appended showing the number of thefts, &c. committed during the past month. One theft case deserves special mention, having been committed on the Durbhunga-Bahera road work. Some coolies plundered a bunneah who was selling grain by the side of the road. The sub-divisional officer tried and convicted the prisoners, and thinking an example necessary, he sentenced them to be whipped, and caused the sentence to be executed at the scene of the offence. His action has had the desired effect, no repetition of the crime having been since attempted.

B.—Relief Works.

18. In Seetamarhee Sub-division 19 tank-works and three roads have been commenced during the last fortnight. The total number of tank-works and roads now being carried on in this sub-division with public money is 55 and 24 respectively. The average daily number of labourers on these works is 14,248. On 53 private works 5,208 persons are employed, and on Court of Wards' works, 3,000.

Total for sub-division, 22,456.

The wages on the public works have been raised by the sub-divisional committee to 2 annas per man, 1½ annas per woman, and one anna per child. On hearing of this enhancement of wages, I referred the matter to the Collector, as it appeared to me that the committee had exceeded its powers, and there was no necessity for such action while Government grain was procurable at 10 seers per rupee.

19. In Mudhoobunnee Sub-division, the Government works being executed comprise 9 roads and 2 tank-works. The number of labourers daily employed is 25,000. On one work, the Beluarrah road, there are 12,000 labourers. In this sub-division, the Court of Wards is employing 6,000 labourers.

Total for sub-division, 31,000.

20. In Durbhunga Sub-division 7 large road-works and 2 tank-works give employment to about 36,000 labourers daily; of these, 30,000 are employed on the Durbhungah-Bahera road. Under the Court of Wards, 12,284 labourers are daily employed.

Total for sub-division, 48,284.

21. The grand total of labourers for this relief district is as follows:—

Seetamarhee	22,456
Mudhoobunnee	31,000
Durbhunga	48,284
Grand total	101,740

22. Considering the large number of works and that detailed statements are submitted of all works separately through the Magistrate, I trust that the above general information will be held sufficient for the purposes of this Narrative.

23. I am happy to state that the management of the Durbhungah-Bahera road-work, which has hitherto caused me so much anxiety, has been now placed under excellent hands. With the Commissioner's approval, Mr. Stevens has lent me the services of an Engineer and a large staff, whom he had engaged in Allahabad, and this gentleman took over charge of the road on 5th instant. He is also to open work on a few other roads, pending the arrival of more Public Works' officers. The effect of regular and full payments on this work has been to attract from the eastern end of the road (12 miles distance), and from other works in the south-east, large numbers of labourers who must have shortly been reduced to a state of starvation through the large retrenchments made from their wages. I have spoken to several of these new-comers and find that they had been regularly defrauded of one-third of their subsistence wages. This fact fully explains what Mr. Macdonnell noticed a week ago at Bahera, viz., that all the labourers (some 2,000) at that end of the road were so weak and emaciated as to be almost incapable of doing work at all. On visiting the road this morning I was much pleased to observe the healthy tone and spirit of the labourers. Though there is a very great deficiency of tools, all the labourers, old and young, were working with some sort of implement, and apparently with a will. Up to a week ago, the work had been neither more nor less than charitable relief on a huge scale and in the worst form. Large sums of Government money were being embezzled by the distributing agency; wages of some sort were paid to all who asked for them, and most demoralising habits were being rapidly engendered among thousands of persons with whom we should have to deal for many months. For some days now I have not received a single complaint from any labourer on this work. I have also noticed a marked improvement in their general appearance. I fear we shall not be able to send back the weak and useless labourers to their villages so soon as expected. Relief Superintendents are still much wanted, and until the state of the villages in Mahomedpore and Hya Ghaut circles has been ascertained, and grain has been stored at some of the large villages, we must keep the people where they are certain of obtaining food.

Two Assistant Engineers have arrived, and I have received intimation of the appointment of a few Overseers and Sub-overseers.

C.—Transport of Grain.

24. With the transport arrangements on the Bunker Ghât side I have had no concern, but so far as the supplying of grain to Seetamurhee is concerned they appear to be working well.

With regard to the contracting companies on the Durbhungah side, I regret to say that the Southern Company, which had contracted for transport of 18 lakhs of maunds before 15th June, has not been able to convey one lakh in 17 days, or to secure more than 7,000 carts. The manager of this company, Mr. McIvor, does not despair of being able to fulfil the contract, and proposes to get some of the grain delivered at Monghyr for conveyance by a short route to Hatee and Hirnee circles. This proposal will be agreed to if the East Indian Railway Company can deliver the grain. On the other hand, the Northern Company has secured sufficient carriage for all the grain required to be carried into Mudhoobunnee. The Commissioner has been verbally informed of the state of things now existing; and if the number of carts worked by the Southern Company be not doubled within a week, I shall report the inability of the contractors to fulfil their contract.

In connection with transport I may mention that the sub-divisional officer of Durbhungah suggested the employment of villagers in "chilling" grass to be stocked as fodder along the lines of transport; that the suggestion was highly approved of by Sir Richard Temple, and that it is being carried out with great success in Durbhungah and Mudhoobunnee sub-divisions.

D.—Storage of Grain.

25. The Government grain stored in this relief district is as follows:—

	Mds.
Seetamurhee	152,393
Madhoobani	80,705
Durbhangah	50,940
Total	284,038

In Seetamurhee sub-division golahs have been or are being constructed at the following places, viz.:—

Kamtoul.
Jalleh.
Sibnuggur.
Raipore.
Chirout.
Soorsund.
Diggee.
Sonbursa.
Bhootahi.
Majorgunje.
Amooah.
Sheohur.
Bhagowanpore.
Belahi.
Moorsund.
Seetamurhee.
Doomra.
Morepa.

In addition to the above, storage-room has been obtained from the managers of Balooa, Doomra, Bangaon, Poopree, Dyne Chupra, and Amooah factories.

The relief circles are given below:—

Name of Thana.	Name of Circles.	Head-Quarters of Circles.	Relieving Officer.
Sheohur	1. South Sheohur	Sheohur	Special Officer.
	2. Central ditto	Amooah Factory	A. Tripe, Esq., Indigo Planter.
	3. North ditto	Dyne Chupra	J. Tripe, Esq., Indigo Planter.
	4. West ditto, west of Bagmati.	Marepa	J. Carlisle, Esq., Indigo Planter.
Seetamurhee	1. Kanhowley and Mahind.	Diggee	Special Officer.
	2. Nargaun	Nargaun	Do. under Court of Wards.
	3. Bhugwanpore	Bhugwanpore Factory	J. Shortt, Esq., Indigo Planter.
	4. Belsund	Belsund	— Manner, Esq., Indigo Planter.
	5. Moorsund	Belahi	— Morton, Esq., Indigo Planter.
	6. Seetamurhee	Seetamurhee	Additional Deputy Magistrate, Mr. Beamish.
	7. Soorsund	Soorsund	Special Officer.
	8. Bungaon	Bungaon	R. Wilson, Esq., Indigo Planter.
	9. Chirout	Chirout	Special Officer.
	10. Doomra	Doomra	W. Sharpley, Esq., Indigo Planter.
Jalleh	1. Sibnuggur	Sibnuggur	Special Officer.
	2. Kamtoul	Kamtoul	G. Anderson, Esq., Indigo Planter.
	3. Jalleh	Jalleh	Special Officer.
	4. Poopree	Poopree	R. Wilson, Esq., Indigo Planter.
	5. Nanpore	Nanpore	Chowdhry Roodur Persad.

In Mudhoobunnee and Durbhunga sub-divisions the relief circles and golahs are as follow:—

Mudhoobunnee.

Circles.	Golahs.
1. Umgaon	Harlakhee. Bheet. Deodha.
2. Kahera	Beniputtee. Palee. Wur.
3. Bela	Koroyia. Khijowlee. Ladamia. Narar.
4. Patrahee	Patrahee. Barhi Bazar. Lowkaha.
5. Pirozghur	Pirozghur. Pursahee.
6. Naraya	Naraya. Mathour.
7. Mohadeomutt	Mohadeomutt. Andhramutt.
8. Roodpore Doomra	Doomra. Basdeopore.
9. Muddehpore	Muddehpore. Bheja.
10. Junjharpore	Junjhapore. Sarsoo.
11. Mudhoobunnee	Mudhoobunnee. Pandoul. Bicahour.

Durbhunga.

Circles.	Golahs.
1. Biowarah	Biowarah. Mohamedpore.
2. Durbhunga	Durbhunga. Rusoolpore.
3. Hyaghat	Anar. Simree.
4. Warrisnuggur	Warisnuggur. Naggarbasti.
5. Banhar	Rosira. Banhar. Hatouri.
6. Lahira	Lahira. Bahera.
7. Desonta	Desonta.
8. Hattee	Hattee. Roha. Bowiam.
9. Sahoo.	Sahoo. Bagouni.
10. Singhiya	Singhiya.
11. Hionee	Hionee.
12. Hursunpore	Hursunpore.

The Mudhoobunnee golahs are reported to be in course of construction. In the Durbhunga golahs there is now room for storage of more than five lakhs of maunds, and they will be ready to hold 12 lakhs by the middle of this month.

E.—Advances.

26. On this subject the Seetamurhee officer writes:—"During the fortnight the sum of Rs. 66 " have been given in advance for wells, Rs. 3,070 for land improvements, Rs. 500 to private grain-" dealers for the purchase of grain, and Rs. 1,575 to zemindars to help their ryots. Since the " account was closed, Rs. 10,000 have been given to Baboo Kishen Gopal Narain of Soorsund to " help his ryots."

The sub-divisional officer of Mudhoobunnee reports "that Rs. 920 have been advanced to " private parties for land improvement during the last fortnight, and that the system will proceed " with considerable rapidity as soon as he has an officer for the purpose of investigating."

The Durbhunga officer writes that "during the fortnight Rs. 400 have been advanced under " Clause B, Section 4, of Government Circular No. 80, and Rs. 200 for clearing out an old village " tank. I find that, as a rule, the applicants for these advances are men of straw, and I must " place on record my belief that our efforts in inducing landholders to improve their lands or the " water supply have not been successful. I have had applications to the amount of Rs. 8,000 for " importing grain, the advisability of granting which is under consideration."

F.—Charitable Relief.

27. In Seetamarhee sub-division the number of persons receiving charitable relief is above 2,000. The sub-divisional officer has not given details of this number, but it would seem from his report that the worst cases are to be found in the north, where 300 persons are provided with food through the village bunneah, under the supervision of Mr. Tripe of Dyne Chuppra Factory. The state of these persons is reported to be so bad that " they would die if not regularly fed.'

Rice is distributed gratuitously through the Sub-Deputy Registrar of Jalleh to 32 paupers daily.

The Managers of Poopree, Mareppa, and Kamtoul Factories, are administering charitable relief.

It is not to be expected that the arrangements made up to the present time can be either well-regulated or free from extravagance, but I am assured that they have sufficed to prevent deaths from starvation.

Mr. O'Reilly has not submitted any information regarding the work done by the Relief Superintendents, Messrs. Doveton and Collis, who were posted to the Soorsund and Chirout Circles three weeks ago.

28. The particulars furnished by the sub-divisional officer of Mudhoobunnee are as follow:—

" Charitable relief at present is restricted to issuing cooked rice at head-quarters and most of " the thanas and other centres. The Court of Wards are also doing their work at Junjharpore. " The only other place where any large work is yet done in cooked rice is at Madheypore. I am, " in concert with the members of the sub-divisional committee, arranging for a more detailed " organization of relief."

Mr. Magrath only joined this sub-division on the 17th ultimo, and though his report may not show the extent of what has been done, I know that he has been doing good work, and that his time has been incessantly occupied with his duties.

The under-mentioned Relief Officers have already joined their appointments:—

Mr. A. Forbes, C.S.	Naraya Sub-division.
„ Mackeritch	Madheypore Circle.
„ J. Forbes	Mohadeomutt.
„ Rattray	Oomgon.
„ Nicolay	Kachera.
„ Williams, C.S.	Doomra.
Baboo Ishree Persad	Junjharpore.
Mr. Lorimer	Circle no specified.

I left the posting of officers to Mr. Magrath, as I considered he was best able to judge what circles should be first filled.

Baboo Ishree Persad has been working remarkably well at Junjharpore. He writes:—"There is great difference in the general aspect of the inhabitants of this place since I have arrived here. The fear of dying by starvation is removed from their minds. Those in quite emaciated state have improved now. The working men are generally of low caste, but they are not all of labouring class. Most of them are cultivators of lands, owing to the failure of crops they have submitted to come to public work. A few men of higher caste have come up to this day. To meet the wants of men of higher caste, I think that advancing grain or money on the security of jeit ryots of villages will be a very good plan." I approve of this suggestion if modified in accordance with the views which I have expressed in paragraph 13.

The number of persons to whom the Baboo is giving charitable relief is 198.

29. With regard to organization of Relief Circles in Durbhunga Sub-division, I cannot do better than quote at length the interesting accounts submitted by Mr. Macdonnell.

He writes as follows:—

"The information I have to furnish on this subject cannot, I think, be very intelligibly treated of apart from the general system of relief now inaugurated in the sub-division. You are already aware of what this system is, for in its inception and subsequent execution you have been greatly instrumental. It may, however, be well to place on record a detailed statement of its various stages.

"The system of relief which we are now carrying out and which has been in its main features originated by Sir Richard Temple differs radically from all systems which previous famines brought into operation. The key-note of our system is the prevention of the assemblage at any centre of large masses of indigent persons and the establishment in every village of relief operations, bringing to the doors of those able to work remunerative labour, and to the doors of those unable to work gratuitous relief.

"To this end Sir Richard divided the sub-division into two relief sub-divisions (allowing, however, the controlling influence of the Sub-Divisional Officer to remain) and re-divided these again into 12 Circles, and promised for each Circle a competent administrative officer; of whom, however, I with regret remark in passing, only three have arrived."

The details of the system it was given to us to work out; for, although certain rules were laid down by the central Relief Committee at Calcutta, those rules were somewhat vague, and were burdened with returns and statements it would be impossible to submit. Those rules have since been cancelled. The system you have for this sub-division approved of is the following:—

"Premising that it was necessary to connect the Circle Superintendents or Sub-Committee Officers with the people it was evident that the Circle should be sub-divided to such a manageable extent as to permit of the Relief Officer being, if not in all cases, personally acquainted with the general condition of each group, at all events vicariously acquainted with the intimate state of every village. Therefore the Circle was sub-divided into as many village groups as would allow of one subordinate officer, visiting daily, or at most once every two days, each village in the group The maximum number of *whole* villages which, with this object in view, could be safely included in a group was fixed at ten. As Inspector and Executive Officer under the Superintendent for each group an educated and respectable resident is chosen, it being a most desirable thing that in the relief operations local knowledge should be, if possible, utilised. To aid the Inspectors so appointed in procuring information, bringing relief where wanted, and supervising village relief works, two peons are attached to the Inspector, and the chowkidars in each village in the group are also to report to the Inspector the state of their villages daily. The Inspector is to submit daily to the Superintendent a statement under prescribed headings, showing the condition of the group under him. He is to see that sufficient work is provided for the storing, and that fit subjects for charitable relief are not denied it. He is to give orders on the store-keeper for raw materials, and is to see that the manufactured product is duly paid for by the store-keeper, and is to be responsible for the due expenditure of the money allotted for village relief work. This completes the intelligence and executive department in which I have striven to utilise as much as possible local knowledge and neighbourly feeling.

It would be manifestly useless to know where distress lay if we had not at hand the means to alleviate it. We had, therefore, to bring home to each group of villages remunerative labour for the strong and gratuitous charitable relief for the weak.

This we did by opening, in a conveniently situated village of the group, a relief work, such as excavation of a tank, calculated to employ the people and benefit them in addition. We also established in each group of villages a local grain-store, drawing its supplies from the Circle depôt, at which the village labourers might procure food with the wages of their labour. Attached to this store is a depôt where cotton may be obtained by respectable females in indigent circumstances desirous of supporting themselves; and in charge of this local grain-store is a mohurir, whose duty it is to keep a few simple forms and make necessary returns to the Superintendent, see that grain is sold to the labourers, and distributed to those on gratuitous relief. As a matter of detail, I may mention that this local grain-store, when established in a group in which there is a depôt, is en-

entrusted to a bunneah, the depôt-keeper in this case making returns. In all other cases the mohurir has a bunneah under him to sell. A peon is attached to the store.

This is the outline of the system. Now I give you an example of its working. Being anxious to give Messrs. Marinden and Harris a clearer conception of their duty than any verbal explanation could give, I went with them to Bahera and formed a group round Bahera; on entering each village in the group, we had all the poor collected. Those unable to work we at once put on gratuitous relief, subsequently forming a register of such, showing the number on the register of each, his name, residence, and quantity of gratuitous relief he was entitled to, and giving him a ticket with these particulars inscribed on it, and directing him to present it at the local store weekly, where the store-keeper, having a duplicate of the register, would dispense the requisite relief. Having done this, we proceeded to determine what village relief works might, with due regard to the want of the people and the propinquity of imperial works, be commenced, and the village agency to work them. Having settled this point, we proceeded to find out the number of females who were desirous of spinning cotton, and issued orders accordingly. Having seen all the village headmen and respectable residents, we finally appoint an Inspector fixed on a local rice store, and in the case of this circle, appointed a bunneah to the charge of it.

In reducing our theory in this case to action we experienced no material obstacles. But it would be unwise to conclude from this that we shall meet with none; we shall often find a group in which no resident is fit for Inspector, then we shall not hesitate to employ outsiders.

It may be objected to the scheme that we cannot under it permit persons not on the works, but having money, to buy grain, and that the Inspector cannot also be paymaster. I do not think the former objection of any weight, for those who wish to buy our grain at the fixed rates in small quantities *bonâ fide* for food should certainly be allowed to do so, for the presumption then is they cannot get food elsewhere.

On the latter point we are at present utilising the jeyt ryots, but if this does not suit, we are at liberty to employ paid agency.

I will now, having given you the system in its entirety, state more specially what has been done during the fortnight in the way of charitable relief. I have already mentioned that, in constituting the group of villages around Bahera, we put on charitable relief all we saw in need. We also visited the relief-work going on near Bahera, believing that on it might be some inhabitants of those villages and others in similar condition. We drafted all such persons and put them on charitable relief. We have commenced the same system in Durbhungah with reference to the poor on the enormous relief-work here, and have opened a relief-house for such until our measures are complete for sending them on to the homes; but it is evident that these are merely unsystematic attempts, as far as Durbhungah is concerned, to relieve a continuous and enormously increasing pressure. Without our circle superintendents being at their posts, and village works open to divert the tide, those efforts can be only very partially successful. Caste prejudice too seems, as you told me, cropping up in a way which militates against the success of those efforts.

In times like these I do not wish to record anything needlessly alarmist, but I feel bound to say, what from my previous reports may be deduced, that the superintendent's arrival has been too long protracted up to date. I have only three men at work—Mr. Henry in Durbhungah, Mr. Marindin in Desouta, Mr. Harris at Hattee. Mr. Aickman has just left for his post. Since writing the above, Mr. Paul has joined, and been sent to Mohamedpore. It is my belief that every day henceforth which sees the Singhuja and remaining Bahera circles, and the Mohamedpore, and perhaps Hyaghat, circles without their superintendents, must bring forth fatal consequences.

In concluding this portion of my report, I have only to add that the instructions given by Sir Richard Temple with reference to Durbhungah town are being systematically carried out by Mr. Henry, who is, I may be permitted to say, working very zealously and creditably.

Appended to this report is a copy of instructions I drew out for Mr. Henry's guidance. They are the same as those which guide the conduct of other superintendents, with the exception of some necessary modifications. Mr. Henry has had already made out the general register of poor, and is now engaged in testing it. I hope before next report the system will be in full operation. In Durbhungah, unlike the eastern parts of the division, we are still a-head of famine."

30. I append a copy of the rules drawn up by Mr. Macdonnell and myself. They have been approved of by the Commissioner and circulated for the guidance of Mudhoobunnee and Seetamurhee officers.

31. I must fully endorse Mr. Macdonnell's remarks regarding the extreme importance of filling up our circles without delay. I must add too that some of our superintendents appear to be too young and inexperienced for their work. I should be glad to employ them on roads, and to receive in their place civilians or experienced Deputy Magistrates. The success of our administration of relief circles will greatly depend on the efficiency, discretion, and tact of the officers selected as superintendents.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUB-COMMITTEE OFFICERS.

It will be the duty of each sub-divisional officer to accurately define each relief circle, and to furnish each superintendent with the names of all the villages in his circle, and with the population, as far as such can be made out from the census and thanah registers. The names of the village chowkidars are to be furnished by the police, and the proprietor's names, as far as this may be practicable.

2. The superintendent on joining his circle is to lose no time in visiting every village in it. This he should do at the rate of at least 10 villages a day.

3. He should make himself acquainted with the condition of every village and divide the villages into groups of not more than 10 each, the most distant of which should not be more than four miles from the central one.

4. In this central village he should establish a rice store for the supply of that particular group of villages. The largeness of the group should be in inverse proportion to the amount of distress prevalent in it.

5. This local grain store is to be supplied from the grain depôt of the circle on orders countersigned by the superintendent. To this grain store should be attached one mohurir on Rs. 12 a month, whose duty it will be to keep the registers prescribed below, one or two bunneahs (as the case may demand) on Rs. 4 a month and two peadahs on Rs. 4 a month.

6. It will not be often necessary to erect a store-house, many will be found ready made. If it be necessary to build any, they should not be larger than may be sufficient to contain 200 maunds, and shall consist of raised machans protected by sloped chuppers.

7. The superintendent should not wait till the completion of his tour to institute relief measurers if he find such necessary in any village. The commencement of relief operations should progress *pari passa* with the inspection.

8. These operations are to be divided into two classes—(1) relief for which a return is made in work: (2) charitable relief.

9. If there be any imperial work going on in the neighbourhood the able-bodied indigent people should be sent there; if the supply of drinking water be short in the village, some of them might be employed in deepening tanks under the supervision of village agency.

10. If the indigent people be women unable to do labour on such works or (by the customs of the country or from their social position) unwilling to do it, work should be supplied them in the way of thread spinning, &c.; much tact must be used in employing such women. The superintendent should act as much as possible through the headmen of the village in distributing such labour. But all payments are to be made regularly by the paid agency and if possible in presence of punchait of headmen.

11. The mohurir attached to each golah is to have in his charge a certain quantity of cotton, hemp, &c., for which he indents on the depôt-keeper. This he is to give out to be spun into thread by indigent though respectable women.

12. For each seer of cotton he is to get 14½ chattacks of thread (allowing 1½ chattacks for wash), and for this he is to pay 9 annas wages.

13. The thread so made should then be given out to weavers to be woven into cloth, and this cloth should be either sold or distributed to those persons who being recipients of charitable relief are also in want of clothing.

14. The superintendents should not consider themselves bound to a strict adherence to these rules. They should remember that the object is to afford adequate relief to all, and at the same time to induce people to do something for themselves. They will, therefore, never hesitate to set on foot any industry peculiar to the locality and suitable to the purpose in view, the prevention of distress.

15. The superintendent will take special care to foster the system of "chilling" grass for fodder, and will have it stocked at the places (already indicated to police) along the lines of road over which the transport passes.

16. When the superintendent is satisfied that a person or family is unable to work, or that his income from labour should be supplemented by charitable relief, he should make a village register of such.

17. This register is to be kept by the mohurir attached to the local golah.

18. To each such individual or family a ticket should be given specifying the quantity of grain and the date and the village store-house at which it is to be distributed.

19. The mohurir should check the tickets by his register before issuing the grain, and the superintendent or sub-superintendent should frequently test the conduct of the mohurir by a house-to-house inspection.

20. The quanrity of food to be given in gratuitous relief is 16 ozs. grain for each adult, 12 ozs. grain for each child above 12, and 9 for each child below. This is exclusive of dhall, fish, vegetables, and if those are supplied, 4 ozs. for each adult and two for each child should be given.

21. Under the system of village relief it will not be necessary to give cooked food.

22. Orphans are to be placed in the charge of respectable persons of their own religion. If this be impossible the sub-district committee should be consulted.

23. The following establishment should be found sufficient for each circle of 100 or 120 villages:—

Inspecting Agency.

		Rs.
1	Office clerk	25
12	Sub-Superintendents	360
24	Peadahs	120
	Stationery	25
	Total	530

Distributing Agency.

		Rs.
1	Local store mohurir	12
	Stationery	2
1	Bunniah	4
2	Peons	8
	Total	26

24. *Accounts.*—The Superintendent must keep a daily statement and a weekly cash account of all sums received and disbursed on account of famine relief, which is to include all sums expended by his subordinates. This must be submitted on 1st, 8th, 16th, and 24th of each month, and all vouchers must be furnished for each payment when possible. If this be not possible, a detailed list shewing each payment must be furnished. On the last day of each month each Superintendent must furnish a sub-divisional officer with a detailed bill of his establishment.

25. The Superintendent must furnish fortnightly statements on alternate Mondays shewing the quantity of grain received from the central depôt by his local store mohurir, (2) the portion sold, (3) the portion distributed on charitable relief. Also statements shewing the quantity of cotton received, quantity given out, and the quantity of thread received in return.

26. Also a statement shewing the number of men engaged on village work during the previous fortnight, and the number of people charitably relieved.

These statements will be compiled from the daily registers to be kept under these headings by the mohurirs. Special instructions shall be issued to central depôt keepers.

27. *Poor-houses.*—It is to be borne in mind that the object of the relief is to prevent the congregation in one place of large masses of men. Therefore poor-houses are more or less an excrescence on the system.

28. Still, it may be necessary to have a few houses of refuge where wandering indigent people may be temporarily relieved. But such relief is to be continued only till means are formed to send such people to their villages.

29. In such refuge-houses it will be necessary to provide accommodation for cooking rooms, sleeping rooms, separate for men and women; hospital wards and worksheds. But the main idea should never be lost sight of, that the houses are intended as resting houses. These houses, when erected, should always be located at the centre of a circle, and admissions into them should be regulated by the Superintendent of the circle. A register of all such admissions should be kept in the following form:—

1. Date.
2. Number.
3. Name and caste.
4. Father's name.
5. Residence.
6. Age.
7. Rate at which food is given.

This should be no more than the quantity specified above under charitable relief. Each person admitted must get a ticket with his number, and he must produce this when getting food.

30. Every chowkidar is to report daily, either personally or through the Gorait, to the sub-superintendent the state of his village.

31. Every jeyt ryot or putwari is to forward through the chowkidar all information necessary to enable the Superintendent to act.

32. The zemindars shall be held accountable for the laches of their amlah in this respect.

No. 529F, dated Muzufferpore, the 10th March 1874.

From H. W. Gordon, Esq., Covenanted Deputy Collector, on special duty, Tirhoot, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to submit my Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the three sub-divisions under my charge, for the fortnight ending Saturday the 7th March.

A.—State of the Country.

2. *Prices of food and stock, Hajeepore.*—There is not much alteration in the prices of food-grains in the principal marts in the Hajeepore sub-division. At Hajeepore itself, barley is selling at 17½ seers, or at 1¼ seers cheaper; common rice is about ¼ seer dearer, while the prices of wheat, Indian-corn, and gram remain the same. At Lallgunge, wheat is selling at 13 seers, or one seer dearer; barley, rice, and maize are all about the same, and gram is slightly dearer.

At Mahna prices have generally fallen slightly. There appears to be no scarcity in any of the local marts.

3. *Mozufferpore sub-division.*—At head quarters common rice is selling at 9½, or ½ seer dearer; wheat is ½ a seer cheaper; and Indian-corn and gram are about the same. At Belsundh, some 27 miles north of Mozufferpore, I found rice selling at 10 seers; wheat at 10; mokai, gram, and massur dâl at 14; marwa at 14½, rahur dâl and barley at 15, and urid dâl at 13 seers per rupee. In the village Pettia near Conti (8 miles north-west of Mozufferpore), the deputy inspector of the circle reports the prices as under:—

	Seers.
Rice - - - - - - - -	10
Makai - - - - - - - -	13
Gram - - - - - - - -	15
Rohur dâl - - - - - - -	16
Janera - - - - - - - -	15
Urid - - - - - - - -	14

As far as I am informed, grain is still procurable in small quantities at a time in all the local marts. At Belsundh I was told no bunneah would sell as much as Rs. 5 worth of grain at one time.

4. *Tajpore.*—In the Tajpore sub-division, common rice has slightly risen in price during the fortnight. The prices of other grains have not varied much. The "Pettias" are still fairly

supplied, and there seems no scarcity yet in the bazar. Mr. Studd of Dhooly Factory wished to sell some rice he had imported at 10 seers the rupee to men in his employ; but they said they did not want it, as they could procure coarser grains in sufficient quantities at the Pettias.

5. The subjoined table gives the description and prices of food-grains at some of the principal markets in the three sub-divisions on the 21st ultimo and 7th instant:

Names of Marts.	Wheat.		Barley.		Common Rice.		Lesser Millets.		Maize or Indian-corn.		Gram.	
	7th March 1874.	21st February 1874.	7th March 1874.	21st February 1874.	7th March 1874.	21st February 1874.	7th March 1874.	21st February 1874.	7th March 1874.	21st February 1874.	7th March 1874.	21st February 1874.
Mozufferpore - - -	12	11½	—	—	9¼	10¼	—	—	12½	13¼	14	13
Hajeepore - - -	13	13	17½	16¼	11	11½	—	—	15¼	15¼	16½	16¼
Mahooa - - -	12	12	—	15	10	10½	—	8	12	13½	12	14
Lallgunge - - -	13	14	—	15	12	12	—	—	15	15¼	17	15½
Tajpore - - -	13	13	16	16	10½	11	15	15	14	14	16	15
Sarmastipore - - -	12	12½	15	15	10	10½	15	15	14	14	15	15

6. *Stock Hajeepore and Mozufferpore.*—On the subject of stocks I cannot add to what I wrote in my last narrative. The Hajeepore officer furnishes no information under this head. As regards the Sudder sub-division, I am still of opinion that some landholders have large stocks which they intend to keep, so that, practically speaking, they will be useless to the people. Should they be induced by offers of high prices to part with any grain, they will sell it secretly and in small quantities to local shopkeepers.

7. *Tajpore.*—On this subject Mr. Wace writes—"What I have seen and heard, however, confirms the opinion before expressed, that the poorer cultivators are now dependent to a great extent on the Pettias for their supply. It is wonderful to me how these Pettias keep supplied, considering how the means of carriage in this sub-division have been absorbed for the wants of the more distressed tracts."

8. *Rainfall and state of the crops.*—On the 6th there was a slight thunder-storm with a little rain at Hajeepore, and early in the morning of the 7th a thunder-storm at Muzufferpore, during which ·20 of an inch of rain fell. While I was at Belsundh during the night of the 6th, there was a strong wind accompanied by thunder and lightning, but only a few drops of rain fell. Mr. Begg of Bhikunpore told me that nearly 3–10ths of an inch fell at his Factory. No rainfall is reported from Tajpore. The rain thus appears to have been very partial and cannot be of very much good. It may slightly benefit the "cheena" and "mug," and help the cultivators to sow "dhan," and this is all.

9. The rubbee crops are now being reaped. In Hajeepore there is no change in the estimated out-turn of 10 annas. In the Sudder sub-division I have, in the course of my travels, seen some very fine plots of rubbee; but generally speaking the plants are thin and ear small, but I hope all round that we may have at least an 8 to 10 annas crop.

10. Mr. Wace adheres to his previous estimates of the out-turn in pergunnahs Surressa and Balagutch.

11. *Condition of the people, Tajpore.*—Mr. Wace writes—"Now that we have got to the rubbee harvest, with the coarser grains still procurable in the market at rates which do not put them beyond reach of the poor, the condition of the people is more encouraging. There is more hopefulness about them. They have sown, and are sowing their mung and keoni, and the mango trees hold out a promise of sustenance, dangerous though it may be; still June, July, and August must be terrible months to many. Supposing half of the dhan lands of the Surressa pergunnah are sown with mung and keoni, and that the yield is three maunds a beegah, the out-turn will represent little more than 1,50,000 maunds of grain, or sustenance for hardly a month for the population of the pergunnah."

12. *Condition of the people, Sudder sub-division.*—Distress in the Sudder sub-division is daily becoming more marked. I was informed by a member of the district relief committee, that the people of Somera, a village some five miles south-west of Mozufferpore, were in a bad way. I went to the spot and found that there was undoubtedly distress. The villagers asserted that some persons had already died of starvation; but from my own enquiries, and from those made through the District Superintendent, and from a letter received from the Manager of Doudpore Factory, to whom the village is leased, I cannot credit this statement. It was elicited that some persons had died nearly a year ago, a few very old persons one, two, and three months back of fever and debility; while one person alleged to be dead was discovered to be alive. These deaths were not the effects of actual starvation, but it may be that refusal by the villagers, who were themselves hard pushed to give arms in money or food to the poor, old, and helpless accelerated their decease. I found two or three men, five or six women, and two children

particularly thin and emaciated. The rest of the villagers were more or less able and willing to work. Meantime, until some work could be set a-going, I took immediate measures for their relief by distributing money and afterwards grain among the worst cases. On my way back I found the people of some other villages close by were also in distress, and relieved them. No relief works had been opened in this direction. We commenced repairing a road without delay, and I am informed the people flocked to the work in crowds, so much so that kodalees and baskets could not be supplied to many. I myself saw a great number collected near the road, clamouring for employment. To meet their wants, the excavation of a dry tank in Somera was commenced, and I am now told that all candidates have work. Nearly all the people here and in the neighbourhood can do something. The exceptions are five or six old women, to whom I have directed a few pice to be given daily, until arrangements for housing them in a poor-house (should this be found necessary) can be made. Two little children, who were nothing but skin and bone, have been kindly taken charge of here by the Civil Surgeon, Doctor Gayer. Works of a minor nature, such as spinning rope, and basket-making have been started in this village, I think I may say with wonderful success. Cotton, *sun*, and *patooa* and bamboos have been made over to one of the headmen for distribution, and Mr. Deputy Collector Warde Jones, who visited the village yesterday, reports most favorably of the scheme. For women debarred by caste or physical weakness, by age or infirmity, and for men hardly fitted for tank and road labour, these employments will be most useful. I forbear going into details at present; but I may mention that Mr. Warde Jones expects to have 20 to 25 baskets made a day. The makers (domes), who are very badly off, will be paid at the close of each day by the headman (to whom a small sum of money has been advanced) one "lohya" pice for each basket made. The Executive Engineer will take from us as many baskets as we can supply. Some rope has been made and sent me for inspection, and I regard it as very good. This rope can very easily be disposed of. Some specimens of thread* are expected to be ready in two or three days. The success of this scheme justifies me in extending it to similarly distressed villages, and I think it proper to have a depôt here with an establishment of a darogah, peon, and dundeedar to carry on the work and keep accounts, as was done in the Orissa famine.

13. In Chajun, I am glad to say that the distress is not so great as in Somera and the neighbourhood. The Manager of Doudpore Factory has commenced excavating a tank there; and the Executive Engineer a road from Chajun to Marwan, which will afford work to most of the inhabitants. Mr. Warde Jones has gone there to start basket, rope-making, spinning, and weaving.

14. Mr. Begg of Bhikanpore and Jhapaha Factories, five and seven miles north of the Mozufferpore, reports that distress is prevailing in his villages. I have arranged with him a scheme of tank and road work, and he informed me yesterday that some of the works had been started.

15. Mr. Brown of Contai, eight miles north-west of Mozufferpore, writes that distress is becoming very apparent out his way, and I have asked him to start relief works at once.

16. From Montipore Factory, eight and a half miles north-west of Mozufferpore, Mr. Fraser writes that relief works are now urgently required. I am sending him money to commence any work that will help the people.

17. I have just returned from Turki and Belsundh, where I went to organise a relief sub-committee and arrange about relief works. At Turki, I found matters much better than I anticipated. There is scarcity, but no marked distress there yet. The rubbee crops round about promise well. Around Belsundh the people are badly off. I visited some villages with the Manager, and found the people much reduced, and complaining that they would die unless Government helped them. We arranged tank and road work to be commenced at once. While I was there people flocked into the Factory asking for work. More grain will be required at Belsundh. There is at present barely 3,000 maunds stored; I estimate roughly that 25,000 maunds will be required. The Manager has undertaken to construct a golah. The Turki bunded road has been sanctioned, and the Executive Engineer been directed to lose no time in commencing this work. It will afford employment for many thousands; by commencing work from the Belsundh and Turki sides at the same time the distressed in both directions will, I am certain, flock to the spot.

18. Mr. Sandford Kilby writes from Teturia in Chumparun, to the north-west of Belsundh, that the villages on our side are, he hears, in a very bad way, and the Executive Engineer has been ordered to continue a road being made up to our borders in the Chumparun district into this district through Regai.

19. From Paroo, on the west, the police report distress; and Mr. O'Reilly of Seetamarhee has informed me that the people near Rajkhund, and the north of Kutra (in the north-east and east) are badly off. I alluded to Sahebgunge in my last report.

20. It thus appears that distress is pretty prevalent in most parts of the Sudder Sub-division; but, as far as we know, it is at present worst on the south-west, north, and north-west. Mr. Tweedie of Doudpore has sent me a list of 47 villages in which 3,184 persons are in distress.

Relief works are opened in the neighbourhood of these villages.

21. I have strongly advocated "village visitation" as the only way by which we can learn the real condition of the people. The Commissioner, in his minute of the 3rd instant, sanctioned the division of the sub-divisions into eight circles with head-quarters marginally noted, and the appointment of a deputy inspector of visitation and relief on Rs. 75 per mensem for each circle. Two officers, one for Mozufferpore, and the other for Sahebgunge have already been appointed, and gone into the interior to make enquiries.

1. Mozufferpore.
2. Paro.
3. Kutra.
4. Belsundh.
5. Turki.
6. Rajkhund.
7. Sahebgunge.
8. Murwan.

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* Some since received.

They will submit daily diaries to me. The other inspectors will, I hope, be appointed in a day or two. By means of this agency I hope to accomplish a great deal, to be kept daily informed of the condition and wants of the people, and to adopt immediate measures for their relief.

Since writing this, four more deputy inspectors have been appointed.

22. *Hajeepore.*—The reports from Hajeepore are satisfactory. There are "no further signs of " distress. There is plenty of work, and wages are good. There are gangs of coolies under " Colonel Macgregor all along the roads receiving two annas a day, and the coolies at the " ghaut are able to earn from 10 to 12 annas a day. Petty thefts still continue, but chiefly at " Bankur Ghaut."

23. *Destitution and starvation.*—With the exception of the cases of destitution alluded to in paragraph 12 of this report, I know of no other in the three sub-divisions; and I believe no deaths have occurred attributable *solely* to starvation. In the Tajpore Sub-division, many are reported to be pinched and miserable. The worst villages "are on the north and east side of " the Tal Baryla and about Bahlempore; the soil being clayey the ryots have not been able to " sow mung and kowni as they have more directly north of Tajpore."

24. In the Hajeepore Sub-division there appears to be no prospect of destitution or starvation. There are no special tracts which require report.

B.—Relief Works.

25. The returns for relief works directly under the Executive Engineer are as under—

Name and nature of work.	Daily number of labourers.	Rate of wages.	Remarks.
Mozufferpore Sub-division.		Rs. A. P.	
Relief works in Durbhunga road - - -	76	*1st class.* Man at - 0 1 6 Woman at - 0 1 0 Child at - 0 1 0 *2nd class.* Child at - 0 0 9	
" in Koorba " - - -	185		
" in Poopree " - - - -	40		
" in Hajeepore " - - -	81		
" in Mallye " - - - -	131		
*Excavating and cleaning a tank at Bhekhunpore on Hajeepore road.	661		*The laborers are increasing daily in a large number. Payments are made daily by the overseer himself.
Excavating and cleaning a tank at Sukree Surrya on Hajeepore road.	94		
Repairing a road from Ladawra to Sukreeseral - -	221		
" from Rajla to Marwan - -	65		
Excavating and cleaning tank at Sonera - -	245		
Making a temporary bridge at Baboo ghât - -	330		
Repairing road from Mamun to Bahadoorpore ghât -	40		
Total - -	2,169		
Hajeepore and Tajpore Sub-division.			
Maintaining road from Hajeepore to Poosah *viâ* Sooklee -	215	*1st class.* Man at - 0 1 6 Woman at - 0 1 3 Child at - 0 1 0 *2nd class.* Man at - 0 1 0 Woman at - 0 1 0 Child at { 0 0 9 0 0 6 0 0 3	
" from Mowah to Othar ghât - -	100		
" from Ithbarsawrie to Pachatkhalee -	40		
" from Dulsingserai to Nagorbastee -	80		
" from Lallgunge to Kantee - -	100		
Maintaining Gooriah bridge - - -	2		
" Mowna " - - - -	2		
" Dulsingserai road - - -	2		
Opening road from Kalanger ghât to Poosah - -	110		
" a new road from Jajpore to Pookrarah -	1,446		
" " Sookhee to Mahabar *viâ* Netodavee road.	139		
Constructing Sookhee bridge - - - -	20		
" Peerowra " - - -	110		
Total - -	2,366†		†Out of these 49 are of non-laboring class.
Grand total - -	4,335		

26. Independently of the above list, there are other Government relief and private works directly under sub-divisional officers, planters, and others. These are in Tajpore sub-division:—

(1) Mohwa and Dulsingserai road, under Mr. Lloyd, daily average 32 men.
(2) Road under Mr. Studd, daily average 49 men.
(3) Bahwara and Hursingpore road near the Tal Baryla under Mr. Wace, daily average 192.

West and north of Bahwara, the opium cultivation is said to be still employing much labor, and the tramway employs many hands.

27. In the Sudder sub-division:—

(1) Shapore and Bazee road under Mr. J. Smith, daily average 806.
(2) Tanks and Bridge earth-work, &c., across rivers under Mr. Begg; daily average about 1,300.
(3) Road-works at Sahebgunge under Mr. J. Macdonald; no returns received.

Since writing this Mr. Macdonald reports that he has 400 persons at work.

(4) Private tank near Jaintpore being excavated by Mr. Abbott at expense of Mohunt Rajah Ram Dass, the proprietor. I have no returns, but Mr. Abbott told me that the work gave daily employment to about 2,000 people.

(5) Private tank being excavated by Mr. Tweedie in the distressed village of Chajun. No returns received.

(6) Sukree road under Mr. Studd. No return received.

Total of persons employed on relief works, as far as known, 9,314.

28. Besides the above, road and tank-work is just being started at Belsundh under Mr. Mackenzie; the same at Conti under Mr. Brown; and road-work at Moteepore under Mr. Fraser.

29. I very much regret that these returns are not so complete as I could desire, but I hope I may be held blameless, as I have written to and asked all the planters to send me in weekly returns in a simple form. Their time is probably so much taken up in carrying out contracts that they overlook matters of this nature.

30. Under orders from the Commissioner a revised programme of relief works in the three sub-divisions is being prepared in consultation with the Executive Engineer for submission to Government. I may here mention that Heera Lall Mahta, a mahajun of Mozufferpore, has just paid in Rs. 1,000 towards excavating a dried-up tank in the Mozufferpore municipality, and another mahajun, Ram Monohur, has promised to make a new tank in the suburbs of the town at the cost of Rs. 10 or 12,000. Their liberality is deserving of commendation.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

31. Means of transport from Bunkur Ghaut are ample. Mr. Tute writes that "1,38,523 maunds of Government grain were despatched from Bunkur for Chumparun and Tirhoot from 23rd ultimo to 4th instant. On an average 20,0000 maunds are sent daily." Major de Kantzow observes: "As to carriage, 1,494 carts came in yesterday. I believe 1,500 will come in to-day; but just now, holidays* intervening, I cannot give carts correctly. If carts sent by me are not kept, or sent on from the places I despatch them to, I have calculated accurately a regular saving of carts that can carry off two lakhs of maunds per week, &c., &c." Rates are first class, and I am told by natives that with these rates, "*carts will be born from the very ground.*"

32. Mr. Wilson is starting a donkey train at Bunkur to carry small weights up to Darbhunga.

33. Along the lines of transport in the Hajeepore sub-division dry tanks are being excavated. The planters are affording marked aid in this matter, and there is no fear of there being any deficiency of work.

34. The transport of grain from the three depôts of Conti, Russulpore, and Ather in the Sudder sub-division to depôts in Seetamarhee, is going on very satisfactorily. Sufficient carts are available. No delay occurs in unloading and loading; the bullocks at present appear strong and in good condition. The roads are kept in as fair order as is possible with the immense traffic over them. The cartmen do not keep to the *liks* as much as they might, but this will, no doubt, be remedied as soon as more thorough supervision is organised.

35. From Tajpore the reports as to the transport of Government grain are not so satisfactory. Mr. Wace writes: "There is a large quantity of Government grain lying at Chumpta, and the Alliance Transport Company are not working up to more than half their contract. It is hoped that their deficiencies will be supplied by the tramway." During the fortnight Poosah has been opened as a transport depôt, and 17,060 maunds a week are pushed on from there to Beniputtee-Kozowbee in the Madhubanee sub-division. Some 34,000 maunds a week are also to pass through Poosah from Bunkur Ghât *en route* to Durbhungah.

36. I have but little to remark about private importations. Mr. Wace observes that it is clear from the state of the market, there has been no falling off but gives no particulars; grain still continues to be imported to Aajeepore from Patna in small quantities.

37. The following importations of grain have been made into the Sudder sub-division during the fortnight by private traders from advances made to them by Government—

		Mds.	Srs.
Imported by Baboo Nundun Lall	- - - -	549	18
Ditto ditto ditto	- - - -	284	7½
Ditto Baboo Monohur Lall	- - - -	368	0
Total	-	1,201	25½

38. What other private importations have been made I cannot say, but I think they cannot be much, because now that nearly all available carriage has been appropriated for the conveyance of Government grain, traders have not the means, even if they had the will, to import grain into the interior.

D.—STORAGE OF GRAIN.

39. The quantity of grain stored is as under:—

Hajeepore sub-division.

		Mds.
Hajeepore	- - - - -	1,980
Lallgunge	- - - - - -	212
Mahnar	- - - - -	2,987
Total	- -	5,179

* Mohurrum and Hooli festivals.

Tajpore sub-division.

	Mds.
Poosah	17,575
Tajpore	892
Total	18,467

Sudder sub-division.

	Mds.
Kutra	6,548
Turki	10,459
Belsundh	2,869
Mozufferpore	18,725
	38,601
Total stored in the three sub-divisions	62,247

40. Twenty thousand maunds of grain are on their way by boat to Sahebgunge, and arrangements for storing it have been made.

E.—Advances.

41. In Hajeepore no applications for advances were made during the fortnight, and no advances were made. In Tajpore, Rs. 115 have been advanced for the construction of wells. An application for Rs. 250 has been made to excavate a tank, and the case is under enquiry. In the Sudder sub-division Rs. 8,000 have been advanced for the purchase of grain for Government, and Rs. 500 advanced on six per cent. interest. No applications have been made for advances for land improvements, but one case which was pending has been decided.

F.—Charitable Relief.

42. With reference to Government No. 1251—S.R., dated the 5th instant, I have the honor to report as follows for the Sudder sub-division:—

1. One district committee and three sub-committees, viz. at Mozufferpore, Sahebgunge, and Belsund, have been appointed. The sub-committee at Mozufferpore is a strong one under the management of the Judge, Mr. Richardson. The Chairman of the sub-committee of Sahebgunge and Belsund are resident planters.

2. No special relief sub-divisions have been opened.

3. I have stated in paragraph 21 that the sub-division has been divided into eight circles for the purposes of visitation and relief.

1. Mozufferpore.	4. Kutra.
2. Sahebgunge.	5. Belsundh.
3. Parkood.	6. Turki.

Six native Deputy Inspectors have already been appointed for the circles marginally noted.

4. This information is given under heading 1.

5. No work-houses for the distribution of food and gratuitous relief have yet been opened; but Mr. Richardson is having huts constructed near the town of Mozufferpore, and has purchased some grain with a view to commence operations when needed.

6. No daily distribution of relief has commenced.

43. I have already stated what has been and is being done towards introducing spinning, rope, and basket-making in the villages of Somera and Chajun, and in my next narrative I hope to report further progress.

44. A special meeting of the district relief committee was held on the 6th instant, and a further subscription of Rs. 900 promised. Subscriptions amounting to Rs. 305 per mensem have been contributed by European residents.

At Tajpore and Hajeepore no charitable relief has commenced.

No. 1052, dated Sarun, the 11th March 1874.

Memo. by J. Drummond, Esq., Officiating Magistrate and Collector.

Forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, Calcutta, for information, with reference to his Circular No. 80 of the 17th November 1873.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in Sarun District for the fortnight ending 7th March 1874.

A.—State of the Country.

1. *Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazar.*—The bazars of the district are sufficiently supplied with grain, but importations have fallen off during the past fortnight.

In the Sudder sub-division the private importations were, to Revilgunge 65,225 maunds, of which 19,800 were maize, 6,400 rice, and the rest other grains; to Dooreegunge, 1,629 maunds; and at Maharajgunge, 3,571 maunds; while the imports at the Gunduck ghats from Tirhoot and Champarun were 1,349 maunds. The exports of grain to Tirhoot and Chumparun amounted to 6,000 and 1,302 maunds respectively.

2. The following is Mr. Wright's account of the Sewan sub-division:—

" The bazars continue to be abundantly supplied with grain, both by importation from other districts and by local supplies from the villages around the different markets. The supply far exceeds the demand at present, and a great deal of the grain brought to the markets is often carried away again unsold. The new pea crop, as I mentioned in my last report, is now in the market, and the other rubbee crops of wheat, barley, &c., the reaping of which has now commenced, will soon add to the supplies.

" The private importations of grain during the fortnight, as far as could be ascertained, amounted to 15,973 maunds at Darawlee, Sewan, Siswan, and Guthani. Of the above amount, 10,199½ maunds was Indian corn, 2,382½ maunds was paddy, 1,635 maunds was rice, and the rest consisted of small quantities of wheat, kodo urid, masur, and bajra. The importations were chiefly from Goruckpore, Azimgurh, and Revilgunge. A small quantity, 380 maunds, of rice came from Dacca, and 750 maunds of Indian-corn and 48 maunds of rice from Gonda.

" The above must not be taken as a correct account of the entire amount of grain imported. Owing to the absence during the Mohurrum of the kotegusht, who was ordered to keep an account of the importations at Darawlee, the returns received from the place do not show the full quantity of grain imported."

3. Of the Hutwah estate, Mr. Hodgkinson writes:—

" Supplies in the bazar still continue sufficient, and now that the spring harvest has commenced, no fears need be entertained of their running short for several weeks. In another fortnight the stock of grain will probably be higher than it has been since November. Importation from the south still continues on a small scale. The demand for the grain sold by the raj in the western zillahs may be said to have entirely ceased, although it was pretty active for the few days immediately preceding the commencement of the spring harvest. Altogether, 741 maunds were sold in February. It was not found necessary to commence sales in tuppas Afrad and Dhungarree; the prices never went up to a figure which made it profitable to the bunniah to buy raj grain at the prices fixed."

4. *The kind and price of grain.*—The kind and price of grain selling at the principal marts and at the thannahs and out-posts are given in the annexed statement.

5. *Stock of food in the hands of the people.*—I have nothing to add to what has been reported under this head.

6. The sub-divisional officer of Sewan reports as follows:—

" There is nothing to be added to the previous reports under this head beyond that the rubbee crops are beginning to be reaped, and the cultivators will now soon have the produce of those crops in their hands, but the most of it will be sold by them in the marts, and they will retain very little for their own consumption."

7. Mr. Rattray, when on tour in the Sewan thanah, has supplied the following further confirmation of previous reports on this head:—

" The bulk of the population is dependent entirely on the markets, landholders and proprietors in good circumstances have small supplies, but not more than will suffice for the wants of their families. The markets rely chiefly on importations, which still continue in moderate quantities. The importations are chiefly Indian-corn from Revelgunge. Busnowlee,* and Sewan are the two principal markets in this part of the country."

* Moharajgunge.

In a former report regarding that portion of the district, he also wrote as follows:—

" Importations still continue in small quantities. The bulk of the supplies consists of Indian-corn, which is being brought from Revelgunge. The local marts, however, depend to some extent on the surrounding villages, and probably about a third of the grain sold is from small stocks in the hands of petty proprietors. There is more grain offered for sale than is disposed of. The bulk of the population is entirely dependent on such supplies as are brought to the markets, but landholders and other well-to-do classes have stocks of grain in hand, though not more than will suffice for their household. At Danialpore a market is held twice a week, and at present about three hundred maunds of grain is for sale on market-days, about two hundred maunds of which consists of Indian-corn from Revelgunge at Basnowlee,* one of the largest marts in the district. Importations are said to be nearly six hundred cart-loads a week from Revelgunge, chiefly Indian corn, and the stocks in the hands of traders are estimated at about six thousand maunds."

* Maharajgunge.

8. Under this head Mr. Hodgkinson reports thus:—

" The stock of food in the hands of the people will, of course, be much increased by the harvest. I have no reason to think the estimate I formerly gave unfair."

9. *Rain-fall.*—In Chuprah, though we have had thunder-storms, beyond a few drops, there has been no rain-fall during the past fortnight, but elsewhere in the district slight rain has fallen. There is also said to have been hail along the Gogra to the west, but not, it is believed, to an extent sufficient to occasion other than partial damage. Full particulars, however, have not as yet been received. From Sewan the following is Mr. Wright's report:—

" On the forenoon of the 5th instant there was a rain-fall of one-tenth of an inch, and on the night of the 6th, or rather at one o'clock A.M. of the 7th, there was another fall of ·11, or, altogether, a little over two-tenths of an inch during the past fortnight."

And Mr. Hodgkinson gives the following figures:—

" Rainfall, ·04, 23rd February.
" ·02, 5th March.
" ·51, 7th "

Total ·07

"Seven-hundredths of an inch fell in the fortnight under review at Hutwah. The thunderstorms of the 5th and 7th March will have done harm to the mangoes, but it is not possible to say yet to what extent."

10. *State of the Crops.*—The crops continue good, and now that the harvest is commencing, the prospect of two-thirds of an average crop on the area sown may be considered assured. The probable yield in each thanah was recently reported as follows:—

Sudder Sub-Division.	As.
Manjhee - - -	10
Chupra - - -	8
Dighwaree - - -	12
Parsa - - -	9
Mashrakh - - -	8
Bassuntpore - -	5

Sewan Sub-Division.	As.
Burrowlee - - -	6
Burrugaon - - -	4
Sewan - - -	8
Durrowlee - - -	12

11. Regarding the Manjhee thanah, Mr. Hudson writes as follows:—

"The crops around Chainpore and Parsa, especially the former place, look very promising; but there is a great deal of rice-land. The prospect of the rubbee crop at Parsa was given at 8 annas, but that at Chainpore 12 to 14 annas; and I was informed that the people were pretty well off in neighbourhood of this latter village, as indeed they also appeared to be in the neighbourhood of the former. Baboo Roop Narain also, of Parsa, confirmed this inference.

"On the whole, I am inclined to regard the centre and south-west portions of the Sudder division as exhibiting a market contrast between themselves and the north and east portions; the former showing good crops and few signs of distress, and the latter bare and barren, with people prone to complain, and crops looking thin and sickly."

12. The following is Mr. Wright's report of the Sewan sub-division:—"The rubbee crops on the ground have improved wonderfully with the fine and seasonable weather we have had. The outturn will average rather over an 8 anna one. The rain mentioned in the preceding paragraph has not been heavy enough to do any injury to the crops on the ground, and has been most beneficial to the cheena and next year's sugar-cane, and in some measure to the indigo crops. The rain will also enable the ryots to prepare their lands for the bhadoi and aghani crops.

"The rubbee harvest has already commenced. Peas are nearly all gathered, rahur is being out, and barley and wheat have in places begun to be reaped.

"The Sub-Deputy Collector reports that the rubbee in the Burrowlee thanah will be three-fifths of an average crop. This is, I think, rather too favorable an estimate. The crops in Burrowlee thanah, excluding Gopalgunge out post, will not exceed two-fifths of an average crop, but in Gopulgunge they will average twelve to fourteen annas. A large portion of Burrowlee is rice-growing land, and the last aghani rice crop in those parts, especially along the bank of the Gunduck river, was not a complete failure. The Indian-corn also gave a fair return, and the people there are even now living on the produce of those crops. In a tract of country where rice is extensively grown rubbee takes up a very small portion of the soil, and never gives a large return.

"Of the crops in the southern part of pergunnah Bara,* Mr. Rattray writes as follows:—

'Wheat and barley have suffered a good deal from the drought. The crop looks thin and does not promise more than a six anna outturn. There are fields where the outturn will probably be eight to ten annas. Rahur is extensively cultivated, and promise an outturn of eight annas. The crop is stunted and backward, but has not suffered much from frost. The pea crop has failed to a considerable extent. Both these crops are now being gathered. I do not think the rubbee will be more than a 6 to 8-anna crop.

"In a subsequent report, in writing of the crops in the tract of country lying between Sewan and Siswan, he says—' Wheat and barley promise an outturn of eight to twelve annas, and in many of the fields there is every prospect of a full crop. The villagers are now gathering the harvest in some parts of the country. Rahur is in excellent condition, and gives every promise of a good crop; it is now being gathered. The pea crop is small. Scarcely any sugar-cane is cultivated. Indian-corn is said to have given nearly a full crop, and the poorer classes have in a great measure been living on it up till now. The rubbee, on the whole, gives a promise of an 8 to 12 annas outturn. The villagers themselves anticipate a full spring crop. Last year's spring crop is stated by the villagers to have been poor, and at the most the present harvest is considered superior to last year's outturn.

"Mr. Gregory, the Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, has kindly furnished me with the following report regarding the crops in the northern part of this sub-division. In the country east of Barragon there is a small proportion of rubbee sown, the lands being chiefly sown in rice and poppy. Wheat, barley, and rahur crops, however, are very fair, and a 10-anna yield is expected. The country along the river Tharhi, in the neighbourhood of Hussapore, Kalianpore, and west of Bhorey, is perhaps the worst off. Here, of the wheat and barley there is only a 5-anna crop, while vast tracts of rahur have been entirely destroyed by the frost.

"Where poppy and other crops failed, advantage was taken by the cultivators to re-sow these lands in cheena immediately after the rains of the last month. It is impossible to form an estimate of this crop just now, but to all appearances it has well germinated, and, where practicable, it is even being irrigated. The new peas are already in the market, and also small quantities of rahur. Wheat and barley are just being gathered in."

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* Eastern half, Sewan thanah.

13. To the above, I may add the following further extract from Mr. Rattray's reports:—

"The whole of the eastern part of pergunnah Bara* has been visited by me during the week. To the north, most of the land is under paddy cultivation, and altogether paddy holds a large proportion of the soil. This crop is said to have been a total failure. Fields of sugar-cane are few; there are scarcely any to be seen to the north. Rahur, peas, and other pulses do not seem to be very extensively cultivated, except towards the south. Wheat and barley are looking thin and backward, and do not promise more than a 6 to 8-anna crop. Rahur will probably be an 8-anna crop. Peas have been damaged by frost, which has done some injury to the rahur also in the southern part of the pergunnah, but not to any serious extent. Indian-corn is stated to have been a total failure. The rubbee, on the whole, promises a 4 to 6-anna crop, and it is possible the outturn will be 8-annas."

* Sewan thanah.

Mr. Hodgkinson writes as follows, regarding the crops on the Hutwah estate:—

"The wheat and barley have improved very much during the last fortnight. Though the crop is thin, the ears are numerous and full. A casual observer, who was ignorant of the extent to which it has failed in poor lands, would put it down as an 8 or 10-anna crop all round. The peas have everywhere suffered much from the frost, and their improved appearance after the rain in February has proved (as I expected it would) to be a fallacious test of their probable yield. Three pucka maunds a beegha is the yield of the best fields, the average hardly exceeds 1½ maunds. The poppy is a fine crop generally, but the cultivators complain that the juice is deficient."

15. *Condition of the people.*—There has been no material change in the condition of the people. Mr. Hudson writes as follows:—

"I still fail to observe in my rides through the villages any signs of general distress or extreme scarcity of food. The people of the district are, as a rule, surly and churlish to the extreme; and if they were generally pushed for the means of sustenance, this characteristic would certainly relax. The sight of a European, even when not known to be the Government officer on tour, would appear to them as a chance of relief; and they would not, as now, let him pass unnoticed, refusing even to show the way through their villages or direct him to his camp. When recognized, I am sometimes pursued by some of the cultivators (generally of the better class, not mere laborers or very low caste men) with complaints of the hardships they endure, and petitions for advances and Government relief works. But I am sorry to say that these manifestations have to be treated with great suspicion. The rascality of the people is so mixed up with genuine distress that there is evidently no choice, except between a reckless and general distribution, and cautious and insufficient relief." And again he reports:—

"During the past week I have been encamped at the villages of Buneapore, Dhungraha, Nipuneeah, Amnour, Baghakole, and Makain.* At none of these have I been informed of any great general distress, though I have met with a number of individual cases. It is very difficult to distinguish these latter from confirmed mendicancy, which assails me everywhere. At Nipuneeah the number of beggars, most of whom appeared from inquiry to be professional beggars, was something quite remarkable. Some 20 of them belong to this single village. I relieved nine cases at this village, of what appeared to be exceptional and accidental destitution among persons who, but for the present scarcity, would be earning their own livelihood or would have been supported by their relations. At Amnour I was informed that the two resident landowners, Babu Ram Saran Singh and Babu Deo Bahadoor Singh, distribute alms and make advances to the distressed cultivators. Babu Ram Saran has received an advance of Rs. 10,000 from Government for this latter purpose. At Baghakole also the proprietor, Babu Sheo Saran Singh, assured me that he was taking active measures to relieve distress, and at this place and at Baneapore I received but few applications of any kind."

* Musrukh and Pursa thanahs.

† Pursa thanah.

16. The sub-divisional officer of Sewan reports as follows:—

"The condition of the people continues on the whole pretty good. Numbers of them are now employed in the fields in harvesting the rubbee crops. The relief works which have been set agoing throughout the district provide employment for all labourers who are not engaged in harvest work, and as the public harvest is gathered and comes into the markets, the prices of food-grains will go down, and for the next two or three months there will, I think, be no reason for anxiety. Prices are of course yet somewhat high in the bazars for food-grains, but still any one, with an ordinary day's wages, can buy sufficient to support himself."

Mr. Rattray under this head, writes that "the labouring classes are finding work on the public roads and in the excavation of tanks, and, so far as distress is said to prevail, the relief measures in hand appear to be sufficient to meet it."

And again, in a subsequent report, when writing of the people in the track of country lying between Sewan and Siswan, he says as follows:—

"Prices continue to be almost prohibitive to the poorer classes, and the mass of the people are entirely dependent on the local markets for their supplies. The better class of landholders have stocks of grain sufficient for private consumption, but petty landholders and small proprietors, a class who will not either work or beg, are looking forward with anxiety to the time when the spring crops will have been gathered and consumed. The greater proportion of landholders in this part of the country, in fact throughout the sub-division, hold their land divided into exceedingly small shares * * * * * . No serious distress prevails in this part of the country * * * * * . There is ample work to be had on the roads and in the excavating of tanks, but it is a good sign that complaints have been made to me that labourers are indifferent to obtaining work, and that the Holi and Mohurrum festivals have been held as an excuse for the want of labour in the digging of a large tank near my camp at Hussunparah."

17. The following further extracts from Mr. Rattray's reports may here be quoted regarding the Barraulee thanah. Writing from Manjee, he mentions:—

"Baboo Sridhar Sahee, zemindar of Manjee, called. He states that the people in this part of the country are in distress, and that their distress will bring starvation among the labouring classes within the next three or four months if relief is not given; that there have been no deaths from starvation yet; that the villages are depending entirely on imported food; and that the stocks in the hands of the people are insignificant."

In another report he writes:—

"The Inspector of the Barraulee police station informs me that there is distress among the labouring classes within his jurisdiction, but that the people are far from starvation yet. Anticipates no serious distress till after June or July. States there are stocks of grain in the hands of proprietors and zemindars, but only for private consumption, and that it is only the labouring classes who must have Government help. Calculates the labouring classes at half the population within his jurisdiction. States that importations have almost stopped, but that much grain was imported two or three months back. States that there are no large stocks of grain in the neighbourhood. Estimates half the produce of the land in this part of the country as paddy; this is stated as being almost a total failure this season."

And again he writes:—

"There is no serious distress, and no case of death from starvation has been brought to my notice. The labouring classes are in want, and glad to obtain work. Mr. Reid, of the Sadowa indigo factory, has laid in a stock of rice for his tenants. He has 3,000 people at work daily on the roads, paid by Government. He informs me that, in his opinion, there will be serious distress in this part of the country."

18. Of the people on the Hutwah Estate, the following is Mr. Hodgkinson's report:—

"The condition of the people has little altered for the worse. The wages which all have been able to earn, if they liked, at relief works, have been quite sufficient, even with the present high price of food, to maintain them; and although it is not everyone who will work, still cases of severe distress have been almost entirely confined to professional beggars. The higher castes, who are unaccustomed to manual labour, hold lands generally at very low rates on this estate, and their lands are above the average quality. They are thus much better off than their poorer neighbours as a rule, and have no doubt been able to get advances on their crops, as usual, from their mahajuns."

19. *Known cases of misery and starvation.*—There have been no cases of starvation; but isolated cases of distress continue to be reported, and are provided for.

20. *Grain-thefts or robberies.*—There have been 13 cases of grain-theft during the fortnight.

The accompanying comparative statement shows the total number of cases of theft and house-breaking, &c., committed during the month of February in the several years 1872, 1873, and 1874.

Statement showing the number of the true cases of Dacoity, Robbery, Theft, and House-breaking which occurred in the Sarun District during the month of February 1872, 1873, *and* 1874.

DACOITY— (Headings 30 and 31 of Crime Return A1)	Month of February 1874	3
	Corresponding month of 1873	1
ROBBERY— (Headings 32 and 33 of Crime Return A1)	Month of February 1872	1
THEFT— (Heading 43 of Crime Return A1, excluding cattle-theft)	Month of February 1874	45
	Corresponding month of 1873	50
	Ditto ditto 1872	44
HOUSE-BREAKING— (Heading 35 of Crime Return A1)	Month of February 1874	231
	Corresponding month of 1873	168
	Ditto ditto 1872	238
TOTAL OF ALL FOUR CRIMES	Month of February 1874	279
	Corresponding month of 1873	219
	Ditto ditto 1872	283

Condition of any special tracts.

21. The northern half of the district, comprising the thanahs of Burragaon, Burrowlee, Bassantpore, Mashrakh and Pursa, is the tract which occasions anxiety.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

Progress of relief works, &c.

22. The annexed statements show the relief works in progress and the number employed thereon. The average number daily employed during the fortnight has been 91,542 and the number on the last day was 76,794. The falling off in the numbers is attributable to the harvest operations, and also to the occurrence of the Mohurrum and Hoolee festivals. About a fourth of the number employed belonged to non-laboring classes. It has hitherto been found impossible, and must continue to be impossible, to pay the laborers daily, as was erroneously inferred by Government; but endeavour is being made to ensure payments being made as speedily as possible.

State emigration to British Burmah.

23. There are now 74 emigrants in the depôt at Chuprah awaiting transmission to Calcutta. As soon as contracts are taken from them, and the small-pox, which has attacked three or four of them, disappears, they will be sent down under proper arrangements by rail.

C.—Transport of Food.

Approximate account of private food supplies.

24. All that is known under this head has been reported in paragraphs 1, 6, 7 and 8.

25. Regarding the Hutwah raj grain supplies, Mr. Hodgkinson furnishes the following information:

"Of the grain engaged for the raj, 60,000 maunds have been conveyed to golahs on the estate; and there are about 8,000 maunds at Revelgunge and in transit. The Collector has also returned to Hutwah 1,728 bags on account of the grain formerly placed at his disposal."

26. Concerning the grain required for the other wards' estates, the general manager reports thus:—

"The grain purchased from Chooni Lal has not been distributed among the several places selected for storage in consequence of certain inquiries set on foot by the Commissioner, though a greater part of it is ready for delivery at Revelgunge.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

Places of storage and amount of grain received.

27. The accompanying statement shows the storage places, the distribution thereat of the grain allotted, and the amount of grain received at the different storage places up to the end of the fortnight. The total amount of grain received had been 273,791 maunds, of which 223,986 maunds had been finally stored, and 34,720 maunds were in transit.

28. *Construction of Golahs and arrangements for custody of grain.*—Fresh Golahs, capable of containing the increased quantities of grain now allotted, are in course of construction at nearly all the storage places.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

29. *Advances for purchase of grain and for Land Improvement.*—Rs. 3,200 have been advanced during the fortnight for purchase of grain for sale, and Rs. 1,52,011* to zemindars for grain on money advances to their ryots, making up the total as yet advanced on these accounts to Rs. 1,29,700 and Rs. 2,86,890, respectively; and for land improvement, Rs. 5,352 have been advanced, bringing up the total on this account to Rs. 57,205. The sum of Rs. 200 has also been advanced to persons for the support of their families, giving a total of Rs. 240 under this head.

30. On the subject of advances, Mr. Hudson makes the following report, which I think it well to quote *in extenso*, as showing the difficulties we have to contend with in giving any general relief in this form:—

"Here the applications for advances for personal support seem to have reached their culminating point; I have received upwards of 150 of these within the last two days. The decision of the Government and the instructions of the Commissioner, at least as I weigh the preponderating tendency of these, for in point of fact they are self-contradictory, has just arrived in time, since it is no longer possible for a single officer to deal with such a mass of applications. I have accordingly closed the register for applications for personal support, and shall in future deal with these only by a sort of natural selection, that is to say, that out of a great number of applications sent in, I must select for consideration those cases only where the applicants seem *prima facie* to make a peremptory demand on my attention."

"Applications on account of land improvement are neither numerous nor pressing, and those from large zemindars for large sums on behalf of their ryots are at present few and far between. The Commissioner's instructions urge me to deal with these land owners, and to adopt the system of large advances to them; but he has overlooked one circumstance, which I think I dwelt on in my late communications on this subject, viz., the difficulty of finding and of bringing one's self into contact with such land-owners."

"It appears to me that over more than half this division, the proprietary tenure is so divided, that it is impossible to call on any individual proprietor to take an advance on behalf of all the ryots; while, as a body, they are too numerous and too scattered to be dealt with. Indeed, a large proportion of villages appear to be left without any superintendence whatever; and the connection between the proprietor and his estate appears to consist solely in the receipt of a certain portion of the value of the land's produce, through the agency of one of the cultivators, who acts as tax-gatherer. As an instance of the difficulty of dealing with proprietors of villages, I will quote the following circumstance:—On my way from Parsa, pergunnah Manjhee, to Buneeapore, I passed through Pateria village, and observed a child‡ of some three years' old crying; was told it was crying from hunger; enquired who were the proprietors of the village; was informed they were Ata Hussen and Zulfikar Ali, who live at Khajwa a long way off. After sending to the village, however, to make further enquiry into the case, I found that the father of the child did not belong to their Puttee, but to the Puttee of Gya Pershad and Mehendra Pershad, who live at Maharajgunge. I summoned these latter, and this is a week ago, but as yet I have not even received a reply to my summons. Indeed, as a rule, the zemindars hold aloof from me, and do not attend to my summons when issued."

"In case where they do visit me, I am generally disappointed by finding that those about whose applications I wish to consult them, are not in their Puttee, or else they plead a general ignorance of the names of their tenants. My Moonshee informs me that even in the case of resident land lords such as Baboo Ramsaran Singh, Devee Pershad and others, it is not their

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* This includes advances to grain-dealers for sale, on interest.

† Mackain in Parsa thanah.

‡ This child has been duly cared for.
J. G. D.

habit to take an active part in the management of their estates, or to interest themselves in the condition of their tenantry. They leave it all to managers and servants."

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

31. The accompanying statement shows the number of relief centres, which have been selected throughout the district, and these are all in course of being opened. It is proposed to place Thannahs Sewan and Durrowlee under the sub-divisional officer of Sewan; and Thannahs Burragaon and Burrowlee partly under the Manager of the Hutwal Raj and partly under the sub-divisional officer of Sewan; while thannahs Mushrakh and Bussentpore will be formed into a separate sub-division for relief purposes under Mr. Hudson, leaving the remaining thannahs under the supervision of the district committee at Chuprah. Notifications are being issued to give general notice of all the centres where relief can be obtained, and the Factory Managers in charge of the centres will be asked to cause the preparation, by means of the putwarees and head men of villages, of lists of persons requiring charitable relief.

No other return has been received.
W.D.

32. The following account shows the extent of charitable relief afforded as far as is yet known.

By Officiating Joint-Magistrate, Mr. W. H. Hudson, in cash Rs. 25.
„ Mr. D. C. Reid of Moniarah, in grain valued at Rs. 1-9.

33. The following is Mr. Wright's report:—

"The names of the gentleman proposed to form the sub-divisional charitable relief committee have been submitted, and in the meantime Rs. 1,400 have been distributed, at the rate of Rs. 100 each, to each of the first grade relief centres, and Rs. 50 each to Messrs. Tytler and Rattray for the gratuitous support of poor persons who may be found incapable of working or gaining a livelihood. No reports have been received as yet as to any gratuitous relief having been given."

34. Hodgkinson reports as follows under this head:—

"Orders are in course of circulation regarding an enquiry to be made, village by village, to ascertain—

(1).—The names and circumstances of persons incapable of work, who will be fit recipients of charitable relief;

(2.)—The names and circumstances of *purdanasheen* women, who are likely to be without support."

In the meantime, relief centres have been opened at Autwah and Bhoney dispensaries under rules which I have already reported, and the very small number who have availed themselves of them, sufficiently shews that there is no immediate necessity for any large scheme of charitable relief. I have not had any return from Bhoney, but at Hutwa only 14 persons have been admitted, and these receive a daily ration of cooked food. Of these 14, only 3 have been admitted solely on account of weakness from privation.

Along with this Narrative is submitted the statement shewing the proposed relief circles into which the Raj will be divided; they will in every instance be placed under the care of a European gentleman, or of one of the Raj Tehsildars, superintended probably by Mr. Brown or Mr. Boileau. The relief will be carried out by the native doctors, where there are dispensaries.

Hutwa sub-committee might comprise the following:—

Hutwa Sub-Committee.

No.	Name.	Residence.	Occupation.
1	G. J. S. Hodgkinson, Esq., *Chairman*	Hatwah	Monagon Raj.
2	Maharajah of Hutwa	Ditto.	—
3	Baboo Tilluckdharee Sahee	Ditto	Relation of Raja and Zemindar.
4	„ Narendra Protap Sahee	Ditto	Ditto ditto.
5	„ Kissenpershad Singh	Ditto	Ditto ditto.
6	H. O. King, Esq.	Ditto	Executive Engineer, Raj.
7	T. A. Hickson, Esq.	Ditto	Tutor of Rajah.
8	Baboo Bhoobanessur Dutt	Ditto	Superintendent, Raj.
9	„ Shibchunder Bose	Ditto	Sub-Assistant Surgeon.
10	„ Sitta Ram Singh	Ditto	Tehsildar.
11	„ Raghoonandun Singh	Ditto	Ditto.
12	M. Macdonald, Esq.	Pertabpore	Indigo Planter.
13	M. Buskin, Esq.	Sreepore	Ditto.
14	W. Buskin, Esq.	Chuchia	Ditto.
15	T. Robertson, Esq.	Jagdispore	Ditto.
16	D. C. Reid, Esq.	Moniarah	Ditto.
17	H. Macdonald, Esq.	Kahala	Ditto.
18	W. K. Browne, Esq.	Dhobowl & Bhoreg	On special duty.
19	C. B. Boileau, Esq.	Hutwa	Ditto.
20	Baboo Moheah Dutt Sahee	Gowra	Zemindar owning villages in Koorari.
21	„ Hauman Pershad Misser	Narur	Tehsildar.
22	Nehal Khan	Kubttyah	Ditto.
23	Baboo Gangepershad Singh	Gopalgunge	Ditto.

Supplementary Narrative for the fortnight ending 7th March.

No. 697F, dated Chumparun, the 11th March 1874.

From H. KEAN, Esq., Collector of Chumparun, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

In continuation of my letter No. 693F of 9th instant, I have the honor to furnish further particulars regarding the tract of country under Mr. Howe's charge (Ramnugger), his report having just come to hand. The report will show that the condition of the people has grown very much worse within the last few days. He says:—

"During the last few days there has been a marked change for the worse in the condition of the people throughout a large part of this sub-division. This was perceptible in the broad tract stretching from the north (Hurnatar to Ramnugger), and thence eastward as far as the village of Chaukee, and including also on the south-east the populous tuppahs of Deorar, Chaukee, Gopala, Bulthur, and Buhta; in these tuppahs (and through the rest of the tract I have described) distress is terribly severe, and the change which has now taken place is, I think, the natural result of the long duration of scarcity and high prices. The privations so long endured by the people of all classes have severely tested their powers of endurance, and very large numbers now depend entirely on assistance which in some form or other they obtain from Government. The strain on our resources is consequently very great, and the additional amount of work and anxiety then thrown on me will I trust be accepted as a sufficient excuse for any shortcomings in this somewhat hastily written narrative.

"At Bagaha, tuppah Butsurah, and in the east, at Shikarpore, matters are, however, more satisfactory, this being due to the fact that the rice crop in the latter was partly saved by irrigation, while the sugar-cane in the former was excellent."

There had been slight showers of rain during the fortnight, but not sufficient to do much good. Rice had been selling at the following rates:—

Ramnugger - - -	9 seers	Obtainable with difficulty except in small quantities.
In small bazars to north -	8 to 8½ „	Obtainable with great difficulty.
„ „ in village Bazars in tuppah Deorar to south - - - -	8 to 9 seers	Ditto. ditto.
Bagaha - - -	9 „	More easily obtainable.
Shikarpore - - - -	11 „	Obtainable.
Bhowrah - - -	12½ „	Ditto.

In Bettiah rice is selling at 11 seers 8 chittacks.

This refers to coarse rice, the ordinary food of the poor, but other food grains are dear in proportion at the places where rice is now at famine prices.

In referring to the sale of Government rice to petty dealers in these tracts, a measure which it was found must be introduced in consequence of the dearth of grain in the markets, Mr. Howe says:—

"As this state of things has lasted a long time, and there has lately been a sudden and marked change for the worse in the condition of the people, I felt that the time had come to sell Government grain to the public through the trade. When the Honourable Sir R. Temple was here he made inquiries on this point, and considered that the step might be necessary, owing to the very exceptional circumstances of the sub-division.

"After careful inquiries the plan was for the time postponed, but Sir R. Temple directed me to watch carefully and to report at once to the Collector should the necessity arise.

"When, therefore, I noticed a marked change in the condition of the people (showing itself as I stated) by the large numbers now depending entirely on Government assistance, and by other unmistakeable signs, I telegraphed for sanction to sell through the local trade at 11 seers per rupee, selling wholesale to traders at 11½. Sanction was at once given, and I have now tried the experiment, upon the results of which I will report in a few days. I did not recommend this (perhaps extreme measure) till I felt perfectly convinced of its absolute necessity, and that its adoption at this juncture would do no more good than any other measure. There is no local trade of any sufficient importance to render the measure injurious, while such trade as there is has shown itself quite unequal to supply the wants of the people.

"The greatest precautions will be taken, and the experiment carefully watched and reported upon. At present it will be sufficient briefly to record the grounds upon which I took on myself the responsibility of recommending this measure, and these were—

1st.—The scarcity of rice in this tract, and the difficulty with which it can be obtained.
2nd.—The high prices prevailing.
3rd.—The long continuance of these prices.
4th.—The failure of the trade to supply this want.
5th.—The unexpected change for the worse which, in consequence of this state of things, has taken place."

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

This statement* is incomplete as all the reports, especially those from the east, had not arrived when Mr. Howe's report was ready. The statement will show, however, in a general way how much the works are benefiting the people. The number daily relieved on the works is calculated at 10,000, and Mr. Howe says, "it is not too much to say that these people depend entirely for their food on their wages." In addition to the above works, Mr. Howe has opened out a road from Lowriah to Shikarpore,

*Annexed.

which runs through some very distressed tuppahs. He is also about to clear out four tanks. With regard to payment in kind on the works. Mr. Howe reports that this has been done on two additional roads since his last report, viz., Hurnatar to Tribanee, under Mr. Joakim (who has joined at that place), and from Bagaha to Hurnatar under Mr. Moore.

D.—Storage of Grain.

The amount stored in this sub-division is shown below:—

	Mds.
Ramnugger	33,966
Chaukee	4,968
Shikarpore	4,854
Bhowrah	3,590
Bagaha	13,156
Hurnatar	7,814
Chamardeeha	4,986
Total	73,334

This had not all been weighed, so the total is approximate.

During the fortnight 3,880 maunds had been issued as "tuccavee" to the Rajah of Ramnugger's ryots under former orders. This had been distributed among 130 villages. The Rajah is willing to be security for as much as may be required. These advances have had a very beneficial effect, as the food stores of the people are nearly used up.

No applications had been made under the Land Improvement Act.

F.—Charitable Relief.

"The sub-divisional committee of Ramnugger, with the two sub-committees at Bulthur, under Colonel Boulderson, and at Bagaha, are now in full working order. I visited Bagaha once a fortnight, when a meeting is held and measures for relief are discussed.

Joint-Magistrate of Ramnuggar	*Chairman.*
Mr. Christien	*Members.*
" Moore	
" Blake	
" Brooke	
Sree Autar Missir, of Naryanpore	
Ramnarain, of Bagaha	

The tuppah (Bulthur) has been divided into halkas, and each member is to take charge of one. Lists of all the poor requiring relief are prepared by the putwarees and tested by the member in charge of the halkas, who is also responsible for the distribution of food to those in the lists whom he, after examining, finds unfit for work.

At Bagaha we have a dispensary, hospital, and poor-house, and a native doctor from Hurnatar has arrived. Sickness at Hurnatur has, I am happy to say, decreased, so his remaining there is not necessary. The dispensary is ready, being a very conveniently situated house placed at our disposal by a native gentleman of the town. The poor-house is being built close by, and temporary relief is being administered in a shed near the thana. Mr. Christien has given to the committee all the wood required to build the poor-house. Subscription lists have also been opened, and Mr. Christein has, on the part of Mr. Dear, very liberally promised to subscribe Rs. 2,000. Probably the local subscriptions will be Rs. 500; so that, with the Government subsidy, the sub-committee will have Rs. 5,000 to begin with. About 200 persons unfit for work are daily fed at the poor-house, which Mr. Christian at present manages, and I am glad to say that great discrimination is used in feeding only those who cannot work. At present the sub-committee confines its attention (in addition to managing the local poor-house) to the village-to-village relief system and to collecting statistics. I think it is better at first to do what is absolutely necessary, viz., to support those who otherwise must starve, and gradually to perfect the system in introducing the various rules laid down for committees. In my next fortnightly narrative I hope to be able to report that much progress has been made; at present I consider what has been done at Bagaha to be very satisfactory. An organised village-to-village relief system has been formed, which will effectually relieve those who most require it. A central poor-house and dispensary has been started, and the local information thus acquired, which will be placed before the committee at the next meeting, will enable us satisfactorily to enlarge our operations.

I have not yet heard from Colonel Boulderson as to what has been done in Bulthur. At Ramnuggur the dispensary hospital and poor-house are in full working order; the buildings are nearly complete, and meantime work is done in a shed and a small tent. 710 persons have received relief since the work has been started; 142 out-door patients have received medical relief, and all of these (710) were persons utterly unable to work, either from sickness, old age, or physical incapacity. In tuppah Deoraj I have under the village-to-village system 347 persons of this class who daily receive relief. These I have examined in person, and found they were utterly unfit at present even for the lightest work. Most of them have been reduced by sickness as well as want of food, and altogether the condition of these unfortunates is pitiable. I distribute food for these twice a week, and I am much assisted in this tuppah by Saik Salamut Ally, an influential and public spirited zemindar. In this tuppah the headman of each village and the putwarees receive a certain amount of food sufficient to last the poor of his village, of whom he receives a list (an extract from my register), and whom he is bound to supply twice a week. The greatest safeguard against abuse is the fact that the poor themselves know how much they are entitled to; and secondly, there is constant inspection both by Sheik Salamut Ally, who is a member of the committee, and myself. In this way this important tuppah is provided for, and similar steps for the others are also being taken. In my next fortnightly report I trust that generally throughout the sub-division our charitable relief system will be fully organized and in complete working order."

No. 693F, dated the 9th March 1874.

From H. Kean, Esq., Collector of Chumparun, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I have the honour to submit the Fortnightly Narrative of Scarcity and Relief for this district for the fortnight ending the 7th March.

A.—State of the Country.

In the Bettiah relief sub-division no scarcity of food supply is felt as yet. The tightness of the market had somewhat relaxed owing to the improved prospects of the rubbee crop. On the night of the 6th a slight fall of rain occurred, but not sufficient to be of any material benefit. The prospects of the "rubbee" in this sub-division have been especially reported on within the last few days direct to Government, so they need not be touched upon here. No cases of starvation had occurred, nor had serious cases increased, though petty thefts had become more numerous. The average price of coarse rice was about 11 seers per rupee, and that of maize 13 or 14 seers. The report of the poppy crop in this sub-division, *i.e.*, south of the Shikrana River, are very favourable. The timely fall of rain which took place in the beginning of the last month was of immense benefit, and if nothing untoward takes place, the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent anticipates that upwards of 3,000 maunds of the drug will be secured. Three thousand eight hundred kutcha wells had been dug, and Rs. 6,759 had been advanced up to the 25th February for the construction of pucca wells, and applications for Rs. 104 more had been received. A little hail fell during the fortnight, but did no injury.

In the Sudder Sub-division, except in parts of Thannah Adapore (north of Motiharee and of Modhubun south), and in Thannah Kessuria, the reports are favourable. Slight rain fell on the 5th in Thannahs Kessuria and Gobindgunge. Mr. Weekes reports that the rubbee crop is a bad one. In the first place the area sown is less than in ordinary years, and secondly, what has been sown is very poor. The average outturn he calculates will be a four anna crop. In the tracts adjacent to the Gunduk a six, seven, or even eight-anna crop may be expected, but there are many places where the outturn will be only a two or three-anna crop, viz., Sangrampoor, Bhowra, Harbans, Muth, Goburdhun, Hamirpur, Khidarpur, &c. These results, coupled with the failure of the rice crop, and with only an eight-anna bhadoi crop, gives better hope, he says, "for the future." Altogether Mr. Weekes' inquiries are not cheering, and would tend to show that the estimate made some time back, that 30 per cent. of the population would have to be relieved if the worst comes, was correct. It must be borne in mind, however, that "cheena and kodo" have been very largely sown in these thannas, and that the average outturn now given by Mr. Weekes (the result of more detailed inquiry) is more favourable than that given by him in the former fortnightly narrative. The prospect of the mango crop is said to be very promising in these thannahs. In Thannahs Modhubun and Dhaka Mr. Kilby reports as follows:—

"Around Ghorasan and further south the rubbee crop is exceedingly good, and will give probably a ten to twelve-anna outturn. Furthur south, towards Meerpore, the prospects are not so good; the yield may be about five annas from about four miles north-west of Dhaka to Seeraha in the south, and from Meerpore on the west to the Tirhoot boundary on the east the crops are scanty, especially so around Pudumkeer and Patahi, where rice is chiefly cultivated."

The crops within this boundary will not, he thinks, give an outturn of more than four annas. Around Modhubun (south of Seeraha), Tituria, Mehsi, &c. (towards Tirhoot boundary), the crops are reported (and I know them to be so personally) to be better in quantity and quality. They will yield probably an eight to ten-anna crop. In both these thannahs "cheena" has been extensively sown, and "the prospects can hardly be better," but rain is wanted for this crop. The mango crop is excellent in this quarter also.

Mr. Kilby calculates that there will be sufficient rubbee to feed the people for 2 or 2½ months, but not in the centre of his sub-division, that which extends from Dhaka to Seeraha (north and south) and Meerpore to Tirhoot boundary (west and east).

From Adapore and Motiharee Thannahs (circle No. 1) the prospects of the "rubbee" are unchanged. There is little or none around Kutkenwa: not more than a three-ana crop is expected in this neighbourhood; but in the neighbourhood of Adapore, Ramgurwa, &c., it is excellent; a 16-anna crop is expected in some places, and an average eight-anna for the circle.

I have not received latest accounts from Mr. Howe's circle (No. 5), but the state of the rubbee has been, I believe, reported direct.

Condition of the People.

In circle No. 4 (Bettiah) no material change is reported. From circle No. 3 (Gobindgunge and Kessuria thannahs) Mr. Weekes reports that the condition of the people is not improving. "The otherwise well-to-do ryots are hard pressed, and apply on all sides for loans. They refuse "to accept charity, and they will not work. They generally pledge as security cattle and trees, "half of which latter the landowner claims." This security, Mr. Weekes says, is as a rule good, though there may be difficulty in some cases in recovering advances. The landowners and mahajuns decline to stand surety, and will do nothing to assist. These cases are very numerous throughout the district, and are somewhat difficult to cope with, as it must be remembered that the mahajun and zemindar would, as a rule, not refuse to make an advance if there was a reasonable chance of recovery, and it is quite necessary that officers should be on their guard lest loans be made to persons, under cover of applications of this kind, who are not fit objects for gratuitous relief, and who have no means or intention of making repayment. These persons, on the other hand, must be relieved, and officers have been directed to treat these cases under the latter part of clause *f*, paragraph 3, Charitable Relief Rules. The smaller cultivators have the relief works to go to, and flock in large numbers to them. With regard to the further extension of relief works, and especially the relief afforded by re-digging old tanks, it has been found in practice that although many will come forward, each man to dig a separate well, not a single village will undertake to re-dig its own tank, not even when half the cost is offered to be defrayed by Government. Mr. Weekes attributes this (and probably with reason) to the large sums of money lavished on the Brahmins on the completion of a new tank, when nothing is secured to them on the mere re-digging of an old one; an old tank, moreover, secures to the donor no renown, whereas a new excavation bears his name. The best bargain will be made with the landowners, and every endeavour made to induce them to take their share of this duty. Rs. 6,985 have been advanced during the fortnight for this purpose.

In the tract bordering on the Nepal frontier between Adapore and Kutkenwa (a tract in which scarcity has all along been expected) distress is reported, and as it has been ascertained that grain is not to be had in the neighbourhood, steps have been taken under Circular No. 817, of the 8th ultimo, to sell grain to the petty dealers, &c. The grain will be sold at Rampore, three or four miles south of Kutkenwa, at 11 seers for the rupee, on condition (which will be publicly proclaimed) that the dealer retails the same to the public at 10 seers. Small quantities will be sold, not exceeding 10 maunds, in any one day to any one bania. The measure reported in my last narrative for the relief of the opium assamees, has, with the sanction of the Commissioner and the Opium Agent, been carried out, and grain amounting to 22,000 maunds has been advanced to these persons, the value of which will be deducted from the advances given to them a month hence. No cases of starvation have been reported within the fortnight. The subjoined statements show the price of food-grains and the number of dacoities and robberies.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

The following is a list of the relief works in operation and the number of persons employed:—

Name of Work.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Motiharee Station Road	21,822	15,245	4,268	41,335
Motiharee to Kutkenwa	43,124	24,160	14,212	81,496
Ramgurwa to Adapore	7,295	5,487	5,494	18,276
Peepra to Rajpore	168	—	—	168
Peepra to Mozufferpore	28	—	—	28
Bettiah to Bugha	746	1,430	381	2,557
Motiharee to Dhaka	5,450	3,699	1,920	11,069
Dhaka to north-east	3,105	1,273	1,204	5,582
Dhaka to Pudumkeer	3,396	1,665	1,157	6,218
Jamooah to Seeraha	3,452	916	993	5,361
Tituriah to Mozufferpore boundary	9,447	1,138	2,203	12,788
Suckowan to Burhurwa Opium Factory	1,103	1,632	602	3,337
Tircoleah to Sangrampore	6,600	7,664	1,486	15,750
Motiharee to Dhaka	8,278	2,310	664	11,252
Choita Road	16,184	9,035	3,977	29,196
Mudhoobunnee to Dhaka Road	13,830	9,787	7,115	30,732
Mudhoobunnee Road	9,690	5,986	3,776	19,452
Portion of road leading to Sutterghuh and Gobindgunge	291	213	180	684
Chupra to Phoolowria	5,396	7,123	2,917	15,436
Ghorashan to Kutkenwa	22,697	7,715	4,058	34,470
Ghorashan to Tilhura	12,114	4,800	3,409	20,323
Ghorashan to Dhaka	29,714	12,547	7,823	50,084
Bettiah to Gobindgunge	25,556	25,710	15,256	66,522
Jamoonahpore tank	481	339	242	1,062
Kullianpore ditto	2,350	1,253	1,588	5,191
Soriathpore ditto	2,604	2,280	3,140	8,024
Kessuria ditto	658	937	414	2,009
Bhooputpore ditto	668	472	1,077	2,217
Bungarah ditto	506	387	327	1,220
Chand Pursa ditto	200	245	500	945
Re-digging tanks in the neighbourhood of Bara	1,523	254	333	2,110
	253,676	150,702	90,716	495,094
Lower Gunduk Embankment	6,093	1,310	695	8,098
Total Sudder Division	259,769	152,012	91,411	503,192

Name of Work.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Bettiah to Tangraghat	21,052	20,020	4,039	45,111
Lalserya to Bettiah	13,684	13,929	5,341	32,954
Lawriah to Bettiah	349	253	98	700
Lawriah to Bugaha	479	1,008	378	1,865
Juggodishpore tank	797	1,250	101	2,148
Lahurya tank	961	2,769	852	4,582
	37,322	39,229	10,809	87,360
Upper Gunduk Embankment	—	—	—	163,000
Total	—	—	—	250,360
Total of Sudder	259,769	152,012	91,411	503,192
Grand Total	297,091	191,241	102,220	753,552

The daily average number of calls, 53,825. Under this head must be mentioned a very liberal undertaking set on foot on behalf of the Maharajah of Bettiah, who has liberally proposed to take in hand the construction of an embankment to protect certain villages from the encroachment of the River Gudh in Tuppeh Bohar, the whole cost to be defrayed by the Maharajah. The work has been surveyed, and sections made by the Executive Engineer, who reports favourably of the undertaking, which has lately received the Commissioner's sanction on the condition that the work be made a relief work open to all comers, and that the undertaking be supervised generally by the Executive Engineer, and be supplied with the sluice gates he proposes. The work will afford employment to a number of persons for a considerable time.

C.—Transport of Food.

The arrangements under this head continue to work satisfactorily. The amount stipulated, 50,000 maunds per week, has been duly conveyed, and another route through Sarun is in contemplation under the management of the same contractors, Messrs. Lethbridge and Gibbon.

D.—Storage of Grain.

The total amount received into the district was on the 7th March 4,29,116 maunds; of this, 2,94,000 maunds had been actually stored.

The following had been received during the fortnight:—

	Received.	Sent out.
	Mds.	Mds.
In the Bettiah Circle	63,812	277
„ Sudder „	90,068	47,262
„ Ramnuggur	Not received.	

E.—Advances to Private Persons.

The following sums were advanced during the fortnight:—

	Rs.
(1) For storage of grain	45,000
(2) Assistance to ryots	30,000
(3) Land improvement	6,985

The total amount expended up to date on these headings has been—

(1) For storage of grain	1,32,000
(2) Assistance to ryots	60,000
(3) Land improvement	15,142

F.—Charitable Relief.

The system of charitable relief sketched in my last narrative has been elaborated, and the inspectors have been at work in most of the circles for some time. Native doctors with medicines have been sent to Bugaha, Hurnataur, Ramnuggur, Ramgurwah, and Kussuria, and hospitals commenced. In circle No. 1 (Adapore and Motiharee) the number of persons gratuitously relieved during the fortnight was 300. Full particulars have been called for from the other circles, and the details will be given in my next narrative.

The Ramnuggur narrative not having been received, I am unable to give the latest accounts from that tract. The telegraph, however, has been open for some days to Ramnuggur, and Mr. Howe has not reported any very material change since his last narrative was received. As grain was obtainable with great difficulty at Ramnuggur, he was authorized with Commissioner's sanction to sell grain under the conditions laid down in Government Circular No. 817 of 18th ultimo. The results will be reported on receipt of his narrative.

Enclosure No. 4.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 14th March 1874.

Read—

The district narrative of the Bhagulpore division for the fortnight ending on the 7th March.

The narratives were received punctually, except that for the Sonthal Pergunnahs, which did not reach Government until the 13th March; the Deputy Commissioner explains the delay in its transmission.

2. *Monghyr.*—The condition of the people in the Monghyr district is, thanks to the spring crop, better and more hopeful than it was some weeks back; the local supplies of food are sufficient, and applicants for charitable relief are as yet few. On the Government relief works there are 4,088 people employed, besides about 3,000 on the Durbhanga estate works in Khurrukpore, and besides all those who are on private works, which last are, Mr. Lockwood says, becoming numerous. The present report does not say much about the activity of private trade. The transport and storage of Government grain goes on quite as quickly as grain is sent to the district. Sixteen relief centres appear to be actually open, at 13 of which 1,360 people are relieved daily. Looking at what is said about the condition of the people in Khurrukpore, the Magistrate will have to watch any signs of distress that may appear there: future narratives should state how many people are on these irrigation works, and whether any section of the work is set apart for those who cannot do a full day's labour.

Bhagulpore.—Prices have fallen even in the north or worst parts of the Bhagulpore district; supplies of food in the local markets are sufficient, and the Magistrate-Collector considers that, if no hail-storm or other untoward accident befalls, "general distress will certainly be averted till June." On the Government relief works there are 5,400 labourers, and the Magistrate-Collector says that many more are employed on the Court of Wards' and on Durbhanga works. The information regarding charitable relief operations will doubtless be more complete in next narrative. Meanwhile, the Lieutenant-Governor gathers from paragraphs 30-36 that in Muddehpoorah two relief circles, with four centres, have been started; and that in Soopole four circles besides Soopole itself, with 25 relief centres, have been formed. The number of persons receiving charitable relief is not given, but it is said that at some of the centres little relief is as yet required. It is not clear whether the Bhowanipore and Simrahi districts have yet been manned; at each of the others an officer is on the spot.

Purneah.—The fall in prices over the worst parts of the Purneah district is attributed by the Collector to the brisk private trade in grain, and it is satisfactory to learn that "there is no general distress," and that the isolated cases of great distress which are occasionally found are relieved. The number of labourers on relief works has increased to 3,874, but this total would still be small for so great a district if there were any real distress. The increase in the rate of despatches of Government grain from the Caragola depôt, from 4,000 maunds a day in the previous fortnight to 8,350 maunds a day in the fortnight under review, is decidedly satisfactory. Next fortnight's narrative should show the result of Sir Richard Temple's orders for selling Government grain at 12 seers per rupee for Bengal rice. The information given regarding the charitable relief operations is not very explicit, but the Lieutenant-Governor gathers that—

(*a*) 39 relief sub-committees have been appointed;
(*b*) That five regular relief circles have been opened under Messrs. Quillet, Bertelsen, Gouldsbury, Baboo Rajaninath Chatterjee, and Sub-Inspector Rambrahmo Sing; and that three other circles in the sudder sub-division have yet to to manned;
(*c*) That twelve relief circles under planters and other residents are at work, besides those in the Arrareah sub-division;
(*d*) That a daily average of 432 persons are being relieved, besides those of the Arrareah sub-division, where the number is uncertain;
(*e*) That cooked food is distributed at only one centre, uncooked food or wages for labour being given elsewhere.

The Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have the information regarding charitable relief sent for the future in a clearer shape.

Sonthal Pergunnahs.—The Deputy Commissioner's report shows that there is as yet no misery or starvation; prices are lower than they were; it has not been necessary to sell the Government grain urgently indented for on account of certain road-works where the price was said to be eight seers per rupee. So far as this somewhat meagre narrative shows, there is not as yet cause for anxiety regarding the condition of the people in the Sonthal Pergunnahs. The supplementary report regarding relief works and charitable relief has not yet reached the Government.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta,
The 14th March 1874.

NARRATIVE of SCARCITY and RELIEF of the DISTRICT of MONGHYR for the fortnight ending 7th March 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

THE bazaars continue to be well supplied, and although there is difficulty in getting rice in some of the petty bazaars, there is plenty of the cheaper kind of grain for all who have money to purchase it. The rubbee is being cut, but comparatively little has come into the market; what has come in has influenced prices to a considerable extent, and grain is getting cheaper. Of the six million maunds of grain which I calculate will be cut in this district, at least one-third will be exported, the remaining portion will keep the fortunate holders very well until the bhadoi harvest in August, and leave a surplus for sale in the district. There is a considerable amount of cheena and moong on the ground, and I hope this will be safely reaped, and add considerably to our food-supplies. This district is fortunate in having a succession of crops between the rubbee and bhadoi harvests. Besides cheena and moong, there are the mohwa and mango harvests, both of which afford in favourable years vast quantities of food to the people. At present the mohwa and mango prospects are very favourable, and the trees are covered with blossoms. Potatoes, vegetables, milk, ghee, and fish are cheap enough, and there are several articles of food, such as snails and roots, which do not come into the market, but which are consumed by the people with considerable relish. More than a hundred fishermen of Monghyr lately had a great feast off an alligator, fifteen feet long, which they captured during one of their fishing excursions, and which before it was finally killed was exhibited at some little profit to its owners.

The rubbee crops are in most places very good, and, if during the next eight months there is no actual famine in the district, I think we may fairly attribute the fact to the rain which fell in January. Almost everyone I speak to on the subject agrees with me in this particular, and all acknowledge that such a downfall, although most beneficial, was quite unexpected. But for the rain the state of the district must now have been most deplorable, as it is, the condition of the people has improved, at all events for the present. The wretched hamlets and hovels of the despised castes are quite deserted, their inmates having gone off *en masse* to the fields, where I hope all will find their hands full for the next month or six weeks.

I have lately paid a visit to Kharakpoor; the rice crops on the Durbhanga estate in that division almost entirely failed, but I was glad to find the condition of the people generally better than I expected, and I saw no distress except amongst the very low castes. The coolies on the irrigation works appeared well fed and contented, and Mr. Roberts, the Assistant Manager under the Court of Wards, who is continually moving about the country, has undertaken to bring to my notice any case of distress which may come to his knowledge. I opened relief centres at Kharakpoor and Gangta, but the persons relieved were chiefly old women and children; there were also a few lepers most hideously deformed, and the only wonder is that life should linger in such loathsome bodies.

Although I found the people generally in fair condition, I am inclined to agree with Mr. Roberts that many persons will probably require assistance before long. This part of the country is now engaging my particular attention, and I am in communication not only with Mr. Roberts, but with neighbouring zemindars, with a view to open as many relief works as soon as possible. Mr. Roberts has lately been taking levels towards Gangta, and he finds the land lies 75 feet higher than Kharakpoor, so that this part of the district must necessarily be badly off in years of deficient rain. All able-bodied men, however, can easily get employment on the irrigatiom works, and I think distress will only fall on those who are unable to work. Most of the distressed portion of the Kharakpoor thannah falls within the Durbhanga estate, and, although the rice crop has almost entirely failed this year, good crops have been secured during the past three years, and the manager is allowing all rents to stand over until better times arrive, and he is, moreover, prepared to make tuccavi advances to any extent wherever necessary.

The condition of the people generally throughout the district is improving, and will continue to improve so long as the grain now obtained from the rubbee crop lasts. The reapers are allowed from a tithe to one-sixteenth of the sheaves cut by them, and those who are well and strong should earn enough to keep them and their families going for a month or two at least. An English labourer armed with a scythe would make his fortune.

There are a number of paupers from Tirhoot wandering about the district. I am informed that as many as five hundred have assembled at Suraj Ghurra to cut the fine rubbee crops there. I have lately opened a relief centre at Khoyaria on purpose for these people, as many of them have arrived in a very forlorn condition.

Mr. Campbell, writing from the Gidhour pergunnah, south of Jamooe continues to give a favourable report of the condition of the people. The rubbee crops are generally very good, and he saw no signs of starvation; he mentions, however, that at Nawadah the condition of the Mushirs is wretched. As I have in former reports observed, however, the condition of these people always is wretched, and must remain wretched so long as they continue content to sell themselves in bondage for a few rupees, and in days of plenty, instead of making any provision for the future, drink away every available pice. Mr. Campbell, however, will keep his eye on this part of the country and afford relief directly it is really necessary. At Begoo Serai Mr. Wilkins says—" the condition of the people has not changed except in the " larger towns of Begoo Serai and Tegrah. In these the professional beggars are hardly put " to it. I have had a house-to-house inspection of the town of Tegrah made by the head " constable, assisted by the sub-registrar. They discovered a total of 14 professional beggars " in a state calling for relief, also 14 people unable to work, besides 4 *purdah-nishin* women " requiring relief. I am having the same plan pursued here at Begoo Serai, and intend putting

" up the result of these inquiries before the charitable relief committee on the 8th current, in " order that relief operations may be set in hand at Tegra and Begoo Serai,—in other places it " is not wanted. Large numbers of the people have gone across the river to cut the rubbee. " Besides this, I have given out money to various planters for repairing village roads all over " the sub-division; and in addition to this there are two large ghâts (Jamatya and Chumta) " where numbers of coolies are daily at work, and a third ghât will supply work (has in fact " begun to do so) at Simeria. All these works, with the addition of the Tirhoot road, supply " sufficient labour for as many as are in urgent need of it to earn a livelihood for the present. " But of course when all this grain has been carried to Tirhoot, all the rubbee has been cut, " and all the roads repaired, say two months hence, I apprehend that much more extended " measures will have to be taken than are at present found sufficient. The owners of carts " need not keep their carts idle a moment. The contractors for the transport of this immense " quantity of grain are in urgent need of as many carts as they can get, and they pay really " liberally. They have found a great difficulty in procuring carts, all the same, without official " assistance. This difficulty is owing to a generally prevalent rumour that the carts are wanted " for the Commissariat Department, in consequence of a war with Nepaul, and the owners are " afraid they will never get their carts safe home again."

Regarding the case of the two dead bodies found between Luckee Srai and Jamooee, Mr. Money writes: " The mussalman whose death I reported to you was a traveller; it has not " been ascertained where he belonged to, where he was going, or who with. The woman found " dead was by caste a Tattwa, belonging to Garua Pursunda, and, though reported as knocked " over and unable to rise owing to a storm in the early morning, must have been, and certainly " appeared to be, in the last stage of weakness from starvation.

" I started a poor-house there, appointing a mohurir, cook, and paniwalla. At the rates we " agreed on, some ten or twelve persons only entered it with tickets, those at surrounding " villages objecting to leave their houses. I looked after it myself, and so did Deputy Collector " Poorno Chunder Banerjee. Two Babhun women were sent sufficient rice on the 20 days for a " month principle to last till the end of the month, but they refused it on the ground that " (as far as I could make out) their husbands were not also given it. I refused the husbands, " as they were capable of making rope from sebi grass at their own houses, which work I offered " them.

" After four or five days all the inmates refused to continue eating cooked food, so the place " is in temporary suspension. I shall visit it again shortly and renew operations if necessary. " I got the use of a long shed and a separate building for a cook-house in a good situation, " which had been used formerly for extracting the syrup from the sugarcane. I sent a store " of dâl, &c. from Secundra to the charge of the Putwari and Jeth ryots, taking receipts, &c. " in proper form.

" The ticcadar of the village, who, however, is a non-resident, has taken an advance under " the Act to commence a relief work in the village at once, and a new road between Secundra " and Luckee Serai passes within a short distance of the village."

A letter just received from Mr. Currie, dated Camp, Nabi Nugar, near Luckee Serai, says: " We have just had here a short sharp storm of rain and hail, the latter heavy. It will, I am " afraid, have done much mischief to the mangoe blossom and mohwa, if it has been general; " also some to the wheat where ripened. If the mohwa crop be injured, it will take away one " resource for labour. I was told that in a few days the men would return from the rubbee " harvest, and would almost immediately go to the mohwa harvest, and so would find occupation " till rain should fall, and the ploughing, &c. begin again."

I have not received reports regarding the storm from other parts of the district. At Monghyr on Saturday there was a dust storm only, accompanied by light rain, which did no harm.

B.—Relief Works.

At the present moment there is plenty of work in the district for the entire labouring population, either cutting the crops, collecting opium in the poppy fields, making the Government roads, and the zemindari embankments, or preparing the fields for future crops. As I have remarked in former reports, irrigation in this district is in a very defective state, numerous successive crops might be raised where at present only one crop is reaped, and the yield increased a hundred-fold, with embankments to keep out excessive floods, and tanks to irrigate the land during the seasons of drought. The industrious race of Koirees, or market gardeners, who live in the vicinity of large towns in this district, demonstrate by their successive crops the extraordinary productive powers of the land when properly cultivated.

I think, therefore, in providing work for the people that we cannot do better than follow the directions of Government, and turn our attention particularly to zemindary village works, either in reclaiming low inundated land by embankments, or by digging out old tanks and wells where the lands are high and dry. There is generally little difficulty in arousing the zemindars to action, where the estates are held by one man only, but where the shares are numerous, there is generally so much squabbling going on that one sharer refuses to stir hand or foot for fear his obnoxious co-sharer might reap some of the fruits of his labour. The Kugra pergunnah is an instance of this obstruction, but happily it is now under butwarra, and one of the sharers a very wealthy man, told me yesterday that he is prepared to spend any amount of money directly his portion is allotted to him. I have, however, advanced about Rs. 30,000 under the Land Improvement Act for works well scattered over the most distressed pergunnahs, and this should afford a vast amount of labour at almost each man's door. These advances, coupled with tuccavi advances taken by zemindars for distressed well-to-do ryots, should, if properly applied, as I hope they will be, give great relief.

I have sent a list of advances to each relief circle officer, in order that he may visit the works in progress from time to time, and I have requested persons taking tuccavi advances to send me a list of the ryots to whom the money is distributed. I think nearly, if not quite, all the really useful roads for the districts have already been proposed and sanctioned; it will take years to bridge all the roads which we have in hand, and I think we cannot do better, as before remarked, than encourage village works through the zemindars.

The provisions of the Act for the improvement of estates are now becoming generally known throughout the districts, and numerous applications for advances are being made all over the distressed tracts.

There are three reasons why such applications should be numerous. The first is that where the applicant is respectable, and his security gdod, he finds he can get the money without delay, or having to pay gratuities of any kind. The second reason is that his estates and its rent roll will probably be greatly improved by the proposed works. The third reason, which has recently been brought to my notice by Mr. Currie, is that the ryots threaten to leave the estates if the zemindar does not provide work and food for them. Mr. Currie, who superintends the relief circles in the Jumooe sub-division remarks:—"If the zemindars go on all over these tracts taking money "in this way, there will be little need for any but light labour works from Government resources "and the demand for labour will be quite up to if not in excess of the supply."

The Bucktearpore zemindar has taken a thousand rupees for embankments and a thousand rupees for advances to ryots hereafter to be mentioned, and Mr. Christian, at Chapraun factory, a few miles distant, has taken two thousand rupees for repairing embankments in eight or ten villages. Besides the works undertaken with Government money, there are many works going on in various parts of the district, where the zemindars think it undignified to take Government money. I am doing my best to get a list of these works for general information.

I have recently sent a revised map to the Commissioner showing where roads and other works can be made, if necessary. These works include three tanks already sanctioned, and which should afford work to several thousand persons for a month a two. The relief work at Monghyr is now through the arrangements made by Colonel Murray and Dr. Purves well in hand; the beldar appear to keep well and strong on six pice a day, and the women can earn a like amount by working hard for four hours. I generally take the opportunity when visiting these relief works to advise the surplus population to emigrate to Burmah, particularly as having been there myself I can give a favourable account of the country. The extreme credulity and faint-heartedness of the people, however, are always well illustrated by the remarks made by the coolies, whilst alluding to the subject of emigration. I have, however, despatched 126 persons to Calcutta *en route* to Burmah, and I hope to send more shortly.

I annex a statement showing the number of works opened and the number of labourers working on them.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

Rice to some extent is coming into the district, but it bears no comparison to the amount of other grain, which will shortly leave the district. Large quantities of rubbee grain of all kinds will shortly be moved up and down the river, and rail-road to every place where it can be sold at a profit. Several Mohajuns and others whom I have asked say that they can purchase large quantities of wheat, barley, peas, and grain for me in the district if I require it.

The roads of this district north of the Ganges are now being freely used by various contractors for carrying grain to North Bhaugulpore and Tirhoot, fortunately I stored large quantities of grain before the contractors came into the field, for they have scoured the country and engaged every available cart. Bridges of boats have or are being made over the rivers north of the Ganges, and the kutcha roads are really in excellent order. I have not heard of any block anywhere. I have by a recent arrangement still to store more than 30,000 maunds at Bucktearpore and Surbella, in the northern portion of Furkya towards Bhaugulpore, in order to bring the total amount in the tract of country up to 50,000 maunds. I do not anticipate much difficulty in the matter.

I shall not, however, get on very fast, as I have promised not to interfere with the contractors; but as we have 18,941 maunds at Bucktearpore to go on with, this will suffice until fresh supplies can arrive.

D.

I am of opinion that when the total amount consigned to this district, 3 lakhs of maunds, has been stored that we shall have enough. I am increasing the stores north of Furkya to a total 30,000 maunds at Bucktearpur, 10,000 maunds at Mr. Christian's factory at Chaprah, and 10,000 maunds at the Surbella indigo factory. 18,941 maunds have already been stored at Bucktearpur, which hitherto has supplied the Chaprah relief centre. I am about to move on grain as best I can; considering nearly if not all the carts in the district have been taken up to carry grain to Tirhoot and Bhaugulpur. I can, however, store all the grain in my empty golahs at Monghyr, Khagaria, and Gogree, and move it on as fast as possible.

There is, however, quite enough grain already stored at Bucktearpur to last until fresh supplies arrive. I have been moving on grain from Luckee Serai to Sondhi, a newly selected place of storage in Bisthazaree, during the fortnight, and shall have 25,000 maunds stored there before long. I propose paying this place a visit during the week. During a recent visit to the Bucktearpur golah, I observed that the maize stored there is attacked by weevils, and I am selling it to the coolies on the road, much to their satisfaction, as maize is their favourite food.

I annex statement of the golahs and the amount of grain stored in them.

E.

I have not received many applications for advances for the purchase and storage of grain during the fortnight, as everyone is waiting to see how the rubbee harvest affects prices. The prevalent opinion appears to be that gram, wheat, and barley will get cheaper, and anyone making large purchases now may lose by the transaction.

The Monghyr Municipality has received an advance of Rs. 5,000, and about 654 persons are employed daily under the cowrie system.

I annex a statement showing the amount of advances under Act XXVI. of 1871 made hitherto. Applications for advances are daily coming in, and the Relief Officers, when they have time, are employed in making the local investigations. All the advances made hitherto have been to men of known position and respectability.

F.

Committees have been appointed at the following places: Monghyr, Jamooe, and Begoo Serai. Forty-two sub-committees have been appointed in the district. The only special relief sub-division as yet opened and officered is at Jamooe under Mr. Currie.

During the past fortnight the most distressed tracts of the district have been allotted into relief circles as follows:—

1st Circle, in Jamooe sub-division, comprising all pergunnahs Bisthazaree and the northern portion of pergunnah Gidhour.

Mr. Baillie, C.S., Superintendent, Head-quarters, Sikandrah.

Relief Golahs - - -	Sikandrah.
	Jamooe.
	Chandoura.

2nd Circle, comprising all the Umerthoo pergunnah and the southern and western portion of Maldah pergunnah.

Mr. Money, C.S., Superintendent.

Relief Golahs - - -	Sheikpoorah.
	Chouara.
	Maldah.

3rd Circle, comprising all the Salimabad pergunnah and the western portion of pergunnah Chundun Bhooka.

Superintendent, Quarter-master C. Linton.

Relief Golahs - - -	Luckee Serai.
	Sondhi.

Mr. Currie, C.S., is in charge of active relief operations in the Jamooe sub-division.

4th Circle, comprising the northern part of pergunnah Farkia lying above the River Tiljuga.

Mr. Mansion, Superintendent, Head-quarters, Bucktearpur.

Relief Golahs - - -	Bucktearpur.
	Surbela.
	Chapraun.

Mr. Money for some time past has been from village to village in the Jamooee sub-division, relieving distress wherever found. Now that the other officers are at their posts Mr. Money will confine himself to his own circle.

Mr. Baillie arrived last week at his head-quarters, and has commenced operations.

Quarter-Master Linton has not yet arrived, but Mr. Currie is taking his place until his arrival.

Mr. Mansion starts to-day for Bucktearpur, where Moulvie Abdul Jubbee is at present engaged in visiting the surrounding villages.

The number of relief circles opened and managed by planters, zemindars, and other residents up to date is as follows:—

1. Monghyr.
2. Bucktearpur.
3. Chapraun.
4. Khagaria.
5. Khurrukpoor.
6. Gungta.
7. Lackee Serai.
8. Sheikpoorah.
9. Patchna.
10. Sondhi.
11. Girua Pursunda.
12. Choara.
13. Mulleypoor.
14. Jamooe.
15. Orain.
16. Obheypoor.

No. 312—S.R., dated Bhaugulpore, the 10th March 1874.

From V. T. Taylor, Esq., Collector of Bhaugulpore, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I have the honour herewith to submit the eighth fortnightly narrative.

A.—State of the Country.

2. I returned last night from the north, and since the last narrative was despatched, I have been over a large extent of country in all the worst tracts of Soopool, as well as tracts where but little distress need be apprehended. With the exception of one long and narrow tract to the

extreme west of the Soopool sub-divisien, I found nothing which would justify the assertion that *famine* was imminent. In the tract alluded to there is no rubbee, the country being solely an aghani rice-growing one; in the other portions of Soopool east of the Dhimra, the wheat, rahur, and cheena, are exceedingly good, far better than usual, and undoubtedly a large area has been sown down than in ordinary years; this is especially the case in pergunnahs Harawuth and Dhuphur and the whole of the Muddehpoora sub-division.

3. Throughout the Soopool and Muddehpoora sub-divisions ploughing is general, and not only ploughing, but fallow lands are being dug up and prepared for murwa. Moongh and lowland paddy have been sown to a fair extent already, and in many places it has germinated well; all this has tended to bring prices down, and prices have not only fallen, but grain is more easily procurable throughout the north of the district.

4. Should there be no hail or no heavy rain within the next fortnight, the rubbee, taken all in all, will be a splendid crop. It is now fast ripening, and early peas and early wheat are being harvested; should any damage be done to the rubbee crops by hail or rain, the present bright prospects will of course be very materially altered, otherwise general distress will be certainly averted till June.

5. The Muddehpoora officer writes: "Owing to the prospects of rubbee and cheena being good, the bazars are for the present *very well* supplied with the usual grains; the price of rice was at the markets in the north 14 to 15½ seers per ruppee local weight (64 tolahs), and at Kissengunge 16 to 18 seers same weight." He further adds that "the traders are now beginning to open out their stores to a certain extent; persons who stated that they had but a few maunds of grain each are now admitting that they have a great deal more."

6. I was fortunate enough in reaching some of the principal hâts on market days, one specially at Gumhuria, the boundary between Soopool and Muddehpoora, where I saw very large quantities of every kind of grain and potatoes, and a brisk sale going on. At Peepra hât in the Soopool sub-division, as well as at Bhuloa Bazar, the supplies were ample and grain of all kinds cheaper than they were at Kundowlee; north of Dugmurah the stores are plentiful, and in Soopool itself every shop had a full supply of grain. Whether this state of things will continue it is impossible to say, but there can be no question that matters are more satisfactory now than they were a month or so ago.

7. The Soopool officer writes: "Though there has not been any very great fall in prices, the " supply of food-grains in the various bazars is more free than it was. Common rice is now " obtainable at from 10 to 13 seers per rupee and murwa from 12½ to 16. Prices to the north " are easier than the south;" and this latter fact he attributes not so much to the importations from the Ganges, which are now being made to a small extent by private traders, as to the stock of grain in the large rice-producing tracts to the north being larger than had been imagined.

8. At head-quarters, where there is no distress, the prices are—common rice, 11 seers 5 chittacks; wheat, 14 seers 8 chittacks; Indian-corn, 15 seers; and gram, 16 seers 7 chittacks.

9. In the Banka sub-division prices are still rising, but "any required food in small quantities can be easily procured in every bazar and hât." Rice is selling now from 12 seers to 13 seers; gram 13½ seers to 15 seers; wheat 12 seers to 12½ seers; kurthi 12½ seers to 17½ seers; kulai 12½ seers to 17 seers; and Indian corn from 13½ seers to 15 seers.

10. The following table shows approximately, as far as can be ascertained, the difference in prices of some of the food grain *now* and at the corresponding period of 1866:—

	Rice, 1st sort.		Rice, common.		Murwa.		Indian-corn.		Wheat.	
	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.
Soopool - - -	—	9½ to 10	—	10 to 13	—	13 to 16	—	—	—	11
Muddehpoora - -	—	8	—	11 to 12	—	13 to 15	—	—	—	10
Head-quarters - -	12-10	10-1	13-4	11-5	—	—	15-2	15-8	10-1	14-8
Banka - - -	—	12	14	12 to 13	—	—	17	15	9-8	12

11. *Rainfall, if any.*—·05 only fell on Saturday, the 7th, at Head-Quarters, and ·01 at Muddehpoora—slight showers doing neither harm nor good. At Soopool ·40 was measured; this rain will be beneficial, the rubbee not being so far advanced as further south.

12. From the remarks above made it will be seen that the condition of the people generally is not so bad as had been anticipated, and excepting some of the lowest labouring classes, there is ample work for all who wish for it in the Soopool sub-division; and during the Hooli and Mohurrun even these men left the work, on some roads every man did so, to join in the processions, &c. The cultivators as a class are fully occupied tilling their own lands, and even the labourers now on the roads may be expected to leave them for the coming harvesting operations. The Municipality have not as yet found it necessary to undertake any especial relief operations.

13. The statement of thefts for the month of February is annexed; this time it has been drawn up according to the sub-divisions.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

14. The statement given below shows what is being done in this head.

Name of road and number on Map.	Progress in making out relief work.	Progress in opening relief work.	Number of labourers.	Supply of food thereat.	Condition of labourers.	Mode of payment.	Rate of wages.	Arrangements for tools.	Disbursement up to 7th March 1874, as far known.
Road from Soopool to Bhooteah, 19 N.	All done - -	11 miles in five different places.	1,185 coolies daily on average consisting of 70 per cent. labouring and 30 per cent. non-labouring classes.	All draw their supply from bazar. An experimental shop was opened at Bella for sale of Government rice at 10 seers per rupee, to the labourers only, but from 25th to 28th February only 1¼ maunds were sold. This small sale proves that grain of different sorts is cheaper in the bazars.	Matters are better than at last report as grain of sorts is easily had in the bazar, though their price has not fallen. Huts have been constructed for accommodation of coolies resorting to work with their families. The percentage of women is nearly. No diseases of any epidemic kind have yet appeared. Brahmins, and other respectable classes have not yet joined the work. A little rain fell on the 6th March.	By daily labour	Men 0 1 6 to 0 2 0 Women 0 1 0 to 0 1 3 Children 0 0 6 to 0 1 0	Those who have, bring their own tools; and the rest are supplied from Government store.	1,723
Road from Bella to Barroary -	3¾ miles - -	2¼ miles in five different places.	1,248 ditto - - -	Ditto - - -	Ditto ditto ditto -	Ditto -	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	1,800
Road from Singhessur to Nathpoor, 10 N.	Not necessary -	6 miles - -	854, all are labouring classes.	Ditto - - -	Condition of labourers said to be bad, but general features of the country fair. The condition of labourers I saw on the road was decidedly good.	Both by daily labour and task-work.	By task-work at Rs. 2-4 per 1,000 c. ft. By daily labour— Mates 0 2 0 to 0 2 6 Men 0 1 6 to 0 2 0 Women 0 1 0 to 0 1 3 Children 0 0 6 to 0 1 0	All supplied from Government store.	1,217
Road from Singhessur to Soopool, 16 & 17 N.	Ditto - - -	1 mile - - -	75 ditto - - -	Ditto - - -	Ditto ditto ditto -	Ditto -	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	115
Road from Soopool to Peeprah -	..	1 mile - - -	261 ditto - - -	Ditto - - -	Ditto ditto ditto -	Ditto -	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	86
Milkee Road, 5 N. - - -	..	3¼ miles - - -	642 coolies daily on average, consisting of 28¼ per cent. non-labouring, and the rest labouring classes.	From bazar - - -	Condition tolerable; reaping has commenced, and the coolies belonging to non-labouring caste are falling off.	By task-work -	From 1-12 to 2-0 per 1,000 c. ft., according to height of embankment.	Noonias and Beldars have their own tools, and the rest are supplied from Government stores.	833
Muddehpoora Road, 1st Section, 1 N.	Not necessary -	2½ miles - -	77 coolies daily on average, consisting all non-labouring, low caste people.	Ditto - - -	Condition tolerable; season for reaping corn being at hand, the people are not willing to work on the road.	By daily labour	Men 0 2 0 Women 0 1 3 Children 0 1 0	All supplied from Government store.	84
Muddehpoora and Ganges Road, 2nd Section, 1 N.	Ditto - - -	5¼ miles - -	151, all are labouring classes.	The coolies procure their food themselves.	Rice has become cheaper, and it sells at 13 seers per rupee of Calcutta weight (80 tolah).	Ditto -	Men 0 1 6 Women 0 1 0 Children 0 0 6	The coolies are compelled to bring their own tools, but those who are very poor are supplied from Government store.	Expenditure not shown by the Executive Engineer.
Muddehpoora to Sookhasun -	..	..	90 coolies on an average -	No further information.		Ditto -	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	85
Road from Pertabgunge to Beerpoor, 11 N.	Work just commenced.		125 class not known.	....	....	..	..	..	..
Road from Bungaon to Phoolont, No. 21 N.	Not commenced.		....	....	....	..	..	..	..
Narainpoor to Narkuttea and Sonebursa, No. 4 N.	..	..	104 coolies daily on average.	No further information.		..	..	..	181

Name of Road and Number on Map.	Progress in making out Relief Work.	Progress in opening Relief Work.	Number of Labourers.	Supply of Food thereat.	Condition of Labourers.	Mode of Payment.	Rate of Wages.	Arrangements for Tools.	Disbursement up to 7th March 1874, as far as known.
Bowsee Road from mile 8th to 42nd, 1 S.	Not necessary	The general repairs to this road being finished, the work is stopped.	45 persons of labouring class.	—	—	—	—	—	20
Road from Kutoriah to Semultullah, 27 S.	Completed -	3,200 Rgft. in six different places.	224, consisting two per cent. non-labouring and the rest labouring classes.	Home stock of food-grain of all the labourers have run short; they draw their supplies of food from Kutoriah to Talloah Bazars.	This part of the district is hilly, jungly and thinly peopled. The condition of the labourers working on the road is not very bad. They earn from 0-1-9 to 0-2-3 a day, and if there be good mowah crop, the scarcity will not be felt by the poor class for two or three months more. They generally live on generah and koorthee.	Both by daily labour and task work.	By daily labour— Men - 0 1 6 Women - 0 1 0 Children - 0 0 6 By task work from 1-12 to 1-14 according to soil.	The village people and some of the beldars are supplied with Government tools, and the rest use their own.	307
Banka to Kutoriah, No. 26 S.	Work not commenced yet.								
Kutoriah to Chundun, No. 28 S.									
Peerpointee to Barrahat, No. 16 S.									
Bhauguepoor to Umeerpoor, No. 2 S.									
Mudhai to Pootea, No. 12 S. -									
Umeerpoor to Banka, No. 4 S.									
Bhauguepoor to Ghorghat, No. 18 S.									
Sooltangunge to Arjusgunge, No. 19 S.									
Ghogha to Moheawan, No. 13 S.									
Road from Dhoorea to Bowsee, 9 S.	—	13,400 cubic feet of earthwork in one place.	123 coolies daily on average. All labouring classe.	Home stock of food-grains of labouring classes having run short they draw their supplies from bazar.	There is a great demand for works, so much so that on the 2nd day of commencing this road there were 200 labourers in one place only. The labourers are able-bodied men, and do not look yet famine-stricken. This part of the country is rather thinly peopled.	By task and daily labour.	By task labour 1-12 per 1,000 c. ft. By daily labour— Men - 0 1 6 Women - 0 1 0 Children - 0 0 6	The beldars and some of the labouring classes work with their own tools, and the rest are supplied from Government store.	36
Muddehpoora and Bailoo Road, 7 N.	—	—	228 Ditto - -	The coolies procure their own food.	Rice has become cheaper and is sold at 12 seers per rupee of 80 tolah weight.	By task work -	2-4 per 1,000 c. ft. including dressing and ramming.	The coolies are compelled to bring their own tools, but those who are very poor are supplied from Government store.	Not shown by Executive Engineer.

V. T. Taylor,
Collector.

15. In addition to the above there is the large road being made by the Durbhungah Court of Wards through the north of the district to Nathpore and the road from Singhessur to Keotgaon on the Purneah boundary. The Court of Wards have in hand several large new tanks in Pergunnah Narradigur and eight or nine more projected, all these will be shown on the maps shortly to be submitted. These works employ a large number of people, both of Narradigur and emigrants from Tirhoot.

16. The rate of wages on our roads has been raised, but the result does not show so great a rush to the works as might have been expected; two or three of the roads show an increase. One overseer rejoices in the rise with a remark that now we shall draw away labourers from private works and show an increase over our roads; should this really turn out to be the case it is a matter to be regretted. Mr. J. Christian is undertaking a large *bandh* some 6½ miles in length; other zemindars have, as I saw myself, started tanks and roads. Mr. Grant, District Engineer, who saw many of these minor works subsequent to my visit to them, told me he saw but very few men at work upon them and thought it probable that the men had only been employed specially for me to see; this may have been so but it is more than probable that the approaching harvest or the rise in our rates had more to do with the men leaving the works, while in the north several persons complained to me of the rise in rates as making it difficult to get coolies who now refuse work unless private parties pay higher than the Government rate; notwithstanding the rise in wages, the people still keep away from the works though there are ample works available and new works have been opened during the fortnight.

17. The experiment was tried of selling Government rice at 10 seers for the rupee on two roads: the result on one road has not been reported, but on the other a few seers only were sold in three days, other grains being cheaper in the market. As long as the coolies *get grain*, and get it cheaper than 10 seers for the rupee, it is not likely that they will buy Government rice. The zemindars cannot or will not raise their rates which are fair ordinary rates, and we shall prevent them carrying out their projected works by reducing their labourers by our higher rates.

18. We have a large *bandh* in a Government estate put in hand in Pergunnah Ootturkhund, which will afford plenty of labour for some time to come; it is in a distressed part of Soopool, and will be a most useful undertaking in every way.

C.—TRANSPORT OF GRAIN.

19. At the Bhaugulpore railway station the total exports for the fortnight have been 8,634, against imports amounting to 17,138; of the former 3,754 maunds were wheat and 3,523 gram for Howrah; nearly all the rest, excepting 185 maunds of rice up for Jamalpore, were gram for various stations *down* the line. Of the imports 1,969 were wheat, 8,718 gram, and 3,085 Indian corn; these appear to be taking the place of wheat as they have been imported from Lahore, Loodiana, Phillour, Saharunpore, Meerut, Jullunder, Umballa, Agra, Delhi, and other places.

20. The returns from the other stations are unimportant.

21. There is very little, if any, private exportation going on within the district, though occasionally a few imports are heard of.

D. STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

22. The following are the places of storage now selected with the amount sanctioned for each:—

Muddehpoora Sub-division.

			Already stored.
Muddehpoora		50,000	19,666
Bhowaneepore		25,000	—
Kamp		50,000	—
Sonebursa		14,500	14,500*
Patterghat		3,500	3,500
Byjnathpore		15,000	—
Ghylar or Lalpore (as Mr. Martin tells me the place has been altered)		10,000	—
Soopool Sub-division.			
Soopool		1,30,000	90,843
Chundail		10,000	—
Rutowlee		8,000	—
Hurdee		10,000	—
Nowabakkur		30,000	3,800
Dugmurah		30,000	—
Roshwar		40,000	—
Nurgo		20,000	—
Chandpeeper	Court of Wards	12,000	—
Bhaptiahi		12,000	about 3,000
Burhurra		6,000	„ 5,000
Peepra		20,000	—
Pertabgunge		30,000	3,500

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* Stored at Sonebursa and Phoolont. The Phoolont grain is to be taken hereafter to Sonebursa.

Soopool Sub-division—cont.

		Already stored.
Bhulooa	20,000	—
Simrahi	40,000	—
Nathpoor	10,000	—
Bheemnugur	5,000	—
Arjillee Dulgaon	8,000	—
Ekar	60,000	7,725
Putchgachia	20,000	—
Sewani	20,000	—
Nowhutta	10,000	—
Burgaon	5,000	—
Bungong	30,000	15,000
Muheshi	10,000	—
Sudder Sub-division.		
Permeshurpore	1,000	1,000
Banka Sub-division.		
Dhooryah	2,250	2,250
Kutooria	4,773	4,773

23. All the rice lying at Jugdees Chuck has been removed to Phoolont, whence it will be sent on as rapidly as possible. I having only just returned have not as yet received any information from Mr. Hankey, or Captain Grant, as to the working of the Monghyr contract for Soopool, but as far as I understand the contractors have despatched over 20,000 maunds. Mr. Smith has succeeded in procuring carts from Nepal, which are to be employed locally in removing grain from Soopool to some of the distant golahs. Nowabakkur and Ekar have been both stored *from Soopool,* but as the grain from Monghyr can go to Ekar and southern golahs, Mr. Smith will carry the Soopool grain to the northern golahs.

24. It is possible that all the grain ordered will not be required, but this will form the subject of a separate letter (if necessary) after careful consideration and consultation with the Commissioner.

25. The total quantity stored, as far as is known, amounts to (exclusive of the Court of Wards' grain) 1,66,557 maunds.

E.—Advances to Private Parties.

26. Since the last narrative was despatched, Rs. 8,000 have been paid as advances for the purchase of grain including Rs. 1,000 to petty traders; other applications have been received and the money will be paid as soon as they are sanctioned.

27. Several applications have been received for tuccavee advances for small amounts, but I am obliged to return many of them as they are incorrect.

28. Several zemindars are making small roads or *bandhs* and tanks without applying for Government assistance, and as long as they continue to do this it is really satisfactory.

29. Mr. Hennessy has applied for and obtained Rs. 5,000 to assist his ryots. Sanction has been granted for Rs. 10,000 to Mr. Christian of Bungaon, this will be paid as soon as applied for; the further sum of Rs. 1,500 has been sanctioned to a native zemindar, and an application from Mr. F. Bowers of Inamputtee for Rs. 5,000 has just been received, and will be forwarded to the Commissioner for sanction.

F.—Charitable Relief.

30. The district north of the Ganges (that of Soopool and Muddehpoora sub-divisions) has been now sub-divided into circles as under—

Muddehpoora sub-division—Kamp Circle comprising the golah stations at Kamp, Sonebursa, Phoolont, and Byjnathpore; and the Bhowanipore Circle comprising the golah stations at Bhowanipore, Muddehpoora, and Lallpore.

The Superintendent of the Kamp Circle, Mr. Inman, has already arrived at Kamp.

31. I have visited all the above places while in the north, excepting Lallpore. I was not aware that Lallpore had been selected in preference to a place already selected and visited by me until it was too late. I trust before very long all the golahs will have been erected.

32. All the relief centres for these two Circles have been given in a previous narrative; it has only been considered necessary to open four of them, but at only two of them have any applicants for relief appeared, viz., Muddehpoora and Byjnathpore; those relieved at the former place are very few, those at the latter are nearly all beggars or emigrants from the Tirhoot district on their way eastward for work.

33. The Soopool sub-division has been sub-divided into Soopool Circle, comprising the golahs at Soopool, Chundail, Rutowlee, and Hurdee.

The Naradigur Circle comprising the golahs at Nowabakur, Dugmurrah, Roshwar, Nurgo, Chundpeeper, Bhaptiahi, and Burhura.

This circle is under the direct management of the Court of Wards, being Durbhanga Raj property. Mr. Duff has already been appointed; he will have an assistant at Durbhanga.

The Simrahi Circle, comprising the golahs at Peepra, Pertabgunge, Bhulooa, Simrahi, Nathpore, Bheemnugur, and Arjillee Dulgaon.

The Superintendent for this Circle has not yet been appointed.

The Ekar Circle, comprising the golahs at Ekar, Putchgatchia, Semani, Nohutta, and Burgaon. Mr. Wilson has joined his appointment as Superintendent of this Circle.

The Bungaon Circle, comprising the golahs at Bungaon and Muheshi.

Mr. John Christian of Bungaon factory has undertaken the management of this Circle.

34. Of the above I have visited every place excepting Rutowlee, Roshwar, Nurgo, and Nathpore; the golahs are being rapidly pushed on to completion, and will, I believe, all be ready for the grain as soon as it arrives.

35. All the relief centres (previously named) have been opened, some of them, as the sub-divisional officer remarks, "more as feelers than on account of actual distress." As yet the applicants for relief consist almost entirely of the very lowest classes and of habitual beggars, blind, lame, maimed, and lepers, with a very large proportion of children. I visited many of these Soopool centres, and any thing more loathsome than many of the persons coming in for relief it is impossible to imagine. These people in ordinary years are scattered about and obtain relief from zemindars or villagers; now whenever they appear they are warned off and told to go to the thana or relief centre where they will get fed by Government. The sight is a sickening one, and these objects must not be allowed to die, but I shall make such arrangements as will ensure these people being collected together, kept together, and fed together, entirely apart and distinct from any ordinary applicant for relief whose natural prejudices would prompt him to keep away altogether, rather than sit down and eat with such company.

36. Several of the applicants are men from Tirhoot who, after a good meal, go away in search of work; these generally go to the nearest road or tank.

37. Circular No. 1251—S.R. of the 5th March, has only just reached, and it has been sent to the sub-divisional officers. I will endeavour to reply to it with more detailed information if possible than I have been able from my own knowledge and personal observation to record in this; the sub-divisional officers have been unable to get complete returns of the numbers fed daily from the village committees.

38. None of the cultivating class have at present applied for relief, they are as previously mentioned all busy ploughing.

No. 1161F, dated Purneah, the 9th March 1874.

From W. Kemble, Esq., Magistrate and Collector to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I have the honour to submit my fortnightly narrative for the period ending Saturday, 7th March.

A.

The supply in the town of Purneah is still increasing daily, and petty traders come in to buy from the importers. Rice was this morning selling at Rs. 3-12, and the coarsest kind at Rs. 3-8 per maund. The traders at Dulargunge, a large mart on the Mohanuda above Dingra, from which jute, tobacco, and oil-seeds are exported, and to which salt only is ordinarily imported, are now turning their attention to rice. The state of the river does not admit of heavily laden boats coming up, but I hear that 23 half-boat-loads are on their way up, and that 300 or 400 maunds have arrived. At Dingra rice is at 10 seers per rupee. At Raneegunge dhan is being sold at 15 seers per rupee, much of it, I hear, comes from Dinagepore, and several of our eastern markets are supplied from that district. I wrote to the Collector on the subject, and was informed by him that this rice finds its way from Lahari and other marts in his district, and that much was brought through from Cooch Behar.

The importation into Kissengunge from the north seems to have fallen off of late, but the price keeps steadily at 10 seers; nearer Purneah, even in the country hâts, it has fallen to 11 seers; near Kudba it has fallen considerably, as it is selling at Chandpore hât at 13 seers, mokai 13 seers, and kahi 14 seers; this falling of prices is owing entirely to private importations, the amount of which, however, cannot be ascertained, as it is all carried on by petty traders. The quantity of mokai imported and sold has been very considerable; the condition of the people continues much the same; isolated cases of great distress are found occasionally and relieved, and in many villages a few families are found to be very badly off; but that there is no general distress, is, I think, clear from the few persons who come to work on our roads. The rubbee prospects continue excellent, and ploughing and preparation for the early rice sowings are going on actively. As long as the supply of grain is kept up as it is at present, I have no fears for the people, as the agricultural requirements of the well-to-do ryots in the villages, and the relief works as at present arranged, can afford employment to all who desire work. The rates prevailing in Dhurrumpore were reported last fortnight, and I find that plough labourers in Kusbahamour get 2 annas a day, and in the north of the district emigration into Nepal, where in addition to this a meal a day is given, is said to be going on. The reaping of the rubbee will soon commence, which will give food to a large number of labourers, as they will be paid in kind.

On Saturnay 0·93 inches of rain fell at Arrariah, and 0·36 at Kissengunge; at the latter place there was a heavy hailstorm, which must have done some damage to the mango blossom, which is, I am glad to say, very abundant this year.

Mangoes will, as they did in the last year of scarcity, provide food for some time. The sale of grain in Bulrampore and in the Dengrah relief circles has just been authorised by Sir R. Temple, whom I last week accompanied to Dingrah and Kissengunge. In these neighbourhoods there is but little rubbee, and private trade is not so active as near Kudba and Purneah. The number of grain thefts during the fortnight are 32, and the value of the other property stolen Rs. 263. A comparative statement of dacoities is annexed.

District Purneah.

Statement of Dacoities, Robberies, and Thefts for the Month of February 1874, and the corresponding months of 1872–73, as called for by Government Letter, No. 4081, dated 20th December 1873.

—	Dacoity.			Robbery.			Theft.			House-breaking and Theft.			Total of all four Crimes.			Remarks.
	Headings Nos. 30 and 31 of Crime Return.			Headings Nos. 32 and 33 of Crime Return.			Heading No. 43 of Crime Return.			Headings Nos. 35, 36, and 42 of Crime Return.						
	Month of February 1874.	Corresponding month of 1873.	Corresponding month of 1872.	Month of February 1874.	Corresponding month of 1873.	Corresponding month of 1872.	Month of February 1874.	Corresponding month of 1873.	Corresponding month of 1872.	Month of February 1874.	Corresponding month of 1873.	Corresponding month of 1872.	Month of February 1874.	Corresponding month of 1873.	Corresponding month of 1872.	
Head-quarters, Purneah	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	5	3	29	9	9	40	14	12	
Kissengunge	1	1	—	—	—	1	4	8	4	16	7	—	21	16	5	
Arrareah	2	—	—	—	—	—	24	2	1	10	4	7	36	6	8	
Grand Total	3	1	—	—	—	1	39	15	8	55	20	16	97	36	25	

B.

The progress report submitted by Mr. Cordner is annexed, but this only shows ths roads under the Public Works Department. Daily payments are made and proper establishments of cashiers appointed. I have not been able to visit the north road, as I have been kept in or near the station with the Commissioner and Sir R. Temple. The returns are only brought up to the 28th of February, but, from inquiries made at Kissengunge I ascertained that there was a demand for labour in the north, and that work was opened.

The labourers on the Kudbah, Kusbah Amour, and Kissengunge roads have been visited by Mr. Wyer or by me, and all arrangements found satisfactory. Owing to the fall of prices Government grain is not largely sold. The quantities taken by the moodees are as follow:—

	Mds.
Barsoe	50
Dengrah	130
Arrareah	100
Mutiari	70
Kudbah	150
Kusbah Amur	40
Ranigunge	10
Total	550

The total number of labourers on the Department Public Works roads on 21st February was 2,516, but they have since largely increased. A recent order of Sir R. Temple, that Government rice be sold at 12 seers the rupee, will bring in many more.

On Mr. Rattray's roads by his last report there were 694 persons employed; he paid them in grain.

On the roads worked under Mr. Wyer and planters there were 448; on tanks in the Municipality there were an average of 216. This makes the total number of labourers employed daily 3,874.

Under the relief arrangements to be noticed hereafter, there will be a large increase in the number of petty works. Some roads worked by villagers, especially that through the distressed villages between Belgachi and Kudbah, are answering well the double purpose for which they are intended.

PURNEAH DISTRICT.

Progress Report of Famine Relief Works for the Week ending Saturday the 28th February 1874.

Names of roads.	Progress in marking out relief works.	Progress in opening works.	Aggregate number of labourers thereon.	Supply of food thereat.	Condition of labourers, and general feature of the country.	Mode of payment.	Rate of wages.	Arrangement of tools.	Disbursement during the week. Rs. A. P.
1 Purneah and Kosy road -	The line has been laid out from Purneah to Kealgoma, about 36 miles.	Work will shortly be started, and arrangements are in progress.	Nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 Muteeari and Kolliagunge road.		Orders have been issued to start work along the line in six places, and it is probable that labourers are now under employment.							
3 Kissengunge to Titalya. -		The Sub-Engineer in charge has been directed to open out work on this line, and the ensuing week will show labourers engaged.							
4 Ditto to Neekmard -	Estimate submitted for sanction.	Three parties have been started.	616	Food is still procurable in the local hâts or fairs at 10 seers per rupee.	Generally good - -	By Sub-Engineer in charge of works.	By task from Rs. 1-14 to 2-8 per thousand, and by daily labour— Man - 0 1 6 to 0 2 0 Women - 0 1 0 to 0 1 3 Children - 0 0 6 to 0 1 0	Government tools are supplied to all who bring none of their own.	152 0 0
5 Toorkally to Dengrah Ghât	Whole line laid out -	Four parties at work -	3,734	Procurable in local markets and Government stores.	Good - - -	By cashier, 3 and 4 times a week.	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	306 13 0
6 Dengrah Ghât to Bhopla Tajpore.	Line laid out throughout -	Two ditto - -	711	Government stores of rice have been opened out for sale.	A few of the labourers coming to this work do but little work in consequence of impoverished condition, and one on subsistence allowance. The majority, however, are earning over 2 as. per diem.	In cash, 3 times a week by sub-overseer.	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	225 5 9
7 Raigunge to Balrampore -	Whole line laid out -	Three ditto started -	4,050	Government stores have been opened.	A few of the people who come in for work are weak and put on subsistence allowance.	Daily payments are generally made.	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	629 9 5
8 Maldah and Hureenkoree road.	Whole line laid out for work. Estimate submitted.			Work can be commenced as soon as it is considered advisable to do so.					
9 Kudbah to Barsoi - -	Whole line laid out -	Work has been started -	644	Government stores have been opened.	Tolerably good with exceptions.	Daily payments are generally made.	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	74 9 0
12 Purneah to Mateeari road -	Old existing road - -	One party - - -	4,619	Procurable in local marts -	Good - - -	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	425 0 0
15 Purneah to Moniharee -	—		420			This road is being worked through Indigo planters.			50 0 0
16 Ditto to Kudba - -	—	Three parties at work -	3,251	Government stores of rice have been opened.	Fair - - - -	Three times weekly -	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	497 6 3
22 Kissengunge to Bheryadangi.	Estimate submitted and sanctioned.	One party started - -	210	Food is still procurable in local bazaars at 10 seers per rupee.	Good - - - -	By Sub-Engineer in charge of work.	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	30 0 0
23 Kissengunge to Bahadoorgunge.	Estimate submitted and sanctioned.	Two parties are at work -	592	Government stores of rice have been opened at both places.	Good - - - -	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	100 0 0
35 Saibgunge to Mohenderpore.	Repairs to old road -	One party at work - -	508	Ditto ditto -	Good - - -	Three times weekly -	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	56 14 11
36 Bulrampore to Raneegunge.	Estimate submitted -	Two parties at work -	509	Although Government stores of rice are opened for sale, the labourers do not resort to them, as the outturn of rice from purchase of paddy is more procurable.	Good - - -	In cash 3 times a week by sub-overseer.	Ditto ditto -	Ditto ditto -	82 1 9
			20,464						2,629 12 1

W. FERNIE,
For Executive Engineer.

C.

The supply of food through private traders brought into Purneah is hard to be estimated. Every cart-bullock and pony which can be got is now employed in bringing in supplies either for mahajuns or for Government. The rates at present paid ensure a sufficiency of carts for our purposes, and are not so high as to check importation, or unduly raise prices. Mr. Mulock has given me the following memorandum regarding transport. I only add that, if necessary, we can arrange to get small boats up the Mahanuddy now, and some of larger tonnage in June.

W. Kemble,
Magistrate and Collector.

Mr. Mulock's Memorandum.

The transport power during the present fortnight has increased enormously; up to the evening of the 7th 311,933 maunds had been carted away from Caragolah. The return for Sunday (yesterday) has not been received yet of this: but we have received information that 235,493 maunds have been actually stored.

The total number of carts despatched from Caragolah during the fortnight is 10,611, carrying 58,442 bags. This makes an average of 757 carts, carrying 4,174 bags, or 8,348 maunds a day.

About 3,000 pack-bullocks and ponies are now working between Bulrampore and Barsoe, our two most inaccessible golahs. We consider it better to pack these bullocks and ponies here at Purneah, our central depôt, in order to utilize the supply of ¾ maund bags now being constructed in the jails, as also to relieve Mr. Munro of this part of the work. The system works very well indeed. I make over a certain number of weighed bags to the owners of the ponies or bullocks, they place the rice in the   , one maund on each side, take the two maund bag with them, and place the rice at the end of the journey back in the second bag, and make it over after weighment to the golahdars. This system is entirely under contract, and the contractors are substantial men, who appoint their own chalandars, and are responsible for the rice made over to them. This transport is capable of almost indefinite expansion, but it is expensive, as on an average each pony or bullock must earn 6 annas a day, and as it travels only ten miles a day and carries only two maunds, it costs 3 annas per ten miles per maund, or 3½ pies per maund per mile. The contractors would supply me with 10,000 pack bullocks or ponies if I required them, but I think it a mistake to monopolize this only means of distributing food to the hâts in the interior of the district.

H. P. Mulock.

D.

Sir R. Temple has recommended the building of store-houses at a few more sites. This will be done, and arrangements for protection against fire will be made by putting mats and earth on the roof and sides.

The following memorandum show the proposed allotment of 500,000 of maunds, if that be the quantity finally assigned to this district. Mr. Mulock's note on this subject is annexed.

W. Kemble,
Magistrate and Collector.

Mr. Mulock's Memorandum.

Storage of Government grain.

The only additional site for golah selected is Palankaf, in the distressed tracts hear Kusba Amour. The additional store-houses required for the storage of the additional grain allotted to the district are being rapidly constructed, and I hope to have them all completed before the end of the month. Chowkeedars have been appointed at all the golahs, and the best men we could get for the pay have been selected for golahdars. We have not been able to get security from all of these, as the pay is too small, but when cash sales begin to take place it must be insisted on.

H. P. Mulock, C.S.,
On Special Duty.

	Golahs.	Works.	Relief.	TOTAL.
Purneah, 83,500	Purneah	4,000	50,000	54,000
	Gandwara	500	500	1,000
	Mahenderpur	3,000	7,000	10,000
	Sirsi	1,000	1,000	2,000
	Kunkaria	1,000	11,500	12,500
	Kaja	1,300	2,700	4,000
	Total	10,800	72,700	83,500
Kudbah, 62,000	Kudbah	6,000	37,000	43,000
	Saifgunge	2,000	8,000	10,000
	Harrenkoni	6,200	2,800	9,000
	Total	14,200	47,800	62,000
Balrampur, 72,000	Bulrampur	3,000	24,100	27,100
	Bursoi	5,400	15,000	20,400
	Ranigunge	4,500	20,000	24,500
	Total	12,900	59,100	72,000
Kusbah with Dengrah, 91,000	Kusbah Amour	6,200	25,000	31,200
	Dengrah	8,000	45,000	53,000
	Palankaf	—	6,800	6,800
	Total	14,200	76,800	91,000
Kissengunge, 105,000	Kissengunge	2,500	20,000	22,500
	Bahadargunge	3,000	20,000	23,000
	Bibigunge	2,500	5,600	8,100
	Powakhali	3,300	6,000	9,300
	Kulliagunge	5,000	10,000	15,000
	Gowalpoker	1,100	20,000	21,100
	Kurkhurree	1,000	5,000	6,000
	Titalya	—	—	—
	Total	18,400	86,600	105,000
Arrareah, 86,500	Mutiari	5,000	10,000	15,000
	Koorsakatta	3,000	10,000	13,000
	Tookeli	6,500	30,000	36,500
	Chokoi	2,000	20,000	22,000
	Total	16,500	70,000	86,500

E.

THE advances to private parties this week only amount to Rs. 50, but the merchants to whom advances have before been made are all working well. I have nothing to add to my last report on this subject.

F.

Mr. Wyer's report drawn up as directed by Circular No. 1251 of 5th March is annexed.

1. The number of Committees and Sub-Committees as yet appointed is for—

The Sudder sub-division	23
Arrareah	9
Kissengunge	7
Total	39

In the Sudder sub-division there is one committee, viz., the district committee. The following is a list of the sub-committees arranged according to the thannahs in which they are situated :—

Purniah, 5, *viz* :—(1) Purneah Sub-Committee to manage the Sudder sub-division, the chairman of this committee is Mr. Wyer, joint-magistrate, it consists of 18 members and, *ex officio*, all chairmen of sub-committees in the Sudder sub-division ; (2) Bishenpur ; (3) Kaja ; (4) Mohenderpur ; (5) Mahtour.

Gondwara, 2, *viz.* :—(1) Korah, (2) Doomar.
Kasbah Amour, 7, *viz.* :—(1) Kasbah Amour, (2) Kilpara, (3) Rotahat, (4) Dengra ghât, (5) Belgachi, (6) Kanharria, (7) Dulargunge.
Kadbah, 4, *viz.* :—(1) Kadbah, (2) Beui Rossalpur, (3) Chandpur, (4) Harrinkhore.
Belrampur, 3, *viz.* :—(1) Belrampur, (2) Barsoi, (3) Ranigunge Nakah.
Monihari, 2, *viz.* :—(1) Monihari, (2) Soifgunj.

In Dhamdah there is no sub-committee, but Mr. W. Pyne, of Sirsi Factory, kindly distributes relief; his factory is on the extreme boundary of the thannah.

For Arrareah sub-division the following is a list:—
Thannah Arrareah, 4, *viz.* :—(1) Turkeli, (2) Chakae, (3) Chilhamna, (4) Rampur.
Thannah Ranigunge, 3, *viz.* :—(1) Mirzapur, (2) Ranigunj, (3) Lalpur.
Thannah Mattiari, 2, *viz.* :—Mathore and Doria.

In Kissengunge sub-division there are seven sub-committees.
Thannah Kissengunge, 2, *viz.* :—Kissengunge and Chokatea.
Thannah Bahadurgunge, 4, *viz.* :—Bahadurgunge, Katti, Gange, Tulsia.
Thannah Koliagunj, 1, *viz.* :—Belanja.

2. No special relief sub-divisions have been opened.

3. The number of relief circles opened and manned by special officers are for *Arrareah sub-division* one. Mr. Duillet, who is to have charge of this, has arrived. Besides this, Mr. Rattray, the sub-divisional officer of Arrareah, has now the aid of Deputy Magistrate Soshee Bhoson Dutt. For Kissengunge one, consisting of Bahadurgunge thannah in charge of Mr. Bertelsen.

For the Sudder sub-division Baboo Rajaninath Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate, is at present in charge of a circle consisting of Belrumpur and Kudbah thannah, and on the 6th, finding that Mr. F. Cruise had not sufficient leisure to attend to the relief centres at Mohenderpur and Kanbarria, I appointed a sub-inspector, Rambrahmo Sing, whom I placed in charge of Mohenderpur, Kanbarria, and Belgachi centres. When Mr. Barlow, the Commissioner, was here, he arranged that the Sudder sub-division should be divided into five circles, but these have not yet been manned by special relief officers, so that I do not recapitulate them. Mr. Gouldsbury will proceed to-day from Dengra Ghât to Kusbah Amour and take charge of the 5th circle, which consists of all thannah Kusbah Amour north of the line drawn from the junction of the Kankoi with the Mahananda to the village of Bazidpur on the Pannar.

4. The number of relief circles under this head for the Sudder sub-division is seven, viz., Koja, Bishanpur, Mohenderpur, Beni Rassalpur, Chandpur. Besides this, Mr. Pyne at Sirsi and Mr. E. A. DeSouza at Dharaviah give relief to fitting objects, though there is no circle opened in their neighbourhood.

The Arrareah sub-division.—I cannot furnish the information required under this head with certainty. The chairmen of sub-committees distribute village relief at the centres of the sub-committees under the ticket system. For Kissengunge sub-division the number of relief circles under the head is five, viz., Chakalia, Kute, Gangi, Tulsia, and Belounja. These centres are supervised by the members of the sub-divisional committee.

5. The number under this head is 16 for the Sudder sub-division, viz., at Koja, Sirsi, Bishanpur, Dharrarah, two at Purneah, Mohenderpur, Kusbah Amour, Kilpara, Dengraghât Belgachi, Kadleah, Chandpur, Beni Rassalpur, Barsor, and Belrampore. A work-shed has been completed at Purneah and Bishanpur at the sub-division of Arrareah. Food is distributed by all the sub-committees enumerated under heading (11).

6. The total numbers of people relieved was for the Sudder and Kissengunge sub-divisions 4,536. I cannot show separately the number of men, women, and children, since this distinction has not been kept up in all the returns sent to me, this gave a daily average of 324.

Besides this, village relief was afforded to 108 persons at Dengraghât and Belgachi, these must be added to the daily average, since the relief thus given was from 10 to 20 days; thus the total daily average for these two sub-divisions is 432.

I have received no returns from Kilpara or Naka Raneegunge, thus the daily average is probably a little greater than shown above.

7. For Arrareah sub-division, Mr. Rattray reports that he thinks that he is engaged in affording daily gratuitous relief to 4,000 persons, men, women, and children; he has not furnished the grounds on which he has come to this conclusion, so I have not included this number with the numbers given by the other sub-divisional officers. The quantity of rice he has distributed is 847 maunds, he gives 7 seers for a 14 days' supply to women and men, and half that quantity for children.

8. The only place where cooked food has been distributed is at Kusbah Amour; at the other relief centres raw food is given at head-quarters. The number of persons for relief was so small that it was not worth while entertaining a cook to feed them. Mr. Rattray says that he is going to introduce the cooked food system at Chakai and Chilania. Forty-three seers of cotton have been distributed to be worked up into thread.

There will probably be many more applicants for this sort of relief during the next two weeks. Mr. Gouldsbery is starting basket-making at Dengraghât. Seventeen seers of *sunn* were worked up by persons relieved at Kusbah Amour. Several of the gentlemen who were managing the relief centres have been alarmed by the number of forms which have now to be kept up. It would have been better to have sent a separate book for each of the forms with the headings printed; as it is, a good deal of delay has been caused by my having to have these books prepared with manuscript headings; they have to-day been completed for the Sudder sub-division, and will be distributed at once.

I have advanced at head-quarters Rs. 1,000 in sums varying from Rs. 50 to Rs. 400 to seven persons for buying seed and helping their ryots. Mr. Craven has advanced Rs. 5,500 to zemindars to help their ryots; he has furnished no details. At the last meeting of the Sudder sub-divisional committee members agreed to take their turn at the relief-house. Since writing the above, I hear from Mirza Mohammed Hossein that he started relief with cooked food in the town yesterday, and distributed 15 seers of rice in that way.

F. WYER,
Relief Officer.

ALTHOUGH the information furnished by the above officer is not very complete, I can state that the sub-divisional officers with, in some cases, the active co-operation of members of relief committees, are searching out and bringing to light all cases of individual distress and cases where special tracts of country are in want of assistance.

The mode of assistance in which relief will be given will be as far as possible by home labour and village roads, and in some cases by making over grain to the headmen for sale to the people. Until the officers who are to be appointed relief superintendents arrive, the executive management must be weak.

The committees, though very useful as consulting bodies, cannot give that attention to details which will be required before things work smoothly.

No. 69 Ct., dated Doi, the 11th March 1874.

From the OFFICIATING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Sonthal Pergunnahs, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honour to submit a narrative for the fortnight ending Sunday, March 8th.

2. I am two days late, I beg to state the circumstances.

3. I was encamped at Barhait in the Daman; I had made arrangements to receive my sub-divisional reports there. On the evening of the 6th I got an urgent order from the Commissioner to go to Doi, a distance of about 30 miles; I started during the night and reached Doi on the 7th. At Doi I got an order to meet the Commissioner at Pointee on Monday, the 9th, the day I should have despatched my fortnightly; I did so, and was thus absent from Doi from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M.

4. My dates have now nearly all come up, and I am able to give a narrative with some completeness; the defects and the reasons for them being equally obvious.

A.

During this fortnight I have been encamped at Bario and at Barhait, and have ridden over the valley from these points. I have also ridden by a long round from Barhait to Pointee.

1. Failure of food has been nowhere reported. Mr. Stewart says it is plenty in Sahebgunge, and "very limited" in Rajmehal, Bario, and Barhait. As I have already said, the people do not go very much to the bazars in the Daman for food. All that can be said is that every day the markets are a little tighter than the day before.

2. I give below an extract from the price current of the 7th instant. I choose the places that will best represent the state of affairs in different parts of the district. Katikund and Maheshpore are not in the last return; I give the last but one. Prices have risen nowhere but at Hiranpore, where grain has gene up two seers; generally they have fallen. The cheapest rice is 15 seers at Sarawan near Deogurh. The cheapest food is bajra, 28 seers at Jamatra.

Name of Place.	Distance and Direction from Doomka.	Wheat.	Best Rice.	Common Rice.	Bajra.	Maize.	Gram.
Doomka	—	11	10	11	16	16	12
Nonihat	18 N.	—	10	12	—	15	12
* Katikund	14 N.E.	—	12	14	17	16	—
Sarayahat	25 N.W.	13	12	13	—	18	13
* Mahespore	43 N.E.	—	11	11½	20	20	14
Pakaur	55 N.E.	—	10½	12½	16½	15½	16
Deogurh	44 N.W.	12	12	13	—	—	13½
Jamtara	44 S.W.	12	—	12	28	20	12
Rajmehal	65 N.E.	12	9½	10½	14	14	12
Sahebgunge	75 N. by E.	14	12	13	16	16	13
Godda	40 N.	11	8	12	—	16½	—
Tirojpore	70 N.	13¾	10	11¼	15	19¾	12½
Hiranpore	50 N.E.	—	13	14	19	19	13

3. A Bengali village near Barhait was burnt down. Three houses escaped out of about 100. The people came to me, and I questioned about 40 of them as to what they had lost. They were under no temptation to conceal the quantity of food they had stored and lost. Six persons said they had nothing to lose; the rest had stored and lost from 3 to 12 maunds of rice or maize. There was hardly any bajra, and a little sursu. Some of them had saved some of their stores; one man lost 12 maunds and saved 12 maunds of rice.

The chances are, Sonthals would have a little less stored than these Bengalis, but would make a better fight with less.

The parganait of Barhait says he has about 300 maunds of rice, and no maize. He and his large family have just come to the end of their maize. In ordinary years he gets 1,200 maunds, and in very good years 1,500 maunds of rice from his own cultivation. This year he got 600, and I suppose when he says he has still "*man, sau tin ek,*" it may mean that he has most of his 600 maunds unconsumed.

4. A few drops of rain fell here on Saturday evening with wind, thunder, and lightning, from the west. About here the wheat and barley looks very well, and is beginning to turn. A good deal of cheena is coming up; it was supposed to be dead. People say they would like a shower of rain for it. The rahar is very good, and there is some flax, gram, and castor-oil. The best rubbee I have seen is about Tirojpore and Barahat on the Bhagulpore border. Unless I have chanced on the only strip of cultivation in North Godda, there is a fair prospect, but I believe I have seen the best of what there is.

In the Bairo and Barhait valley, which I shall in future call the North Daman valley, there is no rubbee worth speaking of; a few fields of rahar close to Barhait, and here and there a patch of new sugar-cane, are all. Mr. Stewart reports a little good rubbee from near the Ganges; and Mr. Wilmot, in a very minute and satisfactory diary, says prospects are fair all over Deogurh. Grain thefts are increasing very fast in Godda, but nowhere else. No actual misery or starvation has been reported.

In my special report of the 27th ultimo I divided North Godda and Rajmehal into five tracts, one of which is the North Daman valley.

I now have to say that this valley is larger and more thickly inhabited than I then thought. It runs for above five miles up the Gumani from Barhait, and is four or five miles wide. I now understand why the Rajmehal Daman ryots should be so much worse off this year than the Doomka men. The difference of rain-fall was not reason enough. In the South Daman the hills are high, the valleys are deep, narrow, and broken; the people are comparatively few; the rice grows in hollows under bunds. In the North Daman the hills are low, and the valleys unite in one great plain inside a surrounding range of hills. This plain in good seasons grows a great quantity of rice and little else. It encourages settlers and supports the two largest bazars in the Daman. The middle of the plain is far from higher ground. Tanks are few and shallow.

In good years the North Daman ought to produce four times as much rice as an equal extent of land in the south, and a bad year therefore does something like corresponding any mischief.

B.

I send a progress report of relief works on a separate sheet to follow.

C.

Our means of transport are quite sufficient, both our roads and our carriage. Just now we are only carrying rice from Pointee to Doi, a distance of nine miles. There is no difficulty of any kind.

D.

We have selected for Rajmehal, the railway stations Bahawa, Tinpahar, and Sahebgunge, and the rice depôts, Taljhari, Bario, and Barhait, all on, or close to works.

We have selected for Godda the railway station of Pirpointee, and the rice depôts, Doi Mahagama, Barhop, and Godda, on relief works. A golah has been constructed at Doi, and we have 3,106 maunds stored. We have sold none yet. What we have is under a guard of constables. We have been advised that more will be sent.

E.

I have made no advances for purchase of grain, nor to municipalities. The zemindar of Manihari applied yesterday for a loan of Rs. 10,000 (ten thousand) to make bunds and tanks on his estate.

F.

We have nothing under this head.

Enclosure No. 5.

RESOLUTION.

Scarcity and Relief Department.

Calcutta, the 16th March 1874.

Read—

The district narrative of the Rajshahye division for the fortnight ending on the 7th March.

Resolution.—All the narratives were received by Friday the 13th March, and the Lieutenant-Governor observes upon them, as follows:—

Moorshedabad.—The state of the crops now on the ground is wholly satisfactory; prices are still below famine rates; 2,270 people were employed on relief works, but it would seem that further relief works are required in some of the tracts described at paragraph 6. The Lieutenant-Governor begs that the applications for advances (Section E. of the narrative) may be very promptly disposed of; unless special effort is made, the money will not be given in time, excellent works for the benefit of the country will be left undone, and Government will have to open other (and possibly less useful because less carefully selected) works in the same neighbourhood. It is noted that 16 relief centres have been established; but with reference to the remark (paragraph 6) that "there are no doubt many poor persons almost everywhere who will require gratuitous relief," the Lieutenant-Governor begs that the organization of the 16 relief centres may, under the commissioner's orders, be made sufficiently complete to cope with the expected distress, which the Lieutenant-Governor hopes will be really small in Moorshedabad.

2. *Dinagepore.*—The Lieutenant-Governor fears that Mr. Lowis's view of the moot question, whether there are or are not large stocks in Dinagepore, is the correct one. The inquiries made personally by Mr. Lowis into the prices ruling at petty bazars show that, in spite of comparatively moderate quotations at larger marts, the price in the interior sometimes rises to 9½ seers per rupee, and that the supply even at that price is not always sufficient. Mr. Lowis does not say whether or no actual keen distress has been found in any part of the district. 32,000 people appear to be employed daily on road works; and it is satisfactory to find that, under Mr. Robinson's superintendence, relief work is being efficiently organized without indenting on the Public Works Department for extra establishments. More than nine-tenths of the whole of the relief labourers appear to be employed under civil officers. The steady increase in the numbers on each work is perhaps sufficient evidence that wages are regularly paid. When the road works are done the improvement of village tanks can be undertaken, and the schemes for such works must, as Mr. Lowis says, be prepared beforehand. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the transport of Government grain into the interior of Dinagepore is now going on satisfactorily; it is quite in accordance with the reform introduced by Mr. Hankey on other grain routes that each despatch should consist of a small and manageable number of carts. Mr. Toynbee has arranged, in communication with the Commissioners, to supply a certain number of weights and scales for the larger grain stores; ordinary country appliances must be used at the smaller stores.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor is sorry to learn from Section F. of Mr. Lowis's report that the relief centres have not yet been actually settled or opened. He hopes that by this time everything has been settled. Mr. Robinson's plans (set forth in his letter of the 25th February) were approved by the Government on the 4th March, and officers have been allotted to each of the six relief sub-divisions and of the seven relief circles. A latter report from the Commissioner, Mr. Molony, speaks of the Dinagepore relief circles being all arranged for. Sir Richard Temple has recently visited the district and has approved the relief arrangements. In regard to the source from which grain is to be procured for relief purposes, the instructions, forwarded under cover of Government Order No. 1,308 of the 7th March, make it quite clear that, when Government grain is available on the spot in sufficient quantity, the relief committees and relief officers can indent thereon; and, as there is now happily plenty of Government grain in the interior of Dinagepore, the Lieutenant-Governor considers it will be better that this course should be followed, and that the relief committees should not purchase in the depleted local markets. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that next narrative will show that the charitable relief organization is actively at work in Dinagepore.

4. *Maldah.*—Though prices have risen slightly in the north-west of the Maldah district, yet on the whole the condition of the people is no worse; supplies are sufficient over the rest of the district, and prices are nowhere above 10 to 10½ seers per rupee. The promise of the April rice and millets is very favourable. Advances of money and grain are being made in the worst parts of the district; not more than 2,252 persons are employed on relief works. The transport of Government grain through the district appears to be going on satisfactorily. Sixteen relief centres appear to be open, but only 209 persons receive relief daily; and it is said that only "the infirm, sick, and beggars, who in any year would be on the hands of the public for support," come as yet to the Maldah relief centres.

5. *Rajshahye.*—Prices are still comparatively moderate in the Rajshahye district, and at present there appears to be no general distress, though the Magistrate has found it necessary to establish three poor-houses. The number of people on the relief works had risen during the fortnight from 990 to 2,400, and more works seem to be wanted. The Lieutenant-Governor does quite understand the Magistrate's remark, that work on the feeder road from Tannore to Malidnugger is greatly wanted, but that "as yet no engineer has been deputed to mark out the line;" the Magistrate must either have the road pegged out by his district engineer, or he must arrange forthwith for the work with any engineering staff whom Major Lindsay may tell off for feeder roads in that direction. The progress in forwarding Government grain from Godagaree is satisfactory; the shortness of the supply, which will not, it is hoped, recur, was not due to any fault of Mr. Dawson's. The Magistrate, the sub-divisional officers, and the committees will have to watch the less prosperous parts of the district for any signs of approaching distress, and to have funds deposited with trusty people for the relief of actual need. If necessity arises, which the Lieutenant-Governor trusts will not be the case in Rajshahye, more extensive measures for organizing relief must at once be taken.

6. *Rungpore.*—The accounts from Rungpore are certainly better than they were last fortnight. The spring crops of grain and roots are said to be excellent; tobacco, the most paying crop of Rungpore, is "fully up to the average;" and though prices are in many parts of the district higher than 10 seers per rupee, yet the very bad tract is said to contain only 200 villages and about 18,000 people. The Magistrate-Collector appears to anticipate that by a judicious and liberal system of advancing grain to ryots, and by giving charitable relief to the infirm and to destitute women, the people will be enabled to tide over the difficult time before them. The Lieutenant-Governor will hope to learn from future narratives that grain advances are *actually being made* to ryots in the tracts of which Mr. Glazier writes.

7. The number of labourers on the relief works, only 3,681 in all, is small for the great district of Rungpore. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the maladministration of works, found by Mr. Robinson on his recent tour, has been remedied. A recent report from the engineer-in-chief of the Northern Bengal Railway showed that people were asking for work in the north-west and west of the Rungpore district, and work on the railway bank is now being given them. The remarks (at end of Section B.) regarding the unsuitable shape of the kodalees will be communicated to the Public Works Department. As Sir Richard Temple is now visiting Rungpore, it is not necessary for the Lieutenant-Governor to say anything further regarding the Rungpore works. But little of the Government grain seems yet to have reached the interior of Rungpore, and the Lieutenant-Governor desires that the transport may be pushed on. The number of relief centres and of persons receiving charitable relief, 3,460 daily, including private relief-houses, is already considerable. The Lieutenant-Governor would wish to hear in next narrative whether keen distress and unrelieved want has been found at the village inspections made by relief officers. Sir Richard Temple will have decided whether a regular relief circle organization is required.

8. *Bograh.*—The Magistrate of Bograh reports that he does not anticipate famine in his district, though there may be pressure and a demand for relief works in the tracts where no cold-weather crops are grown. The number of labourers on relief works has risen from 2,810 to 3,935 persons during the fortnight; local supplies of food are sufficient on the works.

The attention of the Dinagepore authorities must be given to what Mr. Kelly says of the difficulty in locally finding carts and boats for the transport of the Ghoraghât supply through the Bograh district. No charitable relief operations appear to be as yet required.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

NARRATIVE of SCARCITY and RELIEF in the MOORSHEDABAD DISTRICT for the Fortnight ending Saturday the 7th March 1874.

(A.)—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

1. *Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazaar.*—The supply in the bazaars and hâts in the head-quarters sub-division is still reported as sufficient, but not quite so free as when the last narrative was submitted. In the Lalbag sub-division there is at present an abundance of supply. In the Rampore Haut sub-division the supply is abundant in Nulhattee, but scarce in the Palsa, Rampore Haut, and Khurgaon markets. The sub-divisional officer of Jungypore reports that nowhere is the supply of rice abundant in his sub-division, but in most markets there is sufficient to meet the demands of consumers.

2. *Kind and price of grain selling at one or more specified principal marts.*—The average price of common rice, taking twelve of the principal marts of the Sudder sub-division, is $12\frac{3}{8}$ seers per rupee, which is considerably cheaper than during the preceding fortnight, when the average was $11\frac{3}{4}$ seers; the highest rate is given at 12 seers, and the lowest (in Nowadah station) at 15 seers per rupee. Wheat averages $13\frac{1}{3}$ seers per rupee, and gram nearly 15 seers; the latter will probably be cheaper soon when the new crop is gathered. In the Lalbag sub-division, in the city, coarse rice is selling at $12\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee, and also at Bhugwangolah where aus rice is selling at 13 seers the rupee; at Bhadrihaut coarse rice is selling at $11\frac{1}{3}$ seers and aus rice at 12 seers the rupee. In the Rampore Haut sub-division the price of coarse rice ranges from $14\frac{1}{4}$ to $13\frac{3}{16}$ seers per rupee, and that of fine rice $12\frac{1}{4}$ to $11\frac{10}{16}$ per rupee. In the Jungypore sub-division the price of the new haimanto rice ranges from $10\frac{3}{4}$ seers in Sooty, to 13 seers per rupee in Shumshergunge. Bhadoi rice is selling at 12 seers at Dewanserai and Lalgola, and the price of Dacca rice is given at 11 seers per rupee at the former place. Maskolai is sold at 20 seers per rupee in the Roghoonathgunge bazaar, and 22 seers can be had if the purchases be made from the cultivators direct. This pulse is largely used in supplementing rice, and will, no doubt, materially help the people in tiding over the difficulty.

3. *Any information obtained regarding the amount and kind of grain believed to be in stock in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others.*—The stock of food-grains in hand in the Sudder sub-division is estimated at about $5\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of maunds, including the portion of the rubbee crops already cut, but this is entirely conjectural, and is not of much value. The grain-holders of Burwa, Hurreehurparah, Nowadah, and Jellinghee are reported to have advanced nearly 90,000 maunds of paddy to the ryots and others. The sub-divisional officer of Lalbag states that no further inquiries have been made on this point, and no fresh information has been obtained, and that his opinion remains the same as before. The Rampore Haut sub-divisional officer reports that there is little in store in the hands of zemindars, mahajuns, and well-to-do ryots.

4. *Rainfall, if any.*—In the head-quarters sub-division on the 24th ultimo there was a very slight fall of rain at Bharatpore. In the evening of Saturday the 7th there was at head-quarters a heavy north-wester, but not attended with much rain.

5. *State of the crops.*—The crops still in the fields, as well as the young plants of the boro dhân, are reported to be in good condition. Ploughing for the next crops is being carried on in all directions. Indigo and mulberry are promising well, and the fruit trees are fairly laden with blossoms, giving promise of a most abundant crop. The manufacture of sugar is going on, and the outturn is reported to be very fair. The sub-divisional officer of Lalbag reports that the rubbee crops—mushuri, peas, gram, keshari, wheat, &c.—in the "dearah" lands are doing very

well, and even the high lands have yielded a moderate outturn. The sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut says that the late rain has done much good to boro paddy, wheat, and oats in Khurgram. The estimated outturn of boro, as he has been given to understand, will be $\frac{14}{16}$ of an average crop. The outturn of sugar-cane is above the average, and has greatly assisted the ryots to pay their rents. In the Jungypore sub-division the outturn of barley and linseed is likely to be very good; of wheat, good; of gram, somewhat below the average. The area under boro dhân appears to be larger than in former years, especially in the bheel lands. In the Mirzapore thannah little or no bhadoi dhân used to be grown in former years, but in the present year some patches of haimanto-rice lands have been sown with bhadoi dhân.

6. *Condition of the people.*—There is no change to be reported in the state of the poor and labouring classes. The sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut reports that the labouring class residing in Rampore Haut, Khurgaon, and Pulsa are in want of labour. There are no doubt many poor persons almost everywhere who will require gratuitous relief, and such relief is being organised. The Lallbag sub-divisional officer states that the ryots have plenty of aus seed, and are looking forward hopefully to the aus harvest. There is every prospect of a good silk bund, a great matter for the ryots of this district, and the existing relief works give plenty of employment. The sub-divisional officer of Jungypore reports that in thannah Mirzapore he observed some poor women grubbing for the roots of a species of lotus in the dry bed of a tank. This they do every year, and he does not look upon it as a special sign of distress. Distress no doubt prevails throughout Mirzapore, and if it had not been for the relief works, matters would have assumed a serious aspect in that thannah. In most of the villages in the north-western part of thannah Sooty, distress prevails among the Mals and Krores who have no lands of their own, and can now find little work except in irrigating fields of boro dhân.

7. *Actual facts as to any known cases of misery and starvation.*—No actual cases of starvation or extreme misery have been reported; cases of distress have been relieved out of the funds set apart for charitable purposes.

8. *Grain-thefts or robberies.*—There were nine cases of grain-theft reported in the Sudder sub-division, all of a petty nature; this shows a great decrease on the previous narrative, when 19 cases were reported. In the Jungypore sub-division there were two cases of grain-theft in thannah Sooty. The sub-divisional officers of Lallbag and Rampore Haut report of no grain-thefts in their sub-divisions. A statement showing the number of dacoities, &c. is annexed.

9. *Condition of any special tracts.*—There is nothing in the condition of special tracts calling for particular mention, except that small-pox still prevails in the Lalbag sub-division, and some villages in the Rampore Haut, Khurgram, and Bharatpur thannahs, and the number of deaths is reported to be 18 per cent. of the number attacked.

(B.)—RELIEF WORKS.

Panchgaon Road.—From 700 to 750 men are employed daily on this work; the supply of food is becoming scarce; rice is selling at about 11¼ seers per rupee; the men are in good condition; cash payments at 3 annas per 100 cubic feet. The tools are supplied by Government.

Kandi Road.—About 140 men are employed daily on this road. No difficulty is experienced in obtaining a supply of food; the men are in good condition, and are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 6 pies per 100 cubic feet. The men provide their own tools.

Rhadaghat Road.—About 70 men are employed daily on this road; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition, and are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 6 pies per 100 cubic feet. Most of the men provide their own tools.

Nulhatee Road.—About 20 men are employed daily on this road; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition, and are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 6 pies per 100 cubic feet. The men provide their own tools.

Jungypore and Khamra Road.—About 50 men are employed daily on this road; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition, and are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 3 pies per 100 cubic feet. The men provide their own tools.

Jeagunge and Dewanserai Road.—About 70 men are employed daily on this road; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; they are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 6 pies per 100 cubic feet. They bring their own tools.

Kishnaghur Road.—About 100 men are employed daily on this road; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition, and are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 3 pies per 100 cubic feet. They bring their own tools.

Juroor and Nowadah Road.—The number of men employed on this road rose to 666 on the 28th ultimo. On the last inspection by the executive engineer, Mr. Rice, who is in charge of the work, was requested to dress the earthwork that had been thrown up, a great length having been executed without any attempt at smoothing the surface of the road; the men objected to this work; the number fell immediately to less than 100. The number will no doubt rise again as soon as the men find that they have to execute the task given them; the supply of food is sufficient for the present; it is brought in small quantities to the villages near the work; it is however becoming scarce; the men are in good condition; are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 6 pies per 100 cubic feet. The men bring their own tools.

Ramnuggur and Saktipore Road.—About 300 men are now being employed daily by Mr. Malcolm on this road; the men are easily able to obtain food; they are in good condition, and paid in cash. The men bring their own tools.

Hurreepara Road.—About 400 men are employed daily on this road; food is easily obtainable at present; the men are in good condition, and are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 6 pies per 100 cubic feet. The men bring their own tools.

A statement showing the expenditure on relief works is annexed.

Forty-one persons on an average daily worked on the village roads which are being repaired by the Gowas relief sub-committee.

In the Lalbag sub-division 79 extra coolies have been employed by the municipality daily during the fortnight under review, at a cost of Rs. 167-14-0. The total cost of the relief works to the municipality up to the 7th instant has been Rs. 825-11-0. The principal relief works now in hand under the municipality are the road from Topkhanna to the Hemait Munzil, two tanks at Amaipara, which are being deepened, and a tank at Beliapukhur, which is being excavated, and on which 42 coolies are at present employed. The municipality supplies most of the tools.

The road on the right bank of the Bhairub will, it is hoped, be taken up as a relief work by the sub-divisional relief committee, and they have agreed to pay half the expense, Rs. 175, of deepening a tank in the village of Saralpore, Bhugwangolah.

In the Rampore Haut sub-division the making and repairing of roads by the branch road cess committee will be undertaken after the meeting of the committee on the 10th instant. The relief committee at Rampore Haut have sanctioned Rs. 100 for deepening a tank at Tantbanoli near Salhadra, and the work will be commenced almost immediately.

In the Jungypore sub-division the sub-divisional officer saw 50 labourers at work on the Mirzapore and Monigram road. The work on the Monigram tank has been resumed.

(C.)—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

It appears that 25,588 maunds of food-grains have been exported from the Rampore Haut sub-division by the railway, and 3,180 maunds of food-grains imported. The means of transport in this district is sufficient.

(D.)—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

Recommendation has been made to the Commissioner for the importation of 500 maunds of Government grain to Jungypore *viâ* Mooraroee railway station. The sub-divisional officer asked for 1,000 maunds of grain; but until a proper golah for storage has been provided, recommendation has only been made for the importation of 500 maunds.

The Moonsif of Gowas has been requested to report as soon as possible whether there is scarcity of rice at Gowas, and whether the immediate import of Government rice, to be sold at the rate of 10 seers per rupee, is desirable. The executive engineer has similarly been requested to inquire and report whether the storage of Government grain at Nowadah or at Panchgaon is really necessary. The present orders of Government being that rice is to be sold to labourers when its price is higher than 10 seers per rupee, it seems doubtful whether importation is at present urgently necessary.

The sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut reports that accommodation for grain is available in several places.

(E.)—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

Several applications for advances for the digging and re-digging of tanks have been made, but in most cases no advance has been made pending the production of bonds registered. In the Lalbagh sub-division one application under the land improvement rules has been made, and it has been referred to the Magistrate-Collector. In the Rámpore Haut sub-division six applications have been made for the digging of tanks. The sub-divisional officer has been supplied with funds from which money will be advanced as soon as possible. In the Jungypore sub-division advances to the amount of Rs. 1,450 have been made to five parties for the re-digging of tanks.

In the Sudder sub-division only six applications for advances to purchase grain have been received. In three cases the applicants have been directed to produce registered bonds. Necessary information has been called for in two other cases; and in the sixth case the applicant has withdrawn his application, evidently because he was informed that he could not purchase grain in the district.

(F.)—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

The following is the information obtained in compliance with Government Circular No. 1251—S.R., dated the 5th instant.

Column 1 of the accompanying statement represents the district relief committee, the district relief sub-committees at head-quarters, three sub-divisional committees, and twelve branch relief committees at the places reported in the last narrative.

Column 4 represents the number of circles under the branch committees of the Sudder sub-division.

Column 5 represents the number of centres under the charge of the relief sub-committee at head-quarters, the branch relief committees, and the three sub-divisional committees.

The sub-divisional relief committee at Rampore Haut having now been formed, the sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut has been requested to form subordinate relief committees in the thannahs where distress is mostly apprehended.

Column 1.—Number of committees and sub-committees as yet appointed - - -	17
Column 4.—Number of relief circles opened and managed by planters, zemindars, and other resident - - - - - - -	12
Column 5.—Number of workshouses or centres for the distribution of food and gratuitous relief - - - - - - - - -	16
Column 6.—Number of men, women, and children (with total), in receipt of gratuitous relief in any shape through the charitable relief organization *daily*; this should include people employed or relieved by the relief committees or relief officers under any of the heads of the "Instructions" - -	*Nil.*[*]

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[*] The information has been called for. In future this information will be given in the narrative.

The following materials have been placed under the disposal of some of the branch committees in the Sudder sub-division for relief purposes:—

Kandi	500 maunds	of rice.
	2 „	of cotton.
	2 „	of jute.
Bharatpore	2 „	of cotton.
	1 „	of jute.
Gokum	1 „	of cotton.
	1 „	of jute.
Gowas	100 „	of rice.
	2 „	of cotton.
	1 „	of jute.

No additional subscriptions have been raised since the last report.

In the Lalbag sub-division a meeting of the sub-divisional relief committee was held on the 4th instant, when it was found that the subscriptions promised to the sub-divisional relief fund amounted to Rs. 5,321, and it is believed that more will be received. The committee have determined to start relief rice golahs at Bhugwangolah, Rauntollah, Debipore, and Joyrampore. The relief committee have taken under consideration the question of making advances to ryots.

In the Sudder, Rampore Haut, and Jangipur sub-divisions cases of distress have been met out of the charitable funds.

In the Jungypur sub-division—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Monthly subscriptions promised up to date are	68	8	0
Donations ditto ditto	766	8	0
Total	835	0	0
Subscriptions realized up to date	45	0	0
Donations ditto ditto	277	7	0
Total	322	7	0
Spent in charitable relief up to date	55	12	9
„ in making purchases of jute up to date	9	0	0
Total sum spent	64	12	9

No. 304—S.R., dated Dinagepore, the 9th March 1874.

From E. E. Lowis, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Dinagepore, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I have the honour to submit my district narrative for the fortnight ending March 9th.

A.—State of the Country.

The past fortnight has been marked by a rise in the price of grain, but the hopes inspired by the recent timely fall of rain do not seem to have become clouded, and the people are, considering all things, wonderfully cheerful and sanguine about the future. It is worthy of remark that considerable difference of opinion seems to exist as to the expected extent and severity of the pressure of want during the next three or four months; one section of the community, consisting of the principal traders and mahajuns, aver that prices will not rise much higher than they are at present, and that there will be scarcity indeed, but not famine, the reason assigned being that the ryots have more in stock than they admit, and that the outturn of the harvest has been more than the villagers have represented; on the other hand, the landed proprietors and respectable villagers constantly affirm that in another month or so there will be great scarcity of rice, and that by the end of April there will be considerable distress. The former party point out that since the first panic prices have maintained up to date rather a downward tendency; that the presence of old rice in the market argues the existence of stocks in hand; that as respects the future a largely increased area has been sown with bora rice, which will ripen in May; that the bhadoi has been sown very early, and to an unusual extent; and that the surplus of the rest of the district, coupled with what is finding its way in from Cooch Behar and other places, together with what the ryots have gathered from their own fields, will last, with proper care and economy, until the bora in May, the mangoes in June, and subsequently the early bhadoi in July, put an end to our difficulties. The latter party argue that the prices are kept down partly by the recent fall of rain and partly by Government importation; that well-to-do ryots have no longer any fears as to the coming bhadoi, and do not feel constrained to keep six or eight months stock in hand; their willingness to sell being further quickened by the impression that Government mean to sell rice, and to prevent prices going above Rs. 4 a maund. The Government relief operations are also held to have contributed in some measure towards facilitating the distribution of the surplus stocks from the more favoured portions of the country, for ryots in those parts finding a ready market at high rates are selling now, fearing that the sale of Government rice hereafter will prevent prices rising to any very great extent; it is further urged that there being little or no local rice in the market, there can be no local stock, and that the surplus harvest in other parts of the district cannot last much longer; further, that the bora and early bhadoi will not suffice for the requirements of the district. Both parties, I may note, anticipate no very great rise in price, but on different grounds; the traders, because they say the present supply should with care meet the demand; the landowners and others, because they hope that when prices begin to rise Government will step in and supply the market. It is a difficult matter to decide which party is in the right when both have such good opportunities of arriving at the truth, and the only possible way of solving the difficulty is to see which theory adapts itself best to existing facts. Tried in this way, the theory put forward by the villagers seems best sustained, namely, that we are on the eve of a great scarcity, and that but for Government aid great distress may be anticipated. It is certain that in many places there was no crop whatever, and though the villagers might exaggerate their losses, and represent that they had only a two-anna, when in fact they had gathered a three or four anna crop, still there was no mistaking the appearance of fields which had given no return at all, and many such I saw for myself; it is also certain that but for the existence of distress we would not be giving employment to over 20,000 men on relief works, which numbers are increasing week by week. It is also a fact, which I have verified by personal enquiries at hâts, that the supply of rice is barely sufficient for the present demand, villagers who go late being often obliged to return empty-handed. The price of unhusked new rice is also very high, in some hâts nearly as dear as cleaned rice, which all indicate pretty certainly I think that the supply of new crop, not only is limited, but is already running short; for if the supply of rice be still considerable, with so great a demand for it, I do not understand why so little is in the market. That the surplus stocks of the other parts of the district and of Cooch Behar should be attracted here is not surprising, considering that the people are in want, and that large sums of money are paid weekly as wages to relief coolies; but why, if the surplus is considerable, more is not imported, and why, if many of the ryots in the distressed tracts have stocks of last harvest, they do not sell more freely, is a matter hard to be explained, except on the supposition that there is not so much rice in the country as the traders would have us believe. I am still of opinion that seven or eight lakhs of maunds are required to meet the wants of the district; the maximum amount mentioned by me in my former narrative, and which has been allotted, will perhaps not be required, for, as I noted, the villagers are not, and have not been, living at full rates, and the harvest may have been more than I estimated; it has been judged safer, however, to provide too much than too little, the more so, that the data at our command are so little to be relied on that no calculation based thereon can be taken as accurate, and a large margin has to be left for inaccuracy. I may add that the traders have not omitted to buy and store rice, husked and unhusked, since the new crop has been in the market, which purchase, if rates continue as at present, will turn out a very bad speculation. It may be the beparies and others measure accurately the wants of their customers, but this is hardly possible, and to my mind the limited supply in the market, coupled with the high prices that new rice in the husk already fetches, seem rather to show that the supply from other parts of the district will not last long. The prices, as reported by the relief officers, do not point to any great straightness in the supply, but before accepting their figures, I would like to know how far their accuracy has been tested, for during my late visit to the interior I learnt that the prices given out by the sellers are not always correct. I have just returned from a short visit to the north-west of the district, during which I made a point of ascertaining personally the condition of the market. I found the hâts nearer the station supplied from it, the markets more distant being supplied with rice brought from Thakoorgaon, or through there from Cooch Behar; these supplies penetrating even over our border into the Purneah district. Grain, I may remark, is sold in the hâts by measure not by weight, so many kattas being sold for a rupee. A katta is in fact a small cane basket, each katta being supposed to contain so many seers of 80,96, or 105 tolahs weight. I say supposed, for in fact, so far as I can make out, they do not actually contain so much, and price lists taking for granted that the kattas are correct would be apt to mislead. I went to three hâts; the first I did not reach until nearly all the people were dispersed; I learnt, however, that the supply of rice had been small, and had been all bought up early in the day; the unhusked rice had not all been bought up. The price I was told was four kattas per rupee for husked, and six kattas unhusked, each katta being 2½ seers of 96 tolahs, equal to 12 seers per rupee of 80 tolahs. The rice sellers were not present to enable me to examine their kattas, but as the rice then sold had been purchased at another hât, which in its turn had been supplied from Dinagepore, where rice was selling at 12 to 12½ seers of 96 tolahs, it seemed to me that to leave any margin for profit rice could not have been sold at the rates represented. Next day I had an opportunity of visiting a large hât attended by numbers. The supply of cleaned rice again was small, and was when I enquired being rapidly disposed of; the price was represented to be 12 seers per rupee of 96 tolahs. I had a rupee's worth measured out by the katta, and found 11 seers of husked rice of 80 tolahs were actually being sold for a rupee, and over 21 seers of unhusked. Again, I visited another large hât where two or three thousand persons must have been collected; the supply of rice was small, and according to the reputed weight contained in a katta, was selling at 12 seers of 80 tolahs per rupee. I got a retail vendor to measure me out eight annas' worth of rice, weighed it, and found that 9¼ seers of 80 tolahs was the actual price per rupee. The examination of the measure of another vendor on a larger scale in the same market produced the same result. These kattas, it is true, differ somewhat in capacity, and I may have been unfortunate in my selection, but the result of my enquiry was to leave an impression on my mind that prices are higher even than was supposed. What struck me most was the very limited supply, and the petty channels through which it flowed; the retail vendor at the last hât alluded to above had purchased on a previous market day unhusked rice brought down from Thakoorgaon, had in the interval husked it, and taken it on the present occasion for sale at a profit. Considering the high price that grain fetches, the petty nature of the supply, judging from what I have myself seen, certainly leads me to the conclusion that the sources of supply are becoming exhausted. I have directed the attention of the relief officers to this most important subject. Prices are tending upwards; rice selling when I last wrote at 10½ seers of 96 tolahs, or about 14 seers of 80 tolahs per rupee in Dinagepore, is now selling at 10 seers of 96, or 12 of 80 tolahs per rupee; the prices from other parts of the district are as follows:—

Reduced to the standard of 80 tolahs—

	Rs.	A.	
Ranisunkoil - - - - -	4	0	per maund.
Peergunge - - - - -	3	12	„
Hemtabad - - - - -	3	13	„
Tamboolee - - - - -	3	15	„
Gungarampore - - - -	3	8	„
Pateram - - - - -	3	0	„
Patnitollah - - - -	3	5	„
Kaliagunge - - - -	3	11	„
Ghoraghat - - - - -	3	12	„

I fear, however, that the prices quoted are those of the beparies, who sell more or less wholesale, and does not represent the rates at which the poorer classes can get there three or four pice worth of rice. I may add that the prices in the north of the district are said to have risen to Rs. 4 per maund; if this is correct, a rapid rise may be expected in the distressed tract.

B.—Relief Works.

The number of labourers continues to increase at all the works, and for the first time since the scarcity began to be felt, I have to report that women are coming for employment; from this it seems clear that the pressure of want is begun to be more keenly felt, though the presence of women may also be partly due to a feeling of confidence in the individual relief officers, who have now some of them been at work in the same part of the district for some time. Mr. Jones and Baboo Hari Mohun still head the list, finding employment for some 17,000 persons, of whom a considerable proportion are women. Mr. Scanlan at present employs about 3,000 persons, but he proposes to extend his work to the north of Nekmurd, and into the south-west corner of Thakoorgaon, where the villagers are demanding work; he therefore expects his numbers to be very largely increased. Baboo Poorno Chunder Goopto, at Ghoraghat, continues to employ some 1,200 or 1,300 persons daily, including some women. Mr. Finucane and the sub-inspector of Patnitollah employ between them 6,000 persons daily, while Baboo Hara Kalee Mookerjee, who has just started work between Kaliagunge thannah and the Maldah road, has already got over 1,400 persons at work, including some 200 women; the three public works overseers employ 2,772 persons. As I have pointed out before, the works are now carried on principally over roads made years ago, but since suffered to fall out of repair from want of funds to keep them in order. Task work has been introduced in some places, but in others not, as task work necessitates the digging of trenches or pits, and it often happens that the requisite earth is obtained by taking off the surface soil to a depth of few inches from the surrounding fields, a process which the ryots not only do not object to, but in places deem an advantage; trenches dug to a depth of 3 feet, especially if cut at irregular depths, the cultivator can make nothing of, at least for a year or two. At the rate we are working now we must very soon come to an end of our roads; the relief officers however have all been directed to arrange to have other work in readiness for the labourers to be employed on; maps have been sent out to them to mark completed and proposed roads, and to note what other works they propose putting in hand when the roads are finished. I suspect that the cleaning out of tanks will be found to be the most useful work for relief labourers, though I do not think that we shall get much help from the zemindars or villagers in the way of subscription. There are plenty of old tanks in the district, now choked up, or almost choked up with vegetation, which would appear to have been originally intended for purposes of irrigation; they stand many of them out on the maidans, with no houses near them, and even those near villages were evidently at one time much larger than the present requirements of the neighbouring inhabitants demand. I saw, for instance, the Atta dighee near Birampore, marked on the old survey map as a sheet of water half a mile long, now a choked up hollow; this tank skirts a plain where this season almost the entire crop was destroyed for want of rain; had the tank been full of water, a considerable extent of cultivation might have been saved. I fear, however, that neither zemindar nor villagers will subscribe anything to have the place cleared out. I have noticed many such tanks and reservoirs, the cleaning out of which would be a work of great public utility.

C.—Transport of Food.

A small quantity of rice is being imported by the mahajuns of Ryegunge. I know of no other importations. The internal trade of the district is active enough, all trade being carried on in hâts through the agency of paikars and petty dealers; rice, husked and unhusked, is brought to Dinagepore from Hubra and the eastern parts where there has been some crop; rice so purchased being taken to and sold in the hâts to the west of Dinagepore. Paikars, again, buy rice in the hâts of Thakoorgaon, part of it local, part brought from Cooch Behar; such rice being taken for sale to Ranisunkoil and Hemtabad. Unhusked rice again is bought in the Ranisunkoil and other hâts where the supply of rice is not extensive, a maund or so at a time; it is husked at home by the females of the purchaser's family and retailed next hât in small quantities to the poorer classes. To turn to our own transport arrangements, I venture to say that everything has been done that can be done. I have been most careful to make no promises which I did not see my way to performing, and I fear our arrangements have therefore seemed behind hand. I will now explain in some detail what means are available to bring in our supplies. As I noted in my last report, every inducement has been held out to the carters to engage in Government service, liberal terms being offered them, and the co-operation of the zemindars being enlisted in our favour. The plan has succeeded admirably, and carts have come in and are coming in in numbers. Mr. Scanlan, at Ranisunkoil, has engaged 750 carts, which will suffice to carry away his 140,000 maunds from Purneah as fast as he can be supplied, the distance to Kissengunge being only a few miles. Mr. Jones has got about 300 carts, and will shortly have a fleet of 200 boats of 100 to 150 maunds each—means ample for his requirements. Dinagepore and Tamboolee are supplied from Maldah; we sent some 800 carts to Mr. Westmacott for the Manik Chuk and Dinagepore line, and some 800 more have since been sent; if the whole 1,600 can be set to work between this place and Maldah and between Tamboolee and Maldah, they will with pack bullocks more than suffice for our wants. For Neetpore we are a good deal dependent on Mr. Molony; there is a large mart at Neetpore, it is true, but the trade is entirely export, in the hands of non-residents; this year, there being no rice to export, boats have not come. I am, however, under no anxiety regarding Neetpore; there is no great distress in that quarter, and boats of 400 maunds can always get up so far. As for Patnitollah, it has been found impossible to procure any number of small boats fit for the shallow water of the Atrai; it is proposed therefore to have our supplies sent to Nowgong; that place is distant from Patnitollah only about twenty-five miles. A track has been cut between the two places 500 carts, have been secured, and another 200 or 500 are said to be procurable. For transport from Patnitollah, Mr. Finucane, at Patiram, has some 500 carts, and he says he can get more if necessary. At Ghoraghât a number of carts and boats have been collected, to what amount has not been exactly reported. Complaints as to want of fodder have not been made; the officers, however, have been directed to lay in stocks of fodder along the line for use when wanted; they have also been instructed if there is any scarcity of water to sink wells wherever needed. Some difficulty has been experienced as to the necessary escort for trains of carts; it has been the custom hitherto to send a constable in charge of some 60 or 70 or even greater number of carts; it is useless, however, expecting any one man, however energetic, to look after so many; police also are not always available, and delays take place at stations where the escort is changed. I have written, therefore, to the Relief Commissioner, and proposed that there should be a sirdar carter over every 10 or 12 carts, that no police should go with the train, but that men separately paid should be stationed at intervals along the road, whose duty it will be to see that carts do not delay, to tell the carters where to get fodder, to give assistance in case of a breakdown, &c.,—these men to be paid out of relief funds, and to be under the direction of some one of the relief officers.

D.—STORAGE OF GRAIN.

In my last narrative I pointed out the places at which we mean to collect our supplies from outside, and from whence grain will be distributed in the interior. Golahs are being run up at those places, and also at different places in the interior,—some sites being fixed on in consultation with the Relief Commissioner, others being suggested by the relief officers as convenient. I may remark that every golah is built in the vicinity of a hât, so that if it becomes necessary to sell we may have a market close at hand. Storekeepers are appointed as soon as rice is sent to a subsidiary golah, but the want of proper weights for their use is much felt. The notice of the Relief Commissioner has been drawn to this, and he has, I believe, taken measures to have our wants supplied.

E.—ADVANCES.

There have been no applications for advances since my last report.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

The question of sub-divisions for relief purposes is at present in abeyance, the whole arrangement having been reported to Government by the Relief Commissioner. I hope to see operations fairly started immediately. The need for charitable relief is not so pressing as the high price of grain would seem to warrant, for wages earned on the relief works have enabled many a man to send pice for the support of his relations, who would otherwise have been dependent on charity. The number of boys employed on works also is large, and women are now seeking employment. Over and above all these, however, there are certain classes who must be gratuitously relieved. At a meeting of the Executive Committee it was resolved that the sum of Rs. 100 should be placed at the disposal of each relief officer, and instructions issued for the distribution of gratuitous relief. I was anxious that the relief officers should be instructed to make use of the Government stores, for it seemed to me inadvisable that the relief committees should seek their supplies from the neighbouring hâts, thus raising prices which are now quite high enough; my motion, however, was overruled, and the relief officers instructed to draw their supplies from the nearest hât. The list of sub-committees has been published in the *Gazette*. Relief, however, it was determined, should only be started at the head-quarters of each relief officer, who was to report if the operations should be extended to other places. The relief officers were also empowered to afford help in the way of supplying materials for spinning, &c. Until the relief centres are finally settled much cannot be done under this head; the officers in the interior, however, have been authorized to relieve any cases of distress coming to their notice. Among the zemindars, Baboo Khetro Mohun Singha, manager of the Dinagepore Rajbaree estates, and who is also a zemindar in his own right, has been most active in his endeavours to help his tenantry; he has imported rice, which he has stored at different places; he distributes rice gratuitously to such of his ryots as are unable to work; he has granted several sunnuds for land to dig tanks, the work of digging being undertaken to afford employment; he is also making efforts to provide seed grain by offering those ryots who have surplus stocks of last years grain, old rice in exchange for new; he has also remitted rents where his tenants have lost their crops; in fact, ever since the scarcity began he has been unremitting in his efforts to mitigate its effect.

No. 768F, dated Maldah, the 10th March 1874.

From F. J. Alexander, Esq., Officiating Magistrate-Collector of Maldah to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

In continuation of my No. 611F, dated 24th February last, I have the honour to submit herewith the Fortnightly Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in this district for the fortnight ending 7th March 1874.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Maldah District for the Fortnight ending March 7th, 1874.

A.—State of the Country.

In the central and southern markets supplies still continue plentiful, and prices are generally stationary. At Rohunpore, the largest rice mart in the south-east of the district, supplies are still abundant, 3,000 maunds of paddy and 300 maunds of rice being the quotations of the last market day, and almost half the quantity of paddy and rice thus brought for sale was reported as left unsold when the market closed. The daily arrivals of grain through private trade at English Bazar by the Mahanuddy also shows supplies to be plentiful. In the north-west tract (thanah Khurbah) prices have risen slightly, and the quantity of rice exposed for sale is diminishing. A brisk trade is being done in mustard-seed, which, however, fetches only half the price per maund it did last year.

The following are the latest prices of paddy and ordinary rice at the under-mentioned principal markets in different parts of the district:—

Central Part of the District.

At Mungulbari and Balia Nawabgunge.

Paddy - - - - -	19 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice - - - -	10½ „ „ „

North-East of the District.

At Bamungola.

Paddy - - - - -	18 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice - - - -	13 „ „ „

At Gazole.

Paddy - - - -	21 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice - - - -	12 „ „ „

North-West of the District.

At Chanchal.

Ordinary rice - - - - -	10 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).

At Toolsigunge and Abadpore.

Ordinary rice - - - - -	10½ seers per rupee (80 tolahs).

At Shumshi.

Ordinary rice - - - - -	10¼ seers per rupee (80 tolahs).

At Futtehpore Hyatpore.

Paddy - - - - -	18 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice - - - - -	12 „ „ „

South-West of the District.

At Shibgunge, Kansat, and Turtipore.

Ordinary rice - - - - -	11½ to 12 seers per rupee (80 tolahs).

South-East of the District.

At Rohunpore and Gomastapore.

Paddy - - - - -	21 seers per rupee of (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice - - - - -	15 „ „ „

Rainfall.

The weather has been changeable: at times clear, with light westerly winds, and again cloudy and threatening. On the 23d February the weather set in stormy with every appearance of heavy rain, but it cleared off after a slight shower. On the night of March 7th there was a heavy shower of rain, 1·22 inches being recorded at the sudder station, and as I write the weather is still cloudy and unsettled, and there was a heavy shower last night (9th March) again, 0·44 inches of rain being recorded.

The season is altogether a strange one.

State of the Crops.

I have heard nothing up to date to alter the opinion I have already expressed regarding the favourable out-turn that may be expected from the cold weather crops, such as wheat, barley, cheena. The successive showers we have had have hitherto been most beneficial, and a few days of sunshine and westerly wind would now ensure the safety of these crops. They look excellent, and in many places strike me as being "heavier" crops than I have sometimes seen in other years; the natives say so themselves. If we do not get "hail" before they are harvested, above an average crop will in most places be reaped.

The "bora" dhan also promises well. A larger area than usual has been cultivated, and what has been transplanted looks excellent. This rain is all in its favour. I estimated the out-turn to be over 200,000 maunds. This is I believe under rather than over the mark.

The mango crop, judging from the blossom, will be a very good one.

Condition of the District.

The health of the people continues generally good. With the prospect of good cold weather crops, a good bora dhan crop, and a good mango crop, much cause for anxiety, so far as the condition of the district generally is concerned, is removed. All who have lands have now ample to do to plough them, or irrigate the "boro" dhan. No cases of distress or starvation are reported. I annex a comparative statement of theft cases, &c. for February 1872, 1873, and 1874; it does not call for special remark.

Condition of any Special Tract.

From the north-west tract (thannah Khurba) Mr. Reily does not report any special change. The villagers come in considerable numbers to the relief works, and grain is being distributed to the tenants of the Chanchal estate and to outsiders on credit or for cash.

To his tenants Mr. Reily, the Manager of the Chanchal estate, has up to date thus advanced 1,476½ maunds, and has sold to outsiders 819 maunds 34 seers.

Since my last report I have myself visited the north-eastern part of the district in the neighbourhood of Gazole, and after inquiries from a number of the village mundals I am glad to find there is at present no cause for anxiety in that quarter. Relief works are open for those who will come to them.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

Mr. Reily reports that work is going on on eight roads and five tanks in the north-west tract. The total number of persons employed during the fortnight ending Saturday, the 7th March, on these relief works was 12,833 men, 3,343 women, and 635 children.

The road between Khurbah and Chanchal being finished, the labourers have been distributed to the neighbouring tanks and roads.

Shops for sale of Government rice have been opened at four of the relief works where the nearest village shops were over two miles distant. The total amount of Government rice sold up to date is 56 maunds 11 seers 3½ chittacks.

Work is also going on on the ordinary district and municipal roads, and on five other relief roads noted below.

The total daily average of persons employed on all works for the fortnight is as follows:—

———	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
On the ordinary district roads and municipalities -	612	145	20	777
On relief works - - - - - -	1,064	349	62	1,475
Total - - -	1,676	494	82	2,252

STATEMENT showing Total Number of Persons employed on Road and Relief Works during the Fortnight ending 7th March 1874.

No.	Roads.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1	District roads - - - - -	8,138	1,819	258	10,215
2	Municipal roads and tanks - - -	625	271	34	930
3	Relief works—				
	North-western tract—				
	On nine relief roads - - - -	8,616	1,825	448	10,889
	On six tanks - - - - -	4,456	2,518	211	7,185
	Eastern tract—				
	On two relief roads - - -	1,264	—	186	1,450
	South-eastern and Central tracts—				
	On three roads - - -	679	504	86	1,269
	Total - - -	23,778	6,937	1,223	31,938

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

The private transport of grain (paddy and rice) from the larger rice marts, such as Neetpore, Rohunpore, and also from Dacca (Naraingunge), continues fairly active.

The transport of Government grain is being pushed on, and so far the carriage (both carts and boats) has proved equal to the pressure.

The route to Dinagepore viâ Sahebgunge and Hyatpore continues to work well. Up to date 23,748 maunds for Dinagepore and 4,964 maunds for the Chanchal estate have been carried by it. The requirements of Dinagepore by this route have, however, now largely increased.

It was at first proposed to send only 10,000 maunds in all by this route. This was subsequently increased first to 5,000 maunds, and then to 10,000 maunds per week. Now it is proposed to send 3,000 maunds a day, or 1,00,000 maunds per month. More carriage will, therefore, have to be put on, and if the Manickchuck route is wholly or partially abandoned, as now proposed, I anticipate no difficulty in conveying the required quantity by the Hyatpore route to Dinagepore.

Mr. Westmacott is looking after the Manickchuck route, and reports that he is now employing from 700 to 2,000 carts. His despatches are over 1,000 maunds a day. There has been no block yet, but at the Nemaserai ferry, where the water route from Godagari and the land route from Manickchuck meet, it will require all Mr. Westmacott's efforts to prevent delays taking place.

The Dinagepore and Rajmehal road, on which much new earth has recently been thrown up, has been much cut up by the constant traffic. The executive engineer has been directed to give his constant attention to the road.

The total receipts of grain into the district up to March 7th were 2,55,235 maunds 34 chittaks, of which 29,071 maunds 29 chittacks had arrived at final destination at store-houses in this district, and 2,26,164 maunds 5 chittacks had passed through, or was in transit for Dinagepore.

Allowing for delays at changing stations, where the grain has had to be removed from boats to carts, or from large boats to smaller ones, and which it was not easy to avoid, this large quantity of grain has hitherto gone on without a single block; but additional effort must be made to keep sending it on while the weather remains tolerably cool, for each day as the weather gets hotter will tell on the carriage cattle.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

At the store-houses in the district the following quantities have been stored:—

	Mds.	Ch.
At English Bazar - - - - -	3,396	0
* „ Old Maldah - - - - -	9,200	0
„ Gazole - - - - - -	5,000	0
† „ Khurbah - - - - -	10,000	0
„ Hyatpore Futtehpore - - - -	1,474	29
Total - - -	29,071	29

At Hyatpore a receiving gola to hold 9,000 maunds is completed, and at Manickchuck a similar gola to hold 5,000 maunds. Both these golas will have to be abandoned with the setting in of the regular rains (15th June), and I do not recommend the expenditure of money to build more extensive golahs at either place.

The best place, unquestionably, for permanent golas for storage of grain through the rains is at Nemaserai and Old Maldah, and Mr. Westmacott is arranging for this. From this point it would be easy to store and distribute grain as required, as follows:—To Central Dinagepore, by the land route, as long as it is open or passable for carts ; to South-western Dinagepore, (Raigunge, Chooramun, &c.) and South-eastern Purneah (Barsoi), if need be, by the Upper Mahanuddy and the Kulick River; to Central and South-eastern Dinagepore by the Tangun and Poornababha (tributaries of the Mahanuddy), and the routes of supply would be from Godagari by the Mahanuddy, and from Sahibgunge by the Ganges and *Kalindy*.

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* Of this quantity, 1,518 maunds have been sent to Dinagepore.

† Of this quantity it is possible that a portion has been sent on to Dinagepore.

As all these water routes will, however, be open, the smaller ones to large country boats, and the larger ones to country boats and steamers, from July to September, the permanent golahs need not, I think, be erected for a larger quantity than one or two lakhs of maunds at most.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES, AND THEIR RESULTS.

Rupees 8,000, the balance of the sanctioned advance to Rajnath Guha of Rs. 10,000 under clause *b*, paragraph 4, circular No. 80, has been paid to him, and he has purchased grain in Calcutta, which he intends to dispose of in the distressed tract. He is ready to take the remaining Rs. 40,000 which he applied for, and I am anxious that he should have it. It has been sent to the Famine Commissioner for his sanction.

No other advances have actually been made, but several sums are available as soon as the parties appear to take the same.

Thus Rs. 20,000 has been sanctioned for Mr. Reily under clause *a*, paragraph 4, circular No. 80; Rs. 1,000 for land improvements, paragraph 23 circular No. 80, dated 17th November, for the manager of the Tahirpore estate; and Rs. 500 to Heeran Sirdar of Deopoorah, and Rs. 500 to Koshal Mundul, for excavating tanks in the eastern tract where water is likely to fail.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

For charitable relief operations I have divided the district into four sub-divisions, and placed a special officer in charge of each.

Within each circle relief centres have been selected and sub-committees organised, and more relief centres will be selected, if needed. At present, except in the north-west (Khurbah circle) there is no indication that charitable relief is yet required on any large scale in the rest of the district.

The following is the result of charitable relief operations for the past fortnight:—

(1.) *Chanchal Sub-division.*—This circle is under Mr. H. Reily, manager of the Chanchal estate, and I have now sent Lieutenant Kellie of the military department to assist him in relief and transport duties.

During the fortnight charitable relief has been given at the following places:—

At Chanchal	902	persons.
„ Maltipore	368	„
„ Khurbah	611	„
„ Futtehpore	129	„
„ Saroopgunge	169	„
„ Toolsigunge	54	„
„ Dabeegunge	104	„
„ Dabeepore	82	„
„ Arhidanga	13	„

The expenditure has been 31 maunds 17 seers 8 chittacks of rice, and Rs. 13-3-3 in cash.

(2.) *Sudder Sub-division.*—This is under one of the deputy magistrates and the medical officer.

At English Bazar 119 persons were relieved at an expenditure of 1 maund 17 seers 8 chittacks. No other relief centres in this circle have yet been opened. The sub-committees have been directed to open them when needed.

(3.) *Maldah Sub-division or Circle.*—This is under a sub-deputy collector.

At Gazole 260 persons have been relieved at an expenditure of 4 maunds 34 seers 8 chittacks of rice. No other relief centres yet opened.

(4.) *Nawabgunge Sub-division or Circle.*—This is under a sub-deputy collector. At Gomashtapore nine persons have been relieved at an expenditure of 14½ seers of rice and 1 anna 9 pie cash.

At Kansat 171 persons have been relieved at an expenditure of 2 maunds 5 seers 8 chittacks of rice. No other relief centres yet open.

The total number of persons relieved for the fortnight is thus 2,936, or an average of 209 per diem.

Except in Khurbah, all the cases relieved are those of the infirm, sick, beggars, &c., who in any year would be on the hands of the public for support.

In Khurbah, those who are not usually beggars, but who now feel distress, come for help.

The total amount subscribed up to date is Rs. 5,700-8, and I have just received a substantial grant of Rs. 10,000 for the Central Relief Committee.

The statement called for in Government Circular No. 1,251—S.R., dated 5th March, is annexed.

No. 1 M.N., dated Beauleah, the 9th March 1874.

From W. H. D'Oyly, Esq., Collector of Rajshahye, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honour to submit my narrative for the fortnight ending 8th instant.

A.—State of the Country.

The cold-weather crops promise to yield a far outturn. Up to Saturday last there had been no rain excepting a few drops in thanahs Bagmara, Singra, and Nattore. On Saturday night there was a sharp storm of wind, accompanied by thunder and lightning, and a little rain, and on Sunday there was also a little rain; to-day it looks threatening. The supply of rice in the several markets continues to be equal to the demand.

The price is as follows:—

	Seers.
Singra	15
Nattore	14¼
Charghat	14¼
Malunchee	14¼
Bagmara	14¼
Boraigaon	13½
Beauleah	13¾
Pooteah	13
Godagaree	12

At Madarigunge I found paddy selling at from 30 to 34 seers per rupee. Importations have not decreased. There have been no cases of actual starvation. I received some rather alarming accounts from the police at Bagmara, stating that people were suffering much, and that a woman had hanged herself, because she had nothing to eat. I immediately went out to the place, and rode about the country in the vicinity making inquiries. I find that the real cause of suicide was a quarrel.

The people in this part are generally in good condition, though in a few villages I found some looking rather pinched. I have started a poor-house at a village called Bagsole, and I persuaded a respectable farmer to take advances for two villages for digging or rather deepening tanks where they were much wanted. At the poor-house the lame, blind, and infirm from the neighbouring villages will receive food gratis, while cotton and jute will be supplied to those who can work at all to spin into thread and string. The country abounds in kunker, and I have directed the inspector of the division, whom I left there, to have kunker collected by men, women, and boys who are not fit for heavy work, and to pay them for each basketful to be collected at two or three places along the banks of a stream in the neighbourhood, from which we can bring it into Beaulah in the rains. One farmer also took an advance to buy seeds for his ryots. I received many applications for seeds, and made notes of the places where they were required, and I have written to all the zemindars and farmers of these villages, begging them either to supply the seeds or to apply for advances for the purpose. In many villages there is a want of water, and I am glad to say that I saw a good many tanks being excavated. I have written to the zemindars of all villages where the water supply is deficient, urging them to apply for loans for the purpose of deepening tanks. At Nowhatta I have started a poor-house, and the road we have commenced work on from Nowhatta direct to Saipara has attracted a very large number of workmen. I saw over 1,500 men there one day; they are all in excellent condition. Having finished the ploughing of their fields, they have come in larger numbers to work on the roads; we must expect the number to decrease when the sowing time comes. A poor-house has also been started near Beauleah.

B.—Relief Works.

It will be seen from the returns that there has been a great increase in the number of labourers during the last week of the fortnight; this is owing to the large number on the new road from Nowhatta to Saipara, which will soon be carried on to Manda thanah. Arrangements are being made to hut the workmen who came from any distance. It will be a great relief to the people of the vicinity when the feeder from Tannore *viâ* Saipara and Bagmara to Mahdnuggur station is started, but as yet no engineer has been deputed to mark out the line.

No. 125.

STATEMENT showing the Number of Men, Women, and Children employed on works in the District of Rajshahye under the Executive Engineer, Rajshahye District, during the week ending Saturday the 28th February 1874.

Number of Persons employed on each work daily;—

		Total number employed.
Sunday	Men	932
	Women	35
	Children	27
Monday	Men	798
	Women	30
	Children	30
Tuesday	Men	770
	Women	36
	Children	26
Wednesday	Men	826
	Women	40
	Children	24
Thursday	Men	549
	Women	28
	Children	24
Friday	Men	670
	Women	31
	Children	26
Saturday	Men	315
	Women	27
	Children	5
Total	Men	4,860
	Women	238
	Children	162

Beauleah,
The 2nd March 1874.

J. J. O'FLAHERTY,
Executive Engineer.

STATEMENT showing the number of Men, Women, and Children employed on works in the District of Rajshahye under the Executive Engineer, Rajshahye District, during the week ending Saturday the 7th March 1874.

Number of Persons employed on each work daily :—

		Total number employed.
Sunday	Men	394
	Women	32
	Children	19
Monday	Men	583
	Women	41
	Children	24
Tuesday	Men	907
	Women	33
	Children	27
Wednesday	Men	1,403
	Women	33
	Children	18
Thursday	Men	2,226
	Women	39
	Children	20
Friday	Men	2,411
	Women	64
	Children	17
Saturday	Men	2,329
	Women	78
	Children	16
Total	Men	10,253
	Women	320
	Children	141

Beauleah, the 9th March 1874.

WOOMESH CHUNDER MOOKERJEA,
Accountant for Executive Engineer.

TRANSPORT OF GRAIN.

BEAULEAH.

Receipts.

Date of receipt.	Place from which received.	Imperial.	
		Bags.	Mds.
27th February 1874	Kooshtea	1,728	3,456
28th " "	Ditto	1,272	2,544
1st March 1874	Ditto	1,570	3,140
2nd " "	Ditto	727	1,454

Despatches.

Date of despatch.	Place to which despatched.	Imperial.	
		Bags.	Mds.
23rd February 1874	Tannore	195	390
27th " "	Putneetolla	265	530
1st March 1874	Ditto	489	978
2nd " "	Ditto	964	1,928
3rd " "	Ditto	558	1,116
4th " "	Ditto	701	142
5th " "	Ditto	272	344
6th " "	Ditto	189	378
7th " "	Ditto	551	1,102

GODAGAREE.

Receipts.

Date of receipt.	Place from which received.	Local.	
		Bags.	Mds.
27th February 1874	Kooshtea	1,000	2,000
28th " "	Ditto	10,670	14,060
1st March 1874	Ditto	1,809	3,611
2nd " "	Ditto	2,692	5,384

Despatches.

Date of despatch.	Place to which despatched.	Local.		
		Bags.	Mds.	Srs.
23rd February 1874	Neetpore	486	1,032	30
Ditto	Raigunge	897	1,794	0
Ditto	Dinagepore	729	1,458	0
24th February 1874	Raigunge	400	800	0
Ditto	Nowbazar	337	716	0
Ditto	Putneetolla	427	854	0
25th February 1874	Neetpore	1,530	3,215	25
Ditto	Raigunge	735	1,470	0
26th February 1874	Neetpore	129	274	0
Ditto	Luskurhat	1,073	2,347	0
27th February 1874	Ditto	394	856	0
28th February 1874	Neetpore	1,760	2,855	0
Ditto	Raigunge	1,390	1,750	0
Ditto	Luskurhat	1,039	3,878	0
1st March 1874	Neetpore	1,462	1,864	0
Ditto	Raigunge	3,016	3,572	0
Ditto	Putneetolla	2,290	2,506	0
2nd March 1874	Ditto	1,356	2,712	0
Ditto	Neetpore	306	688	20
Ditto	Raigunge	1,457	2,939	12½
3rd March 1874	Neetpore	1,185	2,370	0

SAHEBGUNGE.

Receipts.

Date of receipt.	Place from which received.	Imperial.	
		Bags.	Mds.
23rd February 1874	Noornuggur	470	940
3rd March „	Ditto	60	120

Despatches.

Date of despatch.	Place to which despatched.	Imperial.	
		Bags.	Mds. Srs.
3rd March 1874	Putneetollah	470	940 0
4th „ „	Ditto	2,885	2,885 31
4th „ „	Ditto	60	120 2

NOWGONG.

Receipts.—Nil.

Despatches.

Date of despatch.	Place to which despatched.	Local.	
		Bags.	Mds. Srs.
24th February 1874	Store-keeper of Northern State Railway	114	313 20
25th „ „	Ditto ditto	176	484 0

C.—TRANSPORT OF GRAIN.

There was a slight block for a day at the Nukrazee ghât, on the Baraloee, owing to the boats having been removed. This is a zemindaree ghât, and I propose to make it a public ferry. Carts go this way to Putneetolla. I engaged two boats at this ghât, and for the present must pay the boatmen monthly wages. Importations continue briskly, and quite supply the demand.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

The statement will show the progress in storing and forwarding Government grain. The despatches from Godagaree have quite come up to the estimates, and would have been far larger had it not been that for three days there was no grain to forward. By the arrangements now being made with Mr. Dawson, this is not likely again to occur. I regret to say that I have not been able to include the transport of railway rice as I have received no returns. The officer at Beauleah promises to let me have the returns for this depôt, but has not yet done so: I will endeavour to get them to-morrow. Major Lindsay was requested to direct his officers to supply me with the returns; but I have not yet received any. The steam launch *Fenny* has just arrived, and will proceed to Godagaree for the Mohanuddy. The *Star of Dacca* has gone to Kooshtea.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

	Rs.
Advanced up to the date of last narrative	19,800
Advances in course of last fortnight	9,800
Total	29,600

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

At the poor-house started at Bussooree, three miles west of Beauleah, a few old and infirm persons have been fed. At Nowhatta also, and at Bagsole, poor-houses have lately been started. The number fed will appear in the next narrative; but there are only a few as yet, and those mostly professional beggars who cannot now get the support they usually do. There is a dhurumsala to the north of the town of Beauleah, to which the Tahripur Wards' estate subscribes. This is an old institution, but I fear has not been properly looked after hitherto. It is managed by a committee. I have deputed a deputy collector to look into the accounts and to see that it is really made to be an useful institution for the destitute poor.

No. 8, dated Rungpore, the 9th March 1874.

Memo. by G. DAMANT, Esq., Joint Magistrate in charge.

Forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Rungpore District, for the Fortnight ending 7th March 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

THE supply in the large bazaars is still well maintained, but the rice which is brought for sale is nearly all imported, very little of it is home produce. The southern part of the district is mainly supplied by boats from Dacca and Seerajgunge, the west including the Sudder station from Hubrah, Phulbari, and Burampore in Dinagepore, and Hilli in Bograh, and the north and east from Cooch Behar and Julpigoree. Prices on the whole have not risen in the fortnight under report, they range from Rs. 3-4 to Rs. 4-8 per maund of 80 tolahs; prices from all parts of the district are quoted below, in all instances the price has been calculated by 80 tolahs weight:

	Per maund. Rs.	As.	P.
Mahigunge	3	10	0
Gaibunda	3	12	0
Sadullapore	4	0	0
Govindgunge	3	5	0
Sundergunge	3	7	0
Dimlah	3	5	0
Juldaka	3	6	0
Durwani	4	0	0
Kourgunge	3	14	0
Fourunbari	3	8	0
Borobari	4	2	0
Peergunge	4	8	0
Balooa Hât	4	8	0
Molung	3	12	0
Pyrabund	4	0	0

In some of the smaller hâts the supply is said to have been deficient at times, but the deficiency seems to have been only temporary.

There has been no rainfall during the fortnight except a few very slight showers in the south, rain would do more harm than good at present. Since writing the above, we had a storm of rain and hail on the night of the 7th, about an inch of rain fell in the Sudder station.

The winter crops are all doing well, potatoes have yielded a bumper crop, tobacco has been fully up to the average, the wheat harvest has just commenced, and there is likely to be a splendid crop, the aus rice has been sown to a very large extent, probably nearly double as much as usual, it is already sprouting and looking well, China and Kaun have also been very largely grown and are flourishing. The most distressed parts of the district are the south part of thannahs Mahigunge, Sundergunge, Molung, Peergunge, the north of Sadullapore, south of Nesbutgunge, and Kairgunge, and a small tract to the west of Govindgunge, in the neighbourhood of Kamdiar Hât. As a rule, prices are highest in places where the difficulty of importation is greatest; and distress is greatest on the red-clay soil, (kiyar) where the amun crop failed, and there is scarcely any cold-weather crop. The collector is now on tour in the south and west of the district, and reports on those parts of the district, as follows:—

" During the fortnight under report, I have traversed the thannahs Molung, Peergunge, Govindgunge, and southern part of Sadullapore to Bhawanigunge. Molung continues the same, the Pyrabund zemindars are distributing advances to their ryots, a commencement has been made at giving relief on the Cooch Behar estates, and the estates of Baboo Luchmipat and Dhunpat Dugar are being systimatically cared for by their respective superintendents. Famine officer Baboo Akhy Koomar Sen, deputy magistrate, is distributing cotton for spinning, through the thannahs of Molung and Peergunge, and is, besides, distributing supplies of 14 days at a time to deserving objects of charity in their houses. He has found a large amount of distress in the west of Peergunge thannah, where the soil is the red-clay, and no rice was reaped. Grain must be advanced to the poorer cultivators in this quarter under the rules just promulgated (Circular No. 706 of 16th February 1874). Part of this land is in the zemindary of the Dinagepore Rajah, and application has been made to him to help his ryots, and the Commissioner will be asked to use his influence with the zemindar. I went through the bad tract west of Govindgunge to Kamdiar hât. The state of this quarter I consider more critical than any other portion of the district. It is not so much that actual distress is very general as yet, but the ground is for the most part red-clay and there is not a blade of cold-weather crop throughout the whole region. Road-works are in progress and a tank or tanks will probably be dug, but a large number of the people will have to be supported by loans of grain when the time comes for breaking up the ground for the spring rice. The zemindars are for the most part poor, and their further objection to give advances is, that the ryots have little attachment to their homes. There are no groves of plaintain or betel-trees, and no tobacco, or other home produce round their houses, and if the crop failed they would migrate, and leave the zemindars to whistle for their money. The bad tract may be described as that portion of the thannah lying west of the Kurataya, and contains 200 villages and 18,000 people. In about 20 villages, the distress is worst, and I calculate that we shall have to feed here from 2,000 to 5,000 people for the better part of six months, and for this purpose require from 4,000 to 12,000 maunds. The rice is ready, about 1,000 maunds have already been sent to Kamdiar Hât, and 4,000 maunds will be sent there; 5,000 maunds will be stored at Govindgunge, and there will be abundant supplies ready at Gyebunda and at Kallyagunge to be moved on as the first stocks are exhausted. The distribution will be made in the form of advances through the relief committee, but for payment of these supplies and similar grants elsewhere, our local funds will not be a tithe of what we shall require, and it would be a simple procedure that the Government rice be advanced as Government rice, and not debited to the committee. When I return to Rungpore in about a week's time, I shall enter more fully into this subject in consultation with the relief committee, and report more in detail."

"The south-eastern parts of Govindgunge and the south of Sodullapore are fairly well-off for cold-weather crops, and all about here at Kallyagunge the wheat is in splendid condition and the yearly rice sprouting."

I have myself visited Barobari thannah from which we had had reports, but I was glad to find the condition of the people not so bad as I had been led to believe, still there is no doubt considerable distress. I have opened roads in every direction through the thannah, and a good number of men and boys have come to them. I do not think there will be more than great scarcity in this thannah. Dr. Ghose, who has visited the relief-houses in Mahegunge and Sundergunge, reports of the people who come to them: "The class of people who resort to these " relief-houses are chiefly women, children, and men who have been reduced to beggary by old age " or such diseases and deformities as permanently unfit people for work. A considerable number " of people seemed starved, but none of them were free from some disease or other. I believe short " and improper food have favoured the diseases to which they were predisposed, and it appears to " me that, do what we will, a large portion of them cannot be saved from death." There were five cases of grain-theft in the Gyebunda sub-division; and eleven cases in the Sudder station about bringing up rice, for Baboo Luchmipat Dugar was attacked by thieves near Kallyagunge, but the boatmen, with the assistance of the manjhees of some Government boats which were lying near, beat them off and captured three of them.

B.—Relief Works.

Thirty-seven roads have now been opened as relief works and others are being marked out. It will be seen from the statement appended that the number of labourers has increased considerably, but still the number is surprisingly small for a district containing such a large population as Rungpore.

I attribute it to two reasons—first, their inability to do such hard work as road making, as so many of them are reduced by constant fever and spleen; and secondly, that the number of persons who earn their living as daily labourers is very small. Most of the people have a little land which they are very unwilling to leave. At Borobari, where the people seemed more anxious for road work than many other places that I have seen, I found a great many of the coolies only came to the roads on alternate days, working in the meantime on their own fields. Dr. Ghose says: "Wherever I went I found the people making all sorts of difficulties about road " work. It is true that when people are starving no work can be unacceptable, but it is difficult " to conceive the strong prejudice the people have against earth work; they would rather live on " short food than go to work on the roads;" and again he says: "At Kandi (in thannah " Mahegunge) I found a large number of weakly people who are willing to work but unfit for " the hard labour of excavation."

We have begun to sell Government rice to labourers on relief works in places where the prices had risen to seven pice a seer; we sold at six pice = Rs. 3-12 a maund. Baboo Akhoy Koomar Sen reports that he began to sell at Pyrabund, Mohung, and Jagirhat, but since the opening of the Government golahs the price has again fallen in the bazar to six and half pice a seer, so he has closed the Government shop for the present. He has now opened another shop at Peergunge at the request of the coolies; the price has not been high enough in other places to warrant us in opening Government shops. We have hitherto only allowed one seer of rice daily to each cooly, but they complain that it is not enough. As they have to provide for their families, it may hereafter be found advisable to modify this rule.

Our supplies of kodalies are rather short; more are on their way from Calcutta, but a great proportion of them are said to be the short-handled kodals which will be useless here.

C.—Transport of Food.

About 1,600 maunds of rice were brought up the Brahmaputra to Kulma and Kallegunge ghats during the fortnight, and 2,425 maunds to other ghats on the Dhurlah and Teesta, and the importation by land from the neighbouring districts still continues.

Mr. Blair has now taken charge of the transport arrangements, and matters seem to be working smoothly. We have about 450 carts working and 50 boats; this is sufficient for the present, but the numbers are being increased in anticipation of the fresh supply allotted to us.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

A complete list of golahs was submitted in the last report; storage is now ready for about a lakh or more of maunds, and the remainder will be complete in the ensuing fortnight. Golahs for 60,000 maunds have been commenced at Kallygunge, and will be ready shortly. A place has been chosen at Peergunge near Kallygunge which, it is hoped, will be safe from the incursions of the river. The following shows the amount of grain received and despatched up to 6th March.

	Mds.	Mds.
RECEIPTS	—	80,151
DESPATCHES.		
Chellakhal	21,000	
Peergunge	5,818	
Gaibunda	11,230	
Kurigram	10,010	
Naldanga	5,770	
Mahigunge	6,124	
Pyrabund	820	
Kamdiar Hat	700	
Sadullapore	500	
Sundergunge	520	
Panialghat	3,086	
Gobindgunge	1,660	
		67,238
Balance at Kallygunge		12,913

Of the rice sent to Chellakhal, 2,365 maunds has been sent on to Durwani.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

A great number of advances have been applied for and sanctioned during the last fortnight, as will be seen from the statement appended. The late orders on this subject are hardly known yet throughout the district; doubtless we shall receive many applications from jotedars and others shortly.

	Rs.
Statement of advances already made	23,700
For grain	7,500
For advances to ryots	16,200
Advances applied for and sanctioned, or forwarded to Relief Commissioner for sanction	47,400
Total	71,100

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Our relief operations are now fairly started in all the distressed tracts. The following statement shows the number of annochatras opened, and the number of persons relieved at each, as far as I have been able to ascertain, but as some of the places are very distant from head-quarters, and have only been lately opened, no returns have yet been received:—

Places.	Persons relieved daily.
Rungpore	134
Pyrabund	400
Kallygunge outpost	70
Alaikuri	382
Kandi	191
Naldanga	180
Boidyanath	397
Borobari	36
Meetapuker (about)	250
Peergunge "	100
Govindgunge "	50
Gaibunda	50
Kamdiar Hat	Unknown.
Kaligunge	90
Sadullapore	Unknown.
Besides these the following private annochatras are open—	
At Mahegunge, Baboo Annoda Prosad Rae's	400
Luchmiput Sing's	200
At Molung—	
Baboo Luchmiput Sing's	400
And Maharani Surnamoye's at Luckhipore	100
Ulipore	30
Panchgachhi Lalchamarah Hât	Unknown.
Total	1,130
Grand Total	3,460

At the Government annochatras ¼ seer rice and ¼ seer potatoes, cooked, is given; care has been taken to exclude all persons who are able to work. About 17 persons are living at the annochatra at Rungpore. Sheds have been erected there, and are in progress at other principal relief centres.

Besides this, Baboo Akhoy Kumar Sen has been distributing small supplies of rice to deserving ryots in thannahs Peergunge and Molung.

A system of cotton relief has also been organised; a seer of raw cotton is given with a rupee to each woman in want of work; this is returned spun into thread, and another supply is given. It is estimated that it would take nearly a fortnight to spin a seer of cotton. A considerable number of women have already been relieved in this way.

	Women who have taken cotton relief.
In Molung thannah - - - - -	194 (chiefly purdahnishins.)
Mohegunge - - - - - -	163
Sundergunge - - - - - -	24
Total - - - -	381
Bonbari - - - - - - -	55
Total - - - -	436

Besides the above, cotton is being distributed in thannahs Nesbetgunge, Kourgunge, and Peergunge, but no reports from thence have yet been received. There was some reluctance on the part of the people who take cotton, at first, as it was rumoured that the women who did the spinning best were to be taken into the jail to manufacture thread; but the system appears to be working well now, and is likely to afford relief to a large class who would otherwise have starved or come to the annochatras.

Receipts.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Local subscriptions realized up to date - - -	6,450	0	0
Grant received from Government - - -	4,000	0	0
Total - - - -	10,450	0	0

Expenditure.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Expended or given out to annochatra committees for distribution of food - - - - -	3,089	12	0
Advances to officer engaged in cotton relief, and for purchase of cotton - - - - -	2,278	0	0
Total - - - - -	5,367	12	0
Balance - - - - - -	5,082	4	0
Total - - - -	10,450	0	0

No. 1,130, dated Bogra, the 9th March 1874.

From C. A. Kelly, Esquire, Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Bogra, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honour to submit the fortnightly narrative as follows:—

Narrative of scarcity and relief of the district of Bogra for the fortnight ending the 9th March 1874.

A.—State of the Country.

No deficiency in bazar supplies at present. Ordinary rice at Bogra is selling by last accounts at 13 seers of 80 tolahs per rupee, at Sultangunge 12¾ seers, and at Dupchanchia 14¼ seers.

	Mds.
At Sultangunge - - - - - -	2,300
„ Dupchanchia - - - - -	13,000
„ Hili - - - - - - -	11,000
„ Burigunge - - - - - -	4,000
„ Kichak - - - - - - -	3,200
„ Bogra - - - - - -	10,000

has been reported as in the hands of traders and petty dealers up to about the 6th March 1874. I am aware of no appreciable rainfall this fortnight, with the exception of a slight fall, ·10 on the night of Saturday, the 7th, at Bogra. The cutting of mustard and sugarcane is not finished yet; the yield of both will be very good; and fair reports are received of matar, khesari, and other cold weather crops. There is a certain amount of pressure undergone by the people on the *khiar* land, where no cold-weather crops are grown, and this may be expected to continue, with more or less severity for some months to come, probably until about the end of July, when the aus crop on these tracts will, if it turns out fair, be a seasonable help. We shall probably have to open out several more relief works in course of time to keep pace with the demand for labour, and to give employment near to home, and I am going to hold a relief meeting on the 18th to collect subscriptions for relief to be supplemented by Government on behalf of the infirm, incapable, &c. Hitherto our aid has been as previously reported, given by private subscriptions only. With these precautions, I trust we may tide through tolerably well, and I do not anticipate famine. There are no cases of misery and starvation calling for report. We have gone on helping from our relief fund. Nine grain thefts reported during the fortnight. I have lately visited Dupchanchia in thannah Adamdighi, a great rice mart. The tract about there and in the north-east of the thannah consists of *khiar* land, and I have directed the starting of a road between Dupchanchia and Shonamukhi, which will afford seasonable help to the people, and be a useful connecting link between these two rice marts. I have also requested that the railway engineers may at once prosecute the road between Dupchanchia and the railway, which has been entrusted to their hands, commencing at the Dupchanchia end. These two works ought to give great relief to the people in the tracts referred to.

B.—Relief Works.

I annex a list of lines of road on which labourers have been employed, with the number of labourers on the 7th on each:—

		Men.	Women.	Children.
1.	Shariakandi road - - -	361	70	83
2.	Sultangunge " - - -	40	302	325
3.	Matidali " - - -	112	127	—
4.	Khetlal " - - -	180	—	10
5.	Dupchanchia " - - -	325	497	99
6.	Dinagepore " - - -	695	117	272
7.	Nator " - - -	221	48	14
8.	Nakhila " - - -	37	—	—
		1,971	1,161	803

The line of the Burigunge and Sibgunge road has been laid out, and also three miles of the Sirpur and Gohail road; also a line of road between Nungola on the Dinagepore road and Darga Hat on the Dupchanchia road, which will give good relief to the people about that part of the Bogra thanna. Progress is also being made in laying out a part of the line between Dupchanchia and Shonamukhi. No deficiency in supply of food to the labourers on relief works is apparent. It is not necessary to report further now with regard to mode of payment, rate of wages, and arrangement for tools.

C.—Transport of Food.

The reports received show importation of 10,900 maunds of rice from Pubna, Dacca, and Mymensing districts by way of the Dookoba and Bengali rivers. 900 maunds of rice from Rajshahye by carts, but much more is supposed to have come from that quarter. Means of transport sufficient as far as Bogra is concerned, but we are now to send on a large quantity of rice to Ghoraghat (Dinagepore) in addition to what has already been sent, and I hope they will be able to supply us with as many carts and boats as they can for the purpose. Some carts have been sent, but more are required, and I hope that a good many boats can be sent to Shariakandi, and we shall then be able to send part of the rice by water. Using our own boats would interfere with private trade in the east, and would not be judicious. The police at Ghoraghat and Govindgunge (Rungpore) have already been addressed on the subject. No block on our transport routes.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

Places of storage previously reported upon. It is not necessary to report further now on construction of storage houses or golahs. Arrangements for guarding previously reported. Amount of Government food-grain received up to 7th, 30,009 maunds, in all of which, up to 7th, 8,016 maunds have been despatched to Ghoraghat. It has not yet been necessary to use any of the Government grain imported. In addition to the 10,000 maunds received on the 24th ultimo at Sohagipara, 10,000 maunds more, I understand, ought to reach that place on about the 14th, and 10,000 maunds more at subsequent intervals of about 10 days, until the Ghoraghat and our own allotment are made up. I am informed to-day that 5,000 more bags (maundage not stated) reached Shohagipara on the 6th instant.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

No additional advances have been made during the fortnight. In order to keep some of the poor people in and about Bogra previously employed by the municipality on work until the end of the month, when our next official year's municipal funds will again be available, I have directed the advance of Rs. 200 from our private relief fund, which I think I shall have no difficulty in soon recovering from the municipality. I have done this as the liberal expenditure by the municipality has now exhausted its available resources for this official year. An application was received for a loan of Rs. 200 for importing grain, but security has not yet been furnished. Two other applications for loans to assist tenants have also been received, and will be complied with when the necessary requirements have been fulfilled.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

The list of committee-members has already appeared in the Gazette. I have sent up a few additional names to the Relief Commissioner. With reference to circular No. 1,251—S.R., of the 5th March, it will not be necessary to give the statement this time, as we have not yet commenced operations on the Government aided system.

ENCLOSURE No. 6 TO THE THIRTEENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Crime in the Distressed Districts for the Month of February 1874.

DISTRICTS.	Crimes committed during February 1874.				Total for February 1874.	Total for February 1873.	Total for February 1872.
	Dacoity.	Robbery.	Theft.	House-breaking.			
Moorshedabad - - -	—	4	123	74	201	113	127
Dinagepore - - - - -	5	2	49	63	119	58	54
Maldah - - - - -	2	2	47	45	96	21	30
Rajshahye - - - - -	—	—	103	126	229	109	149
Rungpore - - -	1	2	41	33	77	66	59
Bograh - - - - -	—	—	61	44	105	48	47
Patna - - - - - -	—	—	94	145	239	167	182
Gya - - - - - -	5	3	194	396	598	234	253
Shahabad - - - -	1	—	110	146	257	97	102
Tirhoot - - - - -	3	—	163	196	372	152	178
Sarun - - - - - -	3	—	45	231	279	219	283
Chumparun - - -	1	—	47	41	89	45	86
Monghyr - - - - -	—	—	28	22	50	39	17
Bhaugulpore - - - -	—	1	58	48	107	44	96
Purneah - - - - -	3	—	39	55	97	36	25
Total - - - - -	24	14	1,202	1,665	2,915	1,448	1,688

C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 14th March 1874.

Enclosure No. 7.

No. 198F, dated Bankipore, the 10th March 1874.

From J. F. K. HEWITT, Esq., Deputy Commissioner of Patna, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

WITH reference to your No. 1307—S.R. of the 7th March and your demi-official of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that I concluded yesterday, with four of the leading merchants of Patna, a contract to supply 42,000 maunds of grain weekly from the 14th instant to the 15th of June. The grain will be delivered at the railway stations of the North-West Provinces and Punjab on the 14th, so that it cannot be expected to be here for some days after that date. I have not yet learnt the stations from which it is to be sent, but I hope to hear to-day, and I will then telegraph to Lieutenant Bisset, who is now in the Punjab making arrangements for facilitating the despatch of grain, and will ask him to arrange for having the requisite number of waggons provided at the several stations from which the grain is to be sent.

I have not yet heard. The merchants inform me that they have telegraphed to their agents, but have not yet learnt the exact quantities they can send from each station.
11-3-74. J. F. K. H.

2. In determining the proportions of grain, I have arranged for having a supply of dhâl equal to five sixths of the whole quantity of grain now contracted for. This will be eaten with rice, as recommended by the civil surgeon of Tirhoot; and for the remainder I have got wheat and barley, which will give an occasional change in diet when desirable.

3. The whole quantity of dhâl to be sent under the present contract will, taken together with the grain sent up previously and with that ordered by the Court of Wards for Durbhunga, be about one sixth of the whole quantity of grain imported into the distressed tracts of Tirhoot, and will consequently be sufficient to supply nitrogenous food in the proportions recommended by the medical authorities, namely, one sixth of dhâl to five sixths of rice.

4. I enclose a copy of the contract for the information of Government.

We, Sookhanund, Ram Nerungun, Shewbuksh, and Goormook Roy, of City Patna, do hereby covenant with the Commissioner of Patna to supply him with 47,000 maunds of barley, 47,000 maunds of wheat, and 470,000 maunds of dhâl, consisting of grain oorud, mussoor, moong, and khassarie, amounting in all to 564,000 maunds, at the rate of Rs. 2-12 per maund all round, including cost of bags, railway freight, and all other charges, on the following conditions:—

1st.—That 6,000 maunds of the grains specified above will be supplied daily from the 14th instant to the 15th June next, in the following proportion:—

	Mds.
Of barley - - - - - - -	500
„ wheat - - - - - - -	500
„ dhâl - - - - - -	5,000

consisting of grain oorud, mussoor, moong, and khassarie, provided that of this quantity khassarie will never exceed one tenth, or 500 maunds.

2nd. That should any day's supply fall short of 6,000 maunds, the deficiency will be made up within the week, and that the weekly supply will never be less than 42,000 maunds.

3rd.—That the grains will be packed in well-sewn machine-made bags, containing two maunds each; country-made bags will be allowed for the first week, but not after the 21st instant. Five seers will be allowed on each bag, more or less, but no bags over two maunds five seers weight will be taken.

4th.—The grains will be delivered at the Fathooa railway ghât station.

5th.—That payments will be made to us on presentation of bills, accompanied with railway receipts, according to the weights entered in those receipts, at the rate of Rs. 2-12 per maund, including all charges.

6th.—Information will be given by us to the Commissioner of the stations from which the grains will be despatched, and the quantities to be despatched from each station; and the Commissioner will telegraph to those stations to give a sufficient number of waggons to our gomashtas there.

7th.—Should we fail to give satisfaction to the Commissioner in a month hence in the performance of this contract, he will be at liberty to cancel this agreement.

Ram Nerungun. | Shewbuksh.
Goormook Roy. | Sookhanund.

Bankipore, the 9th March 1874.

Enclosure No. 8.

No. 1296—S.R.

From the Acting Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, to the Commissioners of the Patna, Bhaugulpore, Rajshahye, Chota Nagpore, Burdwan, and Presidency Divisions. To the District Officers of Patna, Gya, Shahabad, Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, Monghyr and Sonthal Pergunnahs, Dinagepore, Bogra, Rajshahye, Maldah, Rungpore, Moorshedabad, Nuddea, Burdwan, Hooghly, Beerbhoom, Bancoorah, Midnapore, Maunbhoom, Lohardugga, Hazareebaugh, and Singbhoom.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir, Calcutta, the 7th March 1874.

During the last few weeks the Government have received from some districts indents for what the Lieutenant-Governor has considered an excessive number of Public Works Department subordinates. And from one district it was reported that because a particular overseer was transferred, 7,000 relief labourers were left for some days without pay, and were consequently reduced to great straits.

2. Subordinates of the Public Works Department are being supplied as far as possible; but meanwhile the Lieutenant-Governor desires to impress most strongly on all district and sub-divisional officers in the distressed districts, that all the civil establishments and relief officers are to be fully utilised for the superintendence and payment of relief labourers. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes it is quite unnecessary for him to say, that civil officers and relief officers should on no account excuse themselves by saying that the Public Works Department officials were absent, or that they did not give work, or that they did not pay wages. Officers of the Public Works Department, engaged in relief works, lay out the works, and superintend their execution as far as they can; but in their grades they are wholly subordinate to the civil officers of sub-divisions and circles, unless any other arrangement is specially made in any particular case. An overseer, or other Public Works Department subordinate employed on a relief work is thus under the sub-divisional officer and under the relief officers of his circle, and is not under his professional superior except for professional details, into the proper execution of which the superior engineer officers have to look. It may sometimes happen that for special works a Public Works Department official may be placed by the district officer directly under some other, his professional superior; but in ordinary cases, when no such special arrangement is made, the rule is as above stated.

3. Every sub-divisional and circle officer is responsible that the people on his relief works are properly paid, and he must not complain that it is somebody else's fault that they are not so paid; if he discovers such mistakes he must himself apply the remedy. The civil officers of different departments attached to districts and sub-divisions can be put in charge of works, not so much to make payments themselves, as to go about, hear complaints, and ascertain that people are paid, and that the numbers charged for are employed. This is simply one form in which civil officers and relief officers have superintended the giving of relief.

4. Spare copies* of this circular are forwarded, so that a copy may be in the hands of every circle officer.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Acting Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

* 50 to Tirhoot.
80 to Sarun, Chumparun, Purneah, Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, Dinagepore, Maldah, Rungpore.

Enclosure No. 9.

Note.—Enclosure No. 9,—being the fortnightly Returns of Persons employed on Government Relief Works in the distressed Districts,—has not yet (27th April) reached the India Office. A summary, however, is given in the 28th paragraph of the Lieutenant-Governor's Narrative, page 14.

Enclosure No. 10.

Central Relief Fund.

Précis of the Executive Committee's Proceedings, from 4th February to 4th March.

On the 4th February a public meeting, convened by the Sheriff of Calcutta, in accordance with a requisition, was held in the Town Hall in order to adopt measures for administering charitable relief. His Excellency the Viceroy presided. A General Central Committee of 153 members having been appointed, with Sir Richard Couch, Chief Justice, as Chairman, proceeded after the public meeting to elect the following as their Executive Committee:—

(1.) The Hon'ble V. H. Schalch, Chairman.
(2.) „ J. F. Inglis.
(3.) „ R. A. Dalyell.
(4.) „ C. E. Bernard.
(5.) „ H. H. Sutherland.
(6.) „ T. M. Robinson.
(7.) J. R. Bullen-Smith, Esq.
(8.) Rajah Jotendro Mohun Tagore.
(9.) The Hon'ble Digumber Mitter.
(10.) Munshi Amir Ali, Khan Bahadur.
(11.) Babu Durga Churn Law.

2. The Executive Committee have held five meetings, namely, on the 5th, the 7th, the 19th and the 28th February, and on the 4th March. The allotment of funds to the more distressed districts, the collection and accounting for subscriptions, the various modes of relief to be afforded, the administrative details of the agency to be employed, the forms of accounts, registers, and returns to be required were considered at these meetings; as also certain questions of policy, such as the selling rate for grain on the part of the Central Committee, and the wage rate for the various modes of labour where employment would be a suitable mode of relief. On the 21st February, the Members of the Committee had the honour of personally conferring with His Excellency the Viceroy in Council on the more important of these subjects.

3. Between the second and the third meetings the Chairman, with the approval of the Executive Committee, visited Patna, Bhaugulpore and Berhampore, in order to ascertain, by personal consultation on the spot, the best means of giving effect to the Committee's wishes.

The administrative arrangements from time to time proposed, and the other proceedings of the Committee, have been duly laid before the Government. It is necessary, however, to recapitulate them here. For, in accordance with a scheme which was some little time under the Committee's consideration, and which was adopted on the 4th March, the Committee have now finally determined not to attempt to establish any separate executive agency for relief purposes. They are satisfied that it would be impossible for them to exercise any really efficient check or control over such an establishment in districts so remote as those in which the most severe distress is anticipated. They have accordingly resolved to utilise, for the purposes of the fund committed to their charge, the various local agencies already existing or about to be provided by the Government or the local residents, the services of which will be available without any charge upon the Committee's resources.

4. The Executive Committee have accordingly embodied their determination in the following notification which has been duly published:—

NOTIFICATION by the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE on the OBJECTS of the CENTRAL RELIEF FUND.

Calcutta, the 4th March 1874.

"The Executive Committee of the Central Famine Relief Fund, believing that it will be satisfactory to the public to know on what principle the fund is to be conducted, and to what objects the subscriptions are to be applied, publish the following particulars:—

(1.) The Central Committee will from time to time make grants-in-aid through the Commissioners of Divisions in all districts where distress prevails.

(2.) The District Relief Committees will appropriate these grants, as they think best, among the Sub-Divisional Committees of each district according to their wants.

(3.) The Sub-Divisional Committees will expend the funds thus placed at their disposal upon general purposes of charitable relief work, such as—

(*a*) The distribution for relief purposes of grain received from local sources or Government depôts.

(*b*) The distribution of gratuitous relief to persons in need of it, and unable to work.

(*c*) The provision of useful employment for those people who are in need and are able to work, by instituting minor relief works and providing other employment, such as spinning, weaving, husking rice, &c.

(*d*) The provision in such manner as may be considered best in each particular locality, for the relief of persons whose caste usages and feelings preclude the application of a labour-test, women of good family, and others who may be in great distress. Relief for this class of persons may be afforded either gratuitously, or partly gratuitously, by the sale of grain under the market rates, or, with due precautions, by the advance of money or grain to be subsequently repaid.

(4.) All subscriptions collected by the Central and District Committees will be doubled by Government. In such districts as the distress may from time to time become so serious as to be beyond the means of private charity without special additional aid from the State, the District Committees will be supplied with grain for relief purposes from the Government grain depôts without charge.

(5.) All subscriptions collected by District Committees in distressed localities will be expended in those localities, but the amount subscribed will be separately noted in the Central Committee's list of subscriptions.

(6.) Arrangements will be made by the Central Committee for obtaining from the District Committees periodical reports of their operations and accounts exhibiting the details of the expenditure of the funds committed to them."

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5. Among the communications reviewed at the meeting held on the 28th February were two telegrams from the Lord Mayor, from which the Executive Committee had the satisfaction of learning that subscriptions in England were expected to be large, and that in the meantime two remittances of £10,000 each were already made by telegram. A third remittance of £10,000 has since been advised, making the total of these £30,000.

6. The progress in subscriptions and collections during the month, up to and on the 4th March, was as follows:—

	Rs.	As.	P.
(1.) Amount subscribed by private individuals, including the exchange proceeds of the Lord Mayor's three telegraphic remittances of 10,000*l.* each - - -	7,53,846	8	6
(2.) Of the above the amount actually received from private individuals and paid into the bank of Bengal -	5,41,546	4	6
(3.) Amount hitherto assigned by Government and paid into the bank (further assignments, the equivalent of private subscriptions collected, will be received according to periodical adjustments) - - -	1,00,000	0	0

The following allotments aggregating Rs. 2,05,000 have been made as a first instalment to meet immediate distress in the several districts:—

PATNA DIVISION.

	Allotted 28th February.	Allotted 4th March.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Tirhoot - - - - -	40,000	—	40,000
Chumparun - - -	40,000	—	40,000
Sarun - - - - -	20,000	—	20,000
Patna - - - -	—	5,000	5,000
Gya - - - - -	—	5,000	5,000
Shahabad - - - -	—	5,000	5,000
Total -	1,00,000	15,000	1,15,000

BHAUGULPORE DIVISION.

	Allotted 28th February.	Allotted 4th March.	Total.
Monghyr - - - - -	10,000	—	10,000
Purneah - - - -	20,000	—	20,000
Bhaugulpore - - - -	20,000	—	20,000
Total -	50,000	—	50,000

RAJSHAHYE DIVISION.

	Allotted 28th February.	Allotted 4th March.	Total.
Dinagepore - - - -	20,000	—	20,000
Maldah - - - -	10,000	—	10,000
Rungpore - - - - -	—	5,000	5,000
Bogra - - - -	—	5,000	5,000
Total -	30,000	10,000	40,000
Total allotted -	—	—	2,05,000

7. During the month of February charitable relief operations had been started in certain districts through local subscriptions, but the particulars of these have not reached the Central Committee. They will be included in the *précis* for March. With regard to the condition of the country during February, the principal details are fully described in the fortnightly narratives which are published from time to time by the Government.

V. H. SCHALCH,
Chairman.

Calcutta, 2, Bankshall Street,
The 5th March 1874.

Forwarded to
with the compliments of the Chairman, Executive Committee.

Enclosure No. 11.

No. 233, dated Burdwan, the 11th March 1874.

From C. T. BUCKLAND, Esq., Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Scarcity and Relief Department.

WITH reference to your No. 1,134 of 28th February, I have the honour to forward, herewith, in original, the district fortnightly narratives received up to date. I beg to observe that, under the original orders No. 154 of 10th January, these reports are due from the district officers on every alternate Monday, and not on every alternate Saturday. As the narratives are sent in original, I beg that they may be returned, or that printed copies may be sent to me.

2. *Hooghly.*—The report of the Collector of Hooghly is generally favourable. There has been a fall in the price of rice, which Mr. Pellew considers "as beneficial as it was unexpected." There appears to be no difficulty in procuring rice in any part of the district, but, undoubtedly, the prevailing prices must induce many people to live sparingly. The measures taken for organizing charitable relief appear to be having the usual tendency of bringing the professional beggars on to the list of recipients of public charity, but the number seems small in comparison with what might have been expected. The Collector has given ample details of the road relief works, and other relief works which are spread over the district. He promised a statement regarding charitable relief as required by Government orders 1,252 of 5th instant, but it has not yet reached me.

3. I desired the district officers to send me the narratives which they receive from the sub-divisional officers, and the Collector of Hooghly has forwarded the Serampore sub-divisional narrative, which is noticed in paragraph 2 of his letter. Mr. Jeffery states that he believes that supplies of all sorts of grain have been abundant, and that the price of rice has fallen considerably during the last few days, owing, he believes, to importations from Eastern Bengal. He adds " there are, unfortunately, a great many cases in which persons weakened by prolonged fever or " dysentery, too weak either to beg or to work, are feeling the effects of want of food. I do not " think that the number of such cases is at all greater than it must have been last year; food, of " course, is less easy to obtain, but fever has not been nearly so prevalent, and these two " circumstances have nearly balanced one another. People have here and there begun to stint " themselves in their food, but not to an extent anything approaching to starvation; there have " been no grain thefts or robberies; in fact, crime has lately much decreased, except amongst " the populations of the towns along the river bank, where it is certain that scarcity will never " be felt."

4. Charitable relief sub-committees have been established in Serampore, and six other centres in the interior of the sub-division. None of them have actually commenced work, but they are engaged in reporting the number of distressed persons in their neighbourhood.

5. *Burdwan.*—The Collector of Burdwan reports a reduction in the price of rice throughout the greater part of the district. The accounts from Raneegunge are favourable. The Collector has not noticed a curious circumstance which is mentioned by the sub-divisional officer, in which a mahajan in the Kaksa thannah was robbed of some rice *twelve years' old,* of which he had some hundred maunds, "whilst several of his neighbours had various quantities of grain only a little less old." The statement of the Collector that "the labourers are reported to be losing strength owing to insufficient food" seems to be rather too strong, seeing that it is based on the following remarks in the sub-divisional report:—"The Sub-Deputy Collector reports agriculturists still " getting on tolerably well; people from the labouring classes, I think, are losing strength, *though* " *very slowly and gradually,* for I hear many complain of not getting two meals a day as they " used to take before, *and if they get sometimes, not full* (see in original)." Mr. Sharp adds "the " approach of distress is very gradual and the advance has been, I am happy to think, *almost* " *infinitesimal* during the last fortnight. There have been no known cases of real misery, certainly " not of starvation. Once and again, I have hurried off to look into a case which seemed likely " to be bad, but not one has turned out to show cause for extraordinary interference, or any " immediate anxiety."

6. With regard to the Boodbood sub-division, the Collector evidently mistrusts the Deputy Collector's reports, and I observe that the Deputy Collector again uses the phrase "remarkably bad," as descriptive of a certain portion of the sub-division. When I was recently at Boodbood, I asked the Deputy Collector what he meant by "remarkably bad," and he said that he only meant that the crops had been bad in certain villages. I wrote to the Collector and warned him not to allow his deputies to use vague expressions like "remarkably bad," but to report actual facts, and to state the remedies needed to redress any actual distress. In his present report the Deputy Collector writes, "I have also heard of starvation in Shor Belgram, Tokipore, Ashenda, and Choauri." He recommends that two food depôts should be opened, and that certain local roads should be undertaken as relief works. The Collector says that he has directed the Deputy Collector to visit the places and inquire *into the truth of the reports,* and that he will establish a food depôt if necessary. I regret that the Deputy Collector is not more active and reliable, but as he has been for several years at the sub-division he ought to have some local knowledge which should be useful. The Collector reports that he has assigned a sum of Rs. 13,000 for a relief road which runs along the east of the tract described by the Deputy Collector as remarkably bad; and, from his marginal notes on the sub-divisional report, I infer that some further sums have been assigned for the roads where relief works are needed; but the Collector's letter No. 144 of 7th instant, applying for a further grant for roads in Boodbood and Catwa has not yet reached this office.

7. With regard to charitable relief, I find from the proceedings of Burdwan Relief Committee, of which the Collector has enclosed a copy, that some further advances have been made to weavers in the Boodbood subdivision for the manufacture of tussur and other silk clothes, but no further particulars are given. The Collector has been requested to report at once the arrangements of the sub-divisional committee at Boodbood, for the purpose of charitable relief, which must be needed if even the rumours of starvation have any sort of foundation.

8. The Collector states, "applications for advances to bring in stocks of food have been made from this quarter" (north-west of Kanoo Junction). These are apparently not new applications, but some which were made about two months ago. I had already ordered the Collector

to report specially upon them, as there was no apparently sufficient reason why these people should become creditors of the State instead of having recourse to the ordinary ways of raising money.

9. There is nothing remarkable about the sudder sub-division of Burdwan; and with regard to Catwa, I am glad to state that the Collector, at my urgent request, again visited the sub-division, and his report contains the result of his own inspection. At Pultia, which had been specially mentioned as a distressed part of the district, it will be seen that fever was at the bottom of the distress, and a new dispensary and a fever food depôt have been opened there. These are supplemented by road relief and charitable relief under the sub-divisional officer. A fever food depôt has also been opened at Munglecote in connection with the dispensary at that place. In this quarter I observe that the people complain, as usual, of the chowkeedary tax, and the district officer has given orders for their relief.

10. There is not much worthy of remark in the Culna sub-division, which is practically free from anything unusual but the pressure of high prices; whilst the liberality of the Maharajah provides relief works and charitable relief at Culna for all who need it.

11. The Jehanabad sub-divisional officer, Baboo Gour Das Bysack, has not submitted any report. The Collector requests that some stringent orders may be passed to compel the punctual submission of sub-divisional reports. He has been requested to call on the Deputy Collector for an explanation, on the receipt of which suitable orders can be passed in the case.

12. The return given by the Collector shews that the daily average number of persons employed on relief works is 3,986, under the Executive Engineer of the district. Numerous other works are being carried on by the sub-divisional officers, municipalities, and private persons.

13. I notice that some further progress has been made in disposing of applications for tuccavee advances, but the amount actually paid is very small in proportion to the amount originally applied for. The officers concerned are properly anxious to be all on the safe side in obtaining sufficient security for the sums advanced by Government.

14. The Collector has by this time received the Government orders on the indent of the charitable relief committee for 4,000 maunds of rice. It will be seen that the exports of rice were 45,248 maunds during the month of February, whilst the imports were 21,666. It is therefore evident that the local grain dealers are sufficiently active.

15. I append copy of a memorandum sent to me direct by His Highness the Maharajah of Burdwan, shewing the relief works and charitable relief administered by his special department. I have advised the Collector to apply to the Maharajah for his further assistance whenever charitable relief is needed in other parts of the district, as it is obviously better for the people to accept charitable relief from the Maharajah than to come upon the public charitable relief funds.

16. *Beerbhoom.*—There is nothing very remarkable in the Collector's report. The export of rice still continues, and the price has a downward tendency. Relief works are being extended, and still more works are required. I have been in correspondence with the Collector on the subject of the pay given on relief works which was complained of as insufficient. It is most desirable to encourage task-work, and to pay its full value, so as to keep the labourers strong and contented, and not to allow them to degenerate into labourers of the *second class*, receiving subsistence wages. The rate of subsistence wages has been fixed by the Collector, and I am glad to see that there are but few labourers in this class.

17. The Collector has made all the progress in his power in dealing with the very numerous applications for advances under Act XXVI of 1871, in this district, especially as he has no very competent assistants for the discharge of his ordinary duties. If he requires a larger sum than the Rs. 40,000 which I had assigned to this district for applications under Act XXVI of 1871, he has been instructed to ask for it.

18. The Collector has submitted in a tabular form a return to Government Circular order No. 1251 of 5th instant; only 115 persons are receiving gratuitous relief, and some further advances have been made to the distressed weavers.

19. *Bankoorah.*—The Collector's report requires few remarks. The price of rice has fallen a little, and exportation to Raneegunge has diminished. The principal relief road from Gungajulghatty to Saltora, which is intended to provide relief in pergunnah Moheshara, has been begun, and 800 men are employed on it. Better progress has been made in disposing of applications for tuccavee advances. The official report contains no particulars as to the charitable relief administered, but I have heard demi-officially from the Collector that 156 persons who, he says, are "doubtless professional beggars," have come forwarded to obtain relief.

20. The fortnightly narratives from Howrah and Midnapore have not yet arrived. They will be forwarded separately as soon as they are received.

BURDWAN MAHARAJAH'S RELIEF WORKS.

Statement.

Burdwan.

The means of relief at Burdwan are—

1.—A food-dispensing house.
2.—The excavation of a tank called the "Jabdai dighee" near Dill Khosha.
3.—The excavation of a tank known as the "Nurunjun Khoond" near Krissensagor.
4.—The excavation and formation of a tank at Rooshon Bagan near the railway.

Food-dispensing House.

This establishment has been for some time in full operation, but has now undergone reform. It was found that the quantity of rice given to each person was too small and has now been increased. Indiscriminate admission had hitherto been given to all comers, numbers of whom were found to be servants and shop-keepers in the possession of ample means of livelihood. Orders have been now issued that a rigid scrutiny is to be made into the condition of the applicants, and only those in real distress are to be admitted. The Darogah in charge reports that the number of applications is gradually increasing, and the number now being daily fed is about 1,500. In ordinary years it varies from 1,000 to 1,200.

Jabdai Digghee.

On the 27th January the number of persons employed was 31. On the 18th of February this had increased to 55.

Nurunjun Khoond.

On the 27th January the number of hands was 31, and on the 18th February 65.

Rooshon Bagan.

On the 27th January the number employed was 56. On the 18th February this number had decreased to 19.

All these works are capable of employing a much larger number of people, but it was found that a system of "ticca" or piece-work had been adopted, which made the works unpopular. This has now been altered, and distressed people are to receive one rate of wages and daily payments.

On other works, not originally "relief works," but now assuming that character, the number of people employed at present is 311, of whom 231 are men, 63 are women, and 11 are boys.

The number of up-country people employed on the relief works is 30. These have applied for food at the food-dispensing house, and have been employed on the works immediately.

It is proposed, when considered necessary, to open an aunochattra in Burdwan in addition to the existing food-dispensing house.

Culna.

The means of relief at this place are—

1. A food-dispensing house similar to that at Burdwan.
2. The excavation of a large digghee in front of the Somaj Baree; the cutting of a khall to connect the same with the river Ganges; the reclamation of one of the shores of the digghee and its formation into a garden, and the building of two "ghats."

Food-dispensing House.

This establishment was found to sadly need reform. Admission was indiscriminate, and a very large number of people not eligible for relief were found to be daily receiving food. This has now been altered, and only those who really need alms are admitted. The quantity of food has been increased, and the establishment is now working satisfactorily. The number of admissions is about 1,000 daily, and to each person the amount of food is as follows:—Rice, 12 ozs.; dhall, 3 ozs.; and salt, ½ oz. The infirm and crippled receive 16 ozs. rice, and a proportionately greater quantity of dhall and salt. There is a supplementary relief-house for up-country people in which attas, sugar, ghee, and dhall are distributed. The number of applications at this house varies from 150 to 200 daily.

Somaj Baree Digghee.

This work is capable of employing from 300 to 400 people daily for four months. The number of hands employed on the 14th February was 54; this on the 18th had increased to 103, and on the 28th to 200. Ordinary daily labour and daily payments is the system pursued, and work is given to all who apply, but at present there does not seem to be any great anxiety to obtain work.

There is another work designed to give employment to women, the labour being lighter than that at the Digghee. This is the clearing away of the rubbish from the ruins of an old building attached to the Rajbari. Women employed receive 8 pice a day, and the number has fluctuated from 30 to 50, but has never yet exceeded the latter number.

On other works 270 coolies are employed, and 33 skilled workmen, exclusive of those always returned on the Maharajah's establishment. It is proposed, if necessary, to establish an annochattra in connection with the relief-house at Culna, but this will *not* be necessary probably for some weeks, as there certainly is nothing like real distress in this part of the district at present.

Chinsurah.

It is proposed to open a relief-house at Chinsurah whenever the Collector thinks it necessary, and to give to it the form which that gentleman proposes. He has been communicated with in order that his advice may be obtained on the subject.

Annochattras.

Should real distress make its appearance in any villages belonging to the raj, an annochattra will be immediately opened for the relief of those and the surrounding villages, and will be maintained as long as the distress lasts.

No. 955—S.R., dated Burdwan, the 9th March 1874.

From E. H. WHINFIELD, Esq., Officiating Collector of Burdwan, to the COMMISSIONER of the BURDWAN DIVISION.

I HAVE the honor to submit the fortnightly narrative due this day.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

The Raneegunge sub-divisional officer says that the supply of rice has been plentiful, that some 600 or 700 maunds are daily bought and sold at Raneegunge; that prices are lower, ranging from 12s. 5ch. of best rice (Ramshal) to 14s. 3ch. of the coarsest rice (Midnapore Sali) for the rupee; that there is a considerable stock of old rice in the hands of landowners, but not much in the hands of mahajans, except in thanah Kaksa. The total rainfall at Raneegunge in the fortnight was only ·05 inch, but that in the interior was greater, two considerable showers having fallen. More than half the rice land has been ploughed, and grass is abundant. The cultivators are reported to be getting on tolerably well, but the labourers to be losing strength owing to insufficient food. Most of the Europeans think that things are looking better than they were; the natives generally take more gloomy views of the situation. There have been no known cases of starvation; every case of misery reported has turned out on investigation to have been exaggerated. Grain thefts have not increased.

The Bood-bood Deputy Collector says that the supply of grain at the Mancoor and Gooshkara bazars is insufficient, but more abundant at Sonamookhy. The price of rice has fallen 1 seer; best rice sells at 12s. 10ch. and coarse rice at 13s. 10ch. the rupee at the chief bazars, but in the interior of the sub-division prices are higher, and poor people in some parts have great difficulty in getting rice. There are no stocks in the hands of anyone but the mahajans, and they are holding on in the hope of prices rising. (This is evidently an exaggerated statement, because, as stated above, the price of rice in the bazars has fallen 1 seer.) The condition of the rubbee crops is good in certain villages in Ausgram thanah and along the banks of the Bodai and Shali, but bad elsewhere. The condition of the people in the portion of the sub-division lying immediately north-west of Khanoo junction is "remarkably bad;" work is much wanted there.

Work is now going on on the Mancoor and Dignuggur road, just north of this part, and a grant of over Rs. 13,000 was made on the 19th February 1874, to repair the Burdwan and Sooree road, which runs along the east of this tract.

The Deputy Collector says he has heard of starvation in villages in this tract. I have directed him to visit the places and inquire into the truth of the reports, and shall establish a food depôt there if necessary. Applications for advances to buy in stocks of food have been made from this quarter.

The District Superintendent reports of the Sudder sub-division that the supply of rice is abundant in all the thanahs, that the price ranges from 16 pucca seers to 12 the rupee; that there is a considerable quantity of rice in store in all thanahs but Indoss (I have doubts about this because the crops in Indoss were particularly good, compared with those of other places); that there have been one or two showers of rain; that there have been no cases of starvation or grain thefts, but that the lower classes are obliged to stint themselves in consequence of the high prices, and in some places only eat one meal a day. The state of the crops is fair. Baboo Jogendro Nath Roy reports that there is no distress in his estates in Selimabad thanah. As detailed below, I have visited parts of Burdwan and Sahebgunge thanahs, and have failed to discover any severe distress.

The Cutwa Deputy Collector reports that the price of rice has fallen; that the boro dhan and cheena are doing well; that people in the interior still complain of inadequate supply of rice, but a large quantity is offered for sale at the large marts; that no rain fell during the fortnight; that the people are gradually becoming more straitened and distressed; that the demand for employment is increasing; that in village Ketugram he found 200 persons, mostly women and children, anxious for employment, but they declined to leave their village to work on the road running through the south of Ketugram thanah or to go to the relief centre at Cutwah; that the people in some villages in the north-west of thanah Ketugram are reported to be suffering; that he apprehends prolonged suffering and distress.

I have myself visited the three Cutwa thanahs during the fortnight. I went up by the road which traverses thanahs Burdwan, Sahebgunge, Munglecote, and Cutwah. I found a very considerable number of men at work on the road, which is being repaired in a very satisfactory manner, and the coolies I saw appeared healthy. I asked the price of rice at all the chief places along the road, and found it varied from 13 to 14 pucca seers the rupee, and the supply of rice was said to be sufficient. At Cutwah I inspected the relief centre and found about 150 persons, all (save 3) women and children, being fed and employed on light labour, such as picking up gooting and mat-making; except some of the old women, none of them appeared to be out of condition or emaciated. I next proceeded to Paltea, a village in the extreme south-west corner of thanah Ketugram, along the road now being repaired. I found no work going on; the explanation given was that it was the last day of the Mohurrum. At Paltea I had all the paupers mustered and inspected them. About 150 were assembled, mostly women and children, some of whom looked very ill and emaciated; on inquiring, it appeared that these were persons suffering from sequelæ of chronic fever, such as enlarged spleen, &c. What is wanted at Paltea is evidently a dispensary and fever food depôt, and these have accordingly been established there. The price of rice there was said to be 13 pucca seers, but the supply inadequate. I next went to the north of thanah Ketugram, i.e., to villages Berahimpore, Gwalpara, and Gangatikori, which had been reported to be distressed, and made enquiries there. I was informed the price of rice was 13 seers, or thereabouts, in all these villages, but the supply inadequate; that there were 40 or 50 families of distressed paupers, mostly Haris, Domes, and Bagdis, that these latter were much in want of work; that it would not answer for them to leave their homes and go to the road works in the south of the thanah; and that the Talookdar was offering work in digging up a jheel close by, but would not offer sufficient wages, and so few worked for him. I did not have the paupers mustered in these villages, and did not see any beggars or emaciated looking persons in the village streets. I saw some 20 or 30 men at work in the jheel above referred to, who looked well and strong. I next proceeded to Munglecote viâ Nignu, and found much the same state of things. There are undoubtedly a number of persons suffering from consequences of fever at Munglecote, and I have therefore opened a fever food depôt in connection with the dispensary at that place. The grain-dealers since the rain which fell last month, which facilitated cultivation, are said to be selling and advancing grain freely, as they now entertain hopes that their customers will have a favourable season and will be able to repay them. I returned to Burdwan by the Badshahi road and Kurjana; about half the land appears to have been ploughed. No applications were made to me, except the usual one for remission of Chowkeedary tax, which was urged by a larger assemblage than usual. I already in the cold weather directed remission in all cases of proved poverty, and have now made the direction more definite by directing remission of tax in all cases in which the assessee's income is under Rs. 5 a month.

The Culna Deputy Collector says that the price of rice in his sub-division varies from Rs. 3-3 to 2-14 a maund, and that the supply is tolerably plentiful; that ·13 inch of rain fell in the fortnight; that there has been a very good crop of potatoes; that the other cold-weather crops have not turned out so well; that the middle classes have provided themselves with stores of grain, but the poorer classes are somewhat pinched, especially in parts of thanahs Poorbustholi and Mouressur.

The Jehanabad Deputy Collector's report has not reached me, and I take this opportunity of requesting that some stringent orders may be passed to ensure the punctual submission of these reports by sub-divisional officers. I have repeatedly asked them to be punctual, but there has been scarcely any occasion on which some one or more of their reports have not arrived behind time.

My own opinion of the situation of affairs is the same as that I stated in my last narrative.

RELIEF WORKS.

3. The following relief works are now going on under the supervision of the Executive Engineer:—

NAME OF ROAD.	WORK DONE			Average daily Number of Labourers.	Rate of Wages.	Price of Rice.	REMARKS.
	Up to 21st February 1874.	During fortnight.	Total up to date.		Rs. As. P.		
Cutwa Road - -	1,650,250	1,435,750	3,086,000	857	0 2 6	15 seers kutcha -	Work nearly completed.
Culna Road - - -	2,300,000	200,000	2,500,000	750	0 2 6	Rs. 3-5 kutcha md. -	Work nearly completed.
Assensole to Domohanee Road.	115,000	310,000	425,000	643	0 2 6	Rs. 3-3 kutcha md. -	Work recommenced on 21st February only.
Bankoora Road - -	205,000	385,000	590,000	156	0 2 3	13½ seers per Re. -	Not much demand for labour.
Searsole to Domohanee Road.	500,000	375,000	875,000	700	0 2 6	Rs. 3-3 per md.	
Mancoor to Dignuggur Road.	1,370,000	741,000	2,111,000	800	0 2 0	16 seers per rupee -	Some 300 or 400 men have left work to plough in the field since the rain fell.
Buddipore Road - -	30,000	15,000	45,000	80	0 2 0	Rs. 3 per kutcha md. -	Work going on only in the portion of the Burdwan district.

Besides the above, works are going on in the Raneegunge sub-division, on the provincial road from Poorulia to Seetarampore, and on the district road from Raneegunge to Sooree; the latter is in charge of the Manager, Equitable Coal Company. The following work is going on in charge of the sub-divisional officers and Chowkeedary Union Punchayets:—

In Raneegunge - -	Raneegunge and Mungulpore Road.
In Bood-bood - -	The Bood-bood and Sonamookhee Division.
In Cutwa - - -	Dainhat tank and Nunia Division.
In Culna - - -	Town Roads.
In Jehanabad - -	Chowkeedary Union Roads.

Also tank-works are being carried on at Burdwan and Culna by the Burdwan Maharajah, and at various places by others; and ploughing is going on actively all over the district.

The Executive Engineer in charge of the Kananuddee works states that there is no local demand for employment; that the average number of coolies employed is about 160, who are all healthy; that rice sells at 13¾ seers the rupee, and vegetables are abundant; that the temporary dam in the Damoodah was carried away by the flood of the 8th ultimo, and that the water has consequently ceased to flow down the Kananuddee. More work is urgently wanted in Bood-hood and Cutwah, and I have in my No. 144, dated 7th instant, in the Road Fund Department of my office, asked for another grant for that purpose.

Movements of Grain.

4. Grain is being imported in considerable quantities into Raneegunge and Bood-hood from the districts to the south, and into Culna from the Sunderbunds. The export by rail for the month of February was 45,248 maunds, and the import 21,666.

Tuccavee Advances.

5. The following statement shows the progress hitherto made in respect of tuccavee advances:—

—	Number of Applications.	Amount applied for.	Number in which inquiries completed.	Number in which Money has been paid.	Amount advanced: Rs.	A.	P.	Locality of Work for which Advances have been taken.
Sudder sub-division ..	78	44,250	17	9	4,625	0	0	1 in Rynah, 6 in Burdwan, and 2 in Ganguriah.
Jehanabad - -	34	14,550	4	—	—			
Cutwa - - -	84	37,215	77	7	1,025	0	0	4 in Cutwa and 3 in Ketugram.
Culna - - -	34	6,500	24	4	950	0	0	4 in Culna.
Bood-bood - -	170	72,165	122	6	1,475	0	0	1 in Bood-bood and 5 in Ausgram.
Raneegunge - -	111	35,568	74	1	500	0	0	1 in Raneegunge.
					8,575	0	0	

Note.—Bills for Rs. 14,650 have been passed by this office up to 7th March 1874.

Charitable Relief.

6. In my last narrative I reported the holding of a relief meeting, at which subscriptions to the amount of Rs. 6,518-8 were collected. Since then, additional subscriptions to the amount of Rs. 1,150, as per accompanying list, have been promised, raising the total to Rs. 7,665-8. Meetings have been held at Raneegunge, at which Rs. 715 were collected; at Jehanabad, at which Rs. 1,110 were collected; and at Culna, at which Rs. 215 were collected. List of subscriptions accompanying a memorandum of the proceedings of the District Relief Committee at their last meeting is also enclosed.

The relief measures already taken are, 1st, the establishment of a relief-house at Cutwa; 2nd, the distribution of advances to weavers in the Bood-bood sub-division. With my last narrative I sent an indent for 4,000 maunds of grain, which it was proposed to store in food depôts at several centres named; but I have not up to date been favoured with a reply. I beg to request that my application may be attended to as soon as possible.

The amounts of money disbursed on charitable relief up to date are shown in the following statement:—

[*] *Statement showing the Amount of Money disbursed on Relief Works up to 9th March* 1874.

NAME OF ROAD.	Amount of Work done.	Average daily Number of Coolies employed.	Amount of Money spent up to date.	Health of Coolies.
CUTWA SUB-DIVISION.			Rs. A. P.	
Billepore Road - - - - -	—	—	490 0 0	
Shambazar Road - - -	—	—	30 0 0	
BOOD-BOOD SUB-DIVISION.				
Bood-bood to Kushba - - -	128,000 cubic feet - -	650	275 0 0	The coolies are healthy and able-bodied.
Paid to Panchayets of Pattershire and Sonamookhee Unions for road works -	—	—	900 0 0	
Paid to weavers of Mancoor and Sonamookhee for relief purchases - -	—	—	499 7 0	
RANEEGUNGE SUB-DIVISION.				
Mongulpore Road - - -	3,400 feet of earth laid, of which 1,800 has been smoothed fairly -	15·49	108 15 0	Good.
JENANABAD SUB-DIVISION.				
Bosuntopore - - - -	37,000	50	336 0 0 paid in advance	Good.
Supara - - - -	5,000	14		
Teerul Jadubpore - - -	40,000	50		
Shambazar - - - -	5,000	30	500 0 0	Good.
Sub-divisional tank - - -	Baling water, and about 25,000 cubic feet -	20	165 0 0	Good.

7. I yesterday received your Memorandum No. 214, dated 7th instant, forwarding for information and guidance two copies of the Central Relief Committee's letter No. 1, dated 5th ultimo, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, submitting for the approval of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor certain instructions for the guidance of relief committees. It does not appear whether these instructions have received His Honour's approval, so I refrain from acting on them at present, but I may note that Baboo Bogolanund Mookerjee is, in fact, now doing the work of "Relief Officer," as described in the rules, and that endeavours are being made to obtain the aid of some respectable persons in every considerable village tract as corresponding member of the relief committee, and bring cases of distress into notice.

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[*] The clerk has made a mistake here in omitting expenses of the Cutwa relief centre and including road-works.

No. 294—S.R., dated Soory, the 9th March 1874.

From R. D. HIME, Esq., Officiating Collector of Beerbhoom, to the COMMISSIONER of the BURDWAN DIVISION.

WITH reference to your Circular No. 209 of 3rd instant, I have the honour to submit to you my fourth fortnightly narrative under the usual headings.

2. No difficulty is as yet experienced in procuring retail supplies in the local marts, but in the small villages in some parts of the district there appears to be some difficulty in obtaining them at the current rates of the principal bazars, a table of which is appended. Large supplies can still be obtained on a few days' notice. Export continues, the fortnight ending 28th ultimo showing 15,199 maunds, against 12,124-30 of the preceding fortnight. Prices still show a downward tendency, but as stocks become low the labouring and cultivating classes appear to feel the pressure more and more daily.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

A fourth relief road, that from Cynthia to Andee, has been commenced on since my last report, and others are in contemplation, of which the plans and estimates are ready prepared. The number of labourers employed on district and relief works during the fortnight ending 28th ultimo is shown in Form C. The number at present engaged on relief works is about 2,500; they are paid partly by task-work and partly by daily labour,—the old and infirm being put in the latter class, and kept on subsistence allowance, which is fixed at one anna for a man, three pice for a woman, and two pice for a child under fourteen; there are, however, but few in this class, as most can earn more by task-work.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

—Exportation continues.

D.—STORAGE OF GRAIN.

None.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

Up to date 384 applications for advances under the Land Improvement Act have been registered, the sums applied for aggregating Rs. 1,91,789; of these applications, 133 have been disposed of, representing a sum of Rs. 83,470; of which 69 have been granted, representing Rs. 33,910, and 64, representing Rs. 42,225, refused; Rs. 8,200 have been actually drawn, and 251 are pending;* of these, 30 await the return of notices issued on zemindars under Section 7 of the Act. No other advances have been made under this heading; the necessity of careful inquiry into the validity of the securities offered prevents more rapid progress in making advances, for which the Collector is personally responsible; as it is, I have nearly reached the limit of the allotment, Rs. 40,000, which you have assigned to this district.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

The total of the subscriptions up to date amounts to Rs. 12,263. A central district committee and six sub-committees have been formed, but are not yet gazetted. Four special relief circles have been opened, at Soory, Soorool, Labpore, and Mouressur, managed at the three latter places by the respective sub-registrars of the sub-divisions,—Baboo Hurry Mohun Sircar, Moonshee Golam Russool, and Mirza Abdus Sobhan, and at Soory by Baboo Kuloda Prosad Sen. I visited the latter on Sunday, the 1st instant, and saw the food, which is given out daily cooked, and, as a rule, consumed on the spot, dispensed; the arrangements were admirable, and reflect much credit on the Baboo and his family, who personally superintend the distribution of food; the recipients were all of the mendicant class, and most of them suffering from loathsome disease. At the other relief-houses rice is given out weekly uncooked; the number of persons receiving gratuitous relief daily in this shape is 115. The last return from Mr. Farquharson, of Ilambazar, who manages the advances of thread to weavers there, shows 34 weavers to whom advances of thread and money have been made. A quantity of thread was sent to Baboo Hurry Mohun Sircar, of Soorool, for the relief of the weavers there on the 6th instant, but the return of his operations has not yet been received. A statement accompanies, as prescribed by Government letter No. 1251—S.R., of 5th instant.

* *Vide* Appendix, Statement I.

No. 535, dated Hooghly, the 7th March 1874.

From F. H. PELLEW, Esq., Officiating Collector of Hooghly, to the COMMISSIONER of the BURDWAN DIVISION.

As requested in your letter No. 209, dated 3rd March 1873, I have the honor to submit the narrative for the fortnight ending 7th instant.

2. Adverting to the instructions to submit in original the narrative of the sub-divisional officer up to the latest date, I have the honor to state that the sub-divisional officer, though requested to submit his report on the sub-division three days before the dates on which the district reports are due, has not yet submitted his fortnightly report. I sent yesterday a reminder, but I fear the sub-divisional report will be too late to be sent up with this narrative.

3. I have to-day received, direct from Government, No. 1251—S.R., requiring a statement of charitable relief. I fear I cannot include a complete statement in the form required in this narrative, but, as directed at the close of the orders, I will send it up as a supplement.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazar.

4. In thannah Balagurh there are hâts and bazars at Govindgunge, Somra, Bankipore, Gooptiparah, Seja, and Balagurh. In Bansbaria there are hâts at Bansbaria, Tribany, Mugrah, and Mahanad, of which Mugrah is a large and rising gunge, or wholesale market. In Chunditolah are Borye Hât, Sheakhala, Jonye, and other places. In Pundooah are Boinchee and Pundooah. In Krishtonagore bi-weekly hâts are held at Krishtonagore, Atpore, Kurkoori, Chejoori, Phoorfoora, Moondolika, Seetapore, and Rajbulhat; also daily hâts at Tora Atpore, Mathoorabati, Prasadpore, Goota, and Rusidpore. In Boidyabatty are Bhudresshur, Boidyabatty, Chatoogunge, Khulsinee, Singoor, and Boro. In Hurripal bi-weekly hâts are held at Dipa, Huripal, Dwarhata, Paharpore, Pyasara, Gobedanga, Koikola, Parara, and Pratiharpore. In Hooghly thannah are Rajhat, Malpara, and Oomarpore to the west of the railway. In Dhuniakhali are Khanpore, Gooroop, Bhastarah, Dhuniakhali, Mallikpore, Bhandarhati, Kalikapore, Sreekistopore, Shahbazar, and Jeara. At none of these is there any scarcity of supply except occasionally in Balagurh hât; but in reference to this the district superintendent remarks—"The alleged scarcity is not such as to cause any great inconvenience, as there is "plenty of rice at Govindgunge, half a mile off."

5. I give below the price at which grain is selling at the different marts in this district:—

Price-current of Food-grains.

1	2	3		4		5		6		7	
Number.	Names of Principal Marts.	QUANTITIES PER RUPEE BY THE SEER OF 80 TOLAHS.									
		WHEAT.		BARLEY.		RICE, BEST.		RICE, COMMON.		GRAM.	
		Present Week.	Preceding Week.	Present Week.	Preceding Week.	Present Week.	Preceding Week.	Present Week.	Preceding Week.	Present Week.	Preceding Week.
		Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.
1	Baboogunge, in Hooghly -	12	12	—	—	9½ to 10	9½ to 10	11½, 12, and 12½	11½, 12, and 12½	12	12
2	Chinsurah, Khoroocabazar	12	12	—	—	9½ to 10	9½ to 10	11½, 12, and 12½	11½, 12, and 12½	12	12
3	Balore - - -	12	12	—	—	9½ to 10	9½ to 10	11½, 12, and 12½	11½, 12, and 12½	12	12
4	Jeekrapotahgunge -	12	12	—	—	9½ to 10	9½ to 10	12 to 13	12 to 12½	12	12
5	Serampore - - -	12	12	20	20	8	8	11 to 12	11 to 12	12 to 13	12 to 13
6	Chunditolah - - -	—	—	—	—	10½	10½	12½	12	12	12
7	Boidyabatty - -	12	12	22	22	8	8	14	12½	13	12½
8	Bhuddresshur - - -	13	12½	16	16	12	11½	13½	13	13	12½

NOTE.—It will be observed that the price of common rice has considerably decreased since the date of submission of the last fortnightly return. I believe that this diminution has been merely a reflection of the condition of the Calcutta market. Up to the middle of February prices had been slowly but steadily rising; they then received a check and began to fall. This fall of price is as beneficial as it was unexpected.

6. With regard to the amount and kind of grain believed to be in stock in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others, I have the honor to state as follows:—

7. As before reported, there is but little grain stored in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others, but people have lately purchased and stored rice for consumption in future months to some extent. Baboo Juggdishur Bhattacherjee informs me that people have even pawned their jewels to purchase rice for storing in thannah Bansbarya, and the police reports from that thannah are to the effect that rice is being purchased from French Chandernagore, and stored.

8. In the town of Serampore it is said that 500 maunds of paddy and 800 maunds of rice are in the hands of mahajuns, and 1,730 maunds of paddy and 2,240 maunds of rice in the hands of retail dealers. In Bansbarya there is plenty of rice at Muggrah, on the Koontee river, and 5,000 maunds a week of imported rice sent up-country from this place. In Balagurh, Gobindgunge on the river, is a large storing-place for rice. In Chunditollah a zemindar has 1,595 maunds of rice. In Baidabatty there appears to be no stores of rice, as the shops are so easily supplied from Baidabatty hât, which again gets its stores rapidly renovated from French Chandernagore. The rice to be found in bazars in this part of the district is chiefly imported rice; but in Pundooah, parts of Balagurh, Dhanyakhally, the larger cultivators still send supplies of locally grown rice to the bazars. In Hurripal, two rich zemindars have respectively 5,000 and 7,000 maunds of rice, and one Ram Komul Mookerjee lately brought 400 maunds for sale at Hurripal. Many of the ryots here have a year's supply. In Pundooah the number of persons who have rice in store to last them till the next crop is estimated at one-third of the population. Generally, it may be said that whilst stores in the hands of traders are not large, there is no fear of scarcity of rice either locally grown or imported; rice is always to be obtained, and when one kind runs short the deficiency is supplied by the other.

9. Rainfall. *Nil.*

The principal crop on the ground is boro dhan and jola dhan; the former is to be found in the Chunditollah thannah, and the latter is grown on churs in the Hooghly. There are large quantities of boro dhan in Khanakul under the Magistrate of Howrah; onion and til is still growing; the sugar-cane is cut and sugar manufacture going on. Potatoes are also gathered; both these crops were fair. The kolye crop was a failure.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

10. In Bansbarya about 364 persons; in Serampore 473, of whom about 158 are professional beggars. In Balagurh about 100. In Chunditollah about 70, mostly professional beggars; in Pandooah five or six people in every village. In Krishtonagore 458 persons. In Baidabatty 30 or 35 persons, chiefly professional beggars; in Hurripal about 510 persons; in Hooghly (excluding municipality) about 200 persons, and in Dhanyakhally two or three persons in each village are stated to be suffering from want, and more or less in receipt of support from private charity or from the hands of the police or relief committees. During the fortnight the district superintendent of police visited Dhanyakhally, the Assistant Magistrate visited Balagurh. The sub-divisional officer of Serampore was in camp during the whole of the fortnight in thannahs

Hurripal and Chunditollah until the 5th, when at my request he came in to Serampore. On Sunday the 22nd ultimo, I inspected the district on the line from Hooghly, *viâ* Muggrah to Bhastarrah, passing through the middle of Bansbarya thannah and the north of Dhanyakhally and south of Pundooah. On Sunday the 28th, I went to Serampore, and from thence to Borra in the south-west of Baidyabatty thannah.

11. The following is the result of these inquiries.

12. In Balagurh there were on the 27th February about 2,000 persons, chiefly occupiers of land, ready to work on earth-works. For these I have, since that date, set on foot relief works.

13. In Pundooah there are numbers of villagers ready to work on relief works; this part of the district had been visited by me in the previous fortnight. I have ordered the necessary works. In Dhanyakhally I found the north-western portion in the same condition. The east and south are at present in a better condition, *i.e.*, villagers owning land are not ready or willing to work on roads. In Bansbarya all who want employment are employed. In Hooghly also the few who wanted employment are provided for. In the south-west of Hurripal and north of Khristonagore the people are ready to work, as also in the west of Baidyabatty and Chunditollah.

14. It appears to me whilst the Dhangars and other labouring classes, whether settled in Hooghly or merely annual visitors, are, as a rule, obtaining subsistence by labour on the numerous private works of which I submit returns below, as well as regular Government works, and works executed on Government loans, and only a few stragglers require to be provided for, as they are thrown out of work by completion of some tank or road; that in certain parts of the district the smaller cultivators, though they have not consumed their stores of grain, are becoming anxious to save enough to carry them through the aus planting season, and are consequently ready to work on relief works for the next six weeks.

15. After the aus is sown I think they will again come for labour.

16. The infirms are a somewhat numerous class in this district owing to the effects of fever. These with widows, &c. are being thrown somewhat in larger numbers than usual on local charity; until relief committees can be established all over the district, I depend for the relief of these on a few relief committees established in the worst places and on the police. All post-masters have promised to relieve urgent cases subject to a promise of refund from me. The cases are scattered through all the villages, and are not as yet at all beyond the capabilities of private charity. In the course of the next fortnight arrangements will, I believe, be completed for the inspection and relief of the poor in every village.

17. A considerable number of people are always travelling on the old Benares and Grand Trunk Road; some of these are men who have come down for work and have failed to obtain it, or have fallen sick and become destitute. There is already one serai where rice is distributed by Baboo Behary Laul Mookerjee at Boinchee. I have ordered two more on the Grand Trunk Road, one at Serampore, and two on the old Benares Road.

18. One case of a person found in a destitute condition, of the classes of travellers mentioned in the last paragraph, occurred in the fortnight; the man was sent into the hospital at Hooghly, he was very weak from starvation; he was returning from Calcutta.

19. One case of grain-theft by a woman also occurred which the trying officer attributed to destitution; she is in jail; orders have been given to look after her mother who is destitute.

20. As regards the condition of the people the following police report is apposite:—" The " attendance of chowkidars is very irregular at this thannah (Chunditolla); they get no pay, " and those that have chakeran lands have received but small yield this year, and they care " nothing about their appointments; they come to the outpost and beg the head constable to " accept their resignation."

B.—Relief Works.

21. The following works are in progress in Hooghly, excluding Howrah:—

Thannahs Balagurh and Pandooah.

Name of Road.	Number of Coolies.	Supply of Food.	Condition of Labourers.	Mode of Payment and Rate of Wages.	Arrangement of Tools.	REMARKS.
Pandooah to Culna Road	240 men, women, and children.	Purchase in bazar when any difficulty is experienced with contractor's supplies.	Good	3 to 4 annas per 100 cubic feet, 2 annas khorakee given daily; some get 3 annas 3 pie daily wages; masons get Rs. 10 to 13 monthly.	Some supplied by contractors, some by workmen, some from store.	Chiefly local; more coolies to be had from the villages.
Tribuny to Gooptiparah Road	150 ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto ditto road nearly finished.
Inchora to Balagurh	5	From Balagurh Bazar	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	10 per cent. of the villages want labour.
Inchora to Dwarpara	5	From Inchura rice now can be got; see note.*	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Contractor supplies	Ditto ditto ditto.
Koolupara to Nischindpore	40	Rice from Inchura or Balagurh	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	This work taken up on 23rd to give labour. All the workmen are villagers, and numbers increasing daily; 200 men are now employed.
Dukchara to Balagurh	30	Rice from Balagurh	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	Commenced as a relief work on the 23rd; all local labour; numbers increasing daily.
Sookiya to Digra	30	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	All local; 10 per cent. of the villagers in all the villages round reported in want of work.
Boinchee Station to Bazar	15	Rice from Boinchee Bazar	Ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto.

* NOTE.—To supply the want of labour, the Kooluparah, Nischindpore, and Balagurh to Dukchara roads were commenced on the 23rd; the numbers of coolies on them increasing daily since the date of this report. Baboo Beharylall Mookerjee, Road Cess Commissioner, has also taken up two roads, Tinna to Boinchee, and Boinchee to Bhapore, but no return of labourers has been received; the orders were sent him on the 6th instant. Orders issue to-day to take up the Moolyie and Jamgram road. These works will give sufficient employment for the present if pushed on vigorously. There are one or two more small roads and some works in the unions. The latter have been estimated for, and will be at once commenced. After that I must take up the Bogakhall.

Bansbarya.

Name of Road.	No. of Coolies.	Supply of Food.	Condition of Labourers.	Mode of Payment and Rate of work.	Arrangement for Tools.	Remarks.
Shahgunge to Tribeny	12	Rice from bazar	Good	3 to 4 annas per 100 cubic feet, 2 annas khorakee given daily; some get 3 annas 3 pie daily wages; masons get Rs. 10 to 13 monthly.	Some supplied by contractors, some by workmen, some from store.	Local.
Muggrah to Tribeny	18	Ditto ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Bancoora coolies at Muggrah employed.
Grand Trunk Road. In Hooghly, Bansbarya, and Pandooah.	25	Rice from Pandooah, Muggrah, &c.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	All local laborers available in Pandooah.
Dhanyakhalee.						
Dhanyakhalee road	242	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Mostly from Bankoora and Burdwan; 25 villagers; local villagers will not as yet condescend to work on roads here.
Bhastara to Boinchee	20	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	*10 per cent. of villagers available.
Muggrah to Bhastara	100	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	On Muggrah side, village labor not available; towards Bhastara all village labor, mostly holders of lands; many were ready to work. I visited the roads marked* on the Sunday the 21st instant. I have ordered repairs of Bhastara to Gooroop, and Bhastera to Dhanyakhalee roads; also of Mahanad to Gopeenathpore road to give labour. Baboo Juggeshur Singh, Road Cess Commissioner of Bhastara, and Reverend Juggodish Chunder Bhattacharjee, are superintending. No returns yet received; instructions and money sent on the 5th.
Serampore.						
Branch Grand Trunk Road	15	Ditto	Reported bad*	Ditto	Ditto	No local coolies available.
Bydebatty Stand Road	10	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	-	Ditto ditto.
Chandernagore to Bhola	74	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	-	Mostly local, villagers not willing to work on the road.
Bydebatty feeder road	35	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	-	All brick-making; mostly by local labor.
Sheakhalla road	25	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	-	All west-country coolies, many local village laborers to be had, but contractor cannot give them work.
Chunditolla	43	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	-	Half local, half west-country labor; work nearly complete.
Connagore to Jonye	39	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	-	Ditto Ditto.
Old Benares road	48	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	-	Local laborers not willing to work on the road.
Tarkesshur road	24	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	-	Local and foreign coolies; villagers not willing to work.

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* This is the overseer's remark. I inspected one of these roads, the Sheakhallah road on Sunday last; the coolies were in perfectly good condition. The remark is nonsense. He reported no local labor available on this and the other roads, but I found large numbers of local laborers, small cultivators &c., willing to work around Jonye, Singoor and Bora in Chunditolla and Baidabatty. I have therefore ordered the Jonye and Bora road to be commenced at once. Baboo Anerup Mookerjee zemindar, will superintend. Arrangements are being made for successively taking up three more roads about here.

Name of Road.	Number of Coolies.	Supply of food.	Condition of Labourers.	Mode of payment and rate of work.	REMARKS.
Howrah.					
Benares road	92	Rice from Pandooah, Muggrah, &c.	Good	3 to 4 annas per 100 cubic feet, 2 annas khorakee given daily; some get 3 annas 3 pie daily wages; masons get Rs. 10 to 13 monthly.	Remarks as to whether local or not, not given.
Domjoor road	250	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Makorda road	13	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Branch Grand Trunk road	32	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
*Mohesh**raka** sub-division.*					
Ampta road	20	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Local.
Road	41	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	33 Local.
Juggutbullubpore road	50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Local.
Andool road	10	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.

The works newly ordered as relief works have been mentioned in the foot notes. I have not received any returns of labourers employed, though a return is due in regard to the Bhastara Gooroop; and Bhastara Dhanyakhalee roads from the zemindar; he has, however, informed me that he is pushing on the works.

The following statement shows the amount of labour entertained in the district by private individuals without assistance from Government; every kind of labour is herein included. This is not required by the orders, but I have the information, and it is, I think, useful.

THANNAH.	Work.	Number of Labourers at end of last fortnight.	Present number of Labourers.
Bansbarya	12 tanks and sand-pits	393	370
Serampore	17 ditto and brick-making	1,525	1,036
Balagurh	8 ditto	397	268
Chunditolla	17 ditto	751	1,119
Pandooah	8 ditto	645	645
Connagore	5 ditto	147	117
Baidabatty	16 ditto	544	964
Hurripal	5 ditto	40	371
Hooghly	3 ditto	27	27

22. In Hooghly and Chinsurah municipality, twenty-two tanks are being re-dug, under the provisions of the Municipal Act, at the expense of the owners; of these, five are almost completed, six are half done, two three fourth's done, two one-fourth done and seven begun; employment is given to 381 labourers paid at the ordinary market rate, or 12 pice daily. The coolies are paid in money.

23. In Serampore municipality, 108 labourers are employed in excavating four tanks after issue of notice on the owners.

24. The following works are in progress under the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment division.

25. The number of coolies at work on the embankment across the mouth of the Kana nuddee is 125; their condition is good; rice and vegetables can be easily obtained.

26. A channel for leading the water from the Kana nuddee at Gopalnagore, to the Sorrussutty at its crossing of the Baidabatty and Hurripal road is also laid out, and work has already been commenced upon it. Some of the landholders will give the land gratis, others demand compensation.

27. 5,300 maunds of rice, 2,200 of paddy, 73 maunds of dâl, and 35 maunds of gram are reported as imported into Serampore thannah during the fortnight. 2,000 maunds of rice and 150 maunds of dâl, are reported as imported into thannah Balagurh; 9,319 maunds of rice, paddy and kolye, are reported as imported into Chunditollah; 500 maunds of grain into Kristonagore; 1,700 maunds of rice and 800 of other grains into Baidabatty; 2,000 maunds of rice and 200 of dâl into Hurripal, figures for other thânnahs are not received, but in Dhanyakhalee, importations were made from Roynah; means of transport are sufficient for the present, but are being improved before the rains; the worst parts of all the principal roads are being metalled. Nothing further need be said under this head.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

28. Rs. 5,000 more have been advanced during the fortnight to Baboo Joykissen Mookerjee for digging five tanks in several villages in the jurisdiction of thannah Dhunyakhalee; Rs. 400

to Peary Mohun Banerjee, Radhica Mohun Banerjee, and Kisna Mohun Banerjee for re-digging a tank in village Borizhatee, thanah Chunditolla; and Rs. 240 to Jebunkristo Bose for re-digging a tank at village Molhi, thannah Pandooah; and Rs. 18,000 to Baboo Joykissen Mookerjee for purchasing rice under special orders of Government. Rs. 240 were advanced to-day to Baboo Rajkisto Mookerjee and Behary Lall Mookerjee for a tank in the village of Beloor, thannah Balagurh, and orders have been issued to submit weekly statements of progress made in the tank works.

F.—Charitable Relief.

29. A Hooghly district committee was formed on the 20th February, and since then 56 sub-committees have been formed, *i.e.*, the members have given consent and been appointed. The whole district has been mapped out into sections, thannah by thannah, and the committee for each section will soon be appointed. Five of these sub-committees have applied for and received funds and commenced work. From their returns it appears that 29 men, 74 women, and 30 children are in receipt of relief; of these 17 men, 68 women, and 30 children receive gratuitous relief, the rest labor at their own homes. There are no returns of people relieved by the police. I have ordered their submission at once and regularly in future.

No. 298 T, dated Camp Khamarberriah, the 8th March 1874.

From W. R. Larminie, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Bancoorah, to the Commissioner for the Division of Burdwan.

I have the honor to submit my fortnightly report on the state of the district of Bankoorah for the fortnight ending 8th March 1874.

State of the Country.

2. There is still sufficient rice to be had in the bazars and prices have fallen a little coarse rice selling at 14 seers 8 chittacks per rupee; ordinary at 13 seers 12 chittacks, and the best sort at 12 seers 8 chittacks; *dâl* is selling at 12 seers 8 chittacks. Prices are now very much the same all over the district, and the slight fall is, I think, due to the fact that exportation to Raneegunge has greatly diminished within the last few days.

3. I have now visited every part of the district, and am, as far as one can venture to be on such a point, satisfied that there is a good deal of rice stocked with some of the chief *mahajuns*, but many of these at present refuse to sell at any price. I have heard some bitter complaints on this score, and it is difficult to persuade people that the course pursued by the mahajuns is for their ultimate benefit. It is unfortunate that there are so few men of capital in Moheshra pergunnah.

4. There is no observable change in the condition of the people since last report. They have been much occupied in manufacturing sugar from the crop that is being cut, and preliminary ploughings have been finished, or nearly so. The rubbee crops are approaching maturity, and are generally doing well. The mango trees have blossomed most luxuriantly and the fruit is beginning to set. There was a little rain during the fortnight, but it did neither good nor harm. No cases of misery or starvation have been brought to notice, nor have there been any serious grain thefts.

Relief Works.

5. The works mentioned in my last report are still in progress, and the other roads of the district are being repaired. The total number of men, women, and children daily employed is about 2,000. Of this number, more than 800 are employed on the Saltora and Gangajalghate road, and from the demand for labor in that part of the country, it is evident that it will be absolutely necessary to take in hand the road from Moraloo to Mejea. Rates of wages are not higher than ordinary, being from three to four pice per diem for children, four to five pice for women, and seven pice for men. This seems very low, but labor has always been cheap in this district. Tools are procurable in the bazar to an almost unlimited extent.

Advances to Private Parties.

6. The number of applications for tuccavi advances up to date is 298; of these it has been impossible to dispose of 154 because the month required by law for giving notice to zemindars, &c. has not yet expired. Of the remaining 144, seven are pending from special causes for which the applicants are responsible, 97 have been disposed of, and the remainder are under inquiry by the two sub-deputy collectors and two canoongoes. Since the date of last report you will see that no less than 44 cases have been disposed of, being an average of three per diem. I trust this will be considered satisfactory progress. The total amount up to date would have been greater, were it not, as I have already observed, for the necessity of giving a month's notice in almost every case. The total amount applied for is Rs. 92,432; applications for sums amounting to Rs. 14,406 have been refused, and to Rs. 21,917 allowed. I have thus only about Rs. 18,000 remaining at my disposal.

Charitable Relief.

7. I annex a statement showing progress made under this head. But little relief is yet required.

STATEMENT OF CHARITABLE RELIEF.

1. One Committee and 11 Sub-committees.
2. None.
3. None.
4. None.
5. None.
6. Returns not received.

No. 237, dated Burdwan, the 12th March 1874.

From C. T. BUCKLAND, Esq., Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

In continuation of my No. 233 of yesterday I have the honor to submit, in original, the fortnightly narrative dated 9th March, submitted by the Collector of Midnapore.

2. The Collector mentions that he has made a short tour in thanahs Chunderkona and Ghatal, according to my instructions, but he has omitted to give any account of the condition of the people there; nor does it appear in the proceedings of the Committee to which the Collector refers, except that provision is to be made to supply some of the weavers with work.

3. The price of rice has fallen considerably, and grain is reported to be abundant in the bazars.

4. In paragraph 7 the Collector states that he heard at Ghatal "of one women who died, in a great measure, from starvation; it was, however, a case that might have occurred any year." A special report will be called for on the particulars of the case, which is much to be regretted, considering the great anxiety manifested by Mr. Harrison to avert any such catastrophe.

5. The number of persons engaged on relief works throughout the whole district appears to be 2,550, but on some of the roads the numbers are only estimated, and there seems to be demand generally for relief work on the terms offered by the Collector.

6. No applications have been yet received from the Collector for advances under Act XXVI. of 1871. He was directed to send in each application separately in the form prescribed by the rules.

7. A charitable relief meeting was held on the 7th instant. A separate report of the proceedings is being submitted.

8. The sub-divisional narratives from Contai, Tumlook, and Ghurbetta contain no information of special interest. In Tumlook the Deputy Collector writes thus:—

"The Sub-Inspector of Kasijora states that from want of sufficient food the people are getting thin and pale. He does not say where this has happened, and I am calling for a detailed report, as to the locality, the resources of the men, and whether the mulberry land, teel, mug, and boro crops are not likely to be of use to them."

9. In Ghurbetta the Deputy Magistrate writes:—"No case of actual misery and starvation " has come to notice, although there can be little doubt that the lower orders have already " commenced to stint themselves in their meals. Grain thefts are occurring, although just now " only a few cases are reported. I am afraid all the cases do not come to notice."

No. 531, dated Midnapore, the 9th March 1874.

From H. L. HARRISON, Esq., Collector of Midnapore, to the COMMISSIONER of REVENUE, Burdwan Division.

In reply to your Circular No. 209 of the 3rd instant, I have the honor to submit the fortnightly narrative for the period ending 7th March.

2. I have also the honor to enclose the narratives in original received from the sub-divisional officers. All these narratives are carried up to the 4th March.

3. Since the last report I have made a short tour in the thanahs of Chunderkona and Ghatal, under your instructions, where I met, according to arrangement, the sub-divisional officer. Immediately on my return I called a meeting to arrange for the formation of a relief committee. A full report of the proceedings of the committee and of those of the executive committee the following day has been forwarded to you by to-day's post under the signature of the Secretary to the Committee. This report contains so complete an account of the intended action of the committee, and its views are so entirely in accord with my own, that a brief report will, I hope, suffice as a supplement to it.

A.

4. Grain is abundant in the bazars. The proximity of the March kist forces it into the market with the usual result of a marked decline in prices. Common rice, which was for a long time obtainable at only 16 seers to the rupee and touched as high as 14 for a few days, is now easily procurable at 18. A similar fall in price has occurred over the whole district, except in the jungle mehals, where the price has remained almost stationary.

5. According to the latest returns the prevailing prices in these tracts were:—

	Price per rupee.	Amount brought to hât: maunds.
Bheempore.		
	Seers.	
Daleegoree hât	16	20
Sildah do.	18	9
Ramghur do.	18	5
Jhargram Thanah.		
Ghutea hât	20	5
Jhargram do.	18	3
Jambonee do.	18	supply plentiful.
Gopeebulludpore.		
Gopeebulludpore hât	20	not reported.

6. Through the supply at Jhargram is so small, I have been assured from independent sources that rice is still freely procurable at 18 seers per rupee.

7. There has been a seasonable and useful rain-fall during the last 3 days. No known cases of starvation, though I heard at Ghatal of one woman who died, in great measure, from starvation; it was however, a case that might have occurred any year.

B.

8. There has been a great influx of labor at subsistence rates during the past fortnight.

9. The works open are as follows:—

Thanah Jhargram.—Rate 6 pice per diem for men.

Jambonee estate.—About 100 workmen are engaged every day on petty works at Jambonee. Mr. Ap. John's estimates are just ready for larger works; they have been somewhat delayed, and meanwhile most of the petty works are approaching completion.

Bombay Road.—Four gangs at work; average daily attendance 200. The local report is—"people are willing to work at the rates proposed (6 pice) if they are employed near their homes."

Thannah Sheenpore.—Rate, 6 pice.

Pooreebatee Road.—About 150 coolies engaged in 3 or 4 places.

Bheenpore Road.—Heavy works on this road; estimated daily laborers, 500.

Dabijuri Road.— Ditto. ditto. estimated ditto. 700.

New Roads.	Beenpore to Silldah	Works have been commenced on each of these roads, one gang being formed on each road, averaging 50 to 70 laborers.
	Beenpore to Ramghur	
	Ramghur to Dabijuri, *via* Lallghur	

The local report is—"people can be obtained in abundance at subsistence rates."

Midnapore Town.—Rate 8 pice; scarcely 50 labourers can be obtained for the Municipal special works,—the high prices paid by the Public Works Department draw them away.

Keshpore Thanah.—7 pice.

Burdwan Road.—300 coolies engaged in four gangs; number increasing daily. A new road, Keshpore to Narajole, is under consideration to meet the want. I have visited all these gangs; they prefer to work in the neighbourhood of their homes at 7 pice, to going away for 9 and 10 pice.

The local report is—"laborers freely offer their services at the proposed rates for work near their houses. The people also of Kewapore and the neighbourhood offer their services freely for employment at subsistence rates near their houses. Distress is imminent in these villages, and relief works will probably be much resorted to."

Town Chundercona is close to these villages, and you have been asked in the budget estimates of the town to sanction Rs. 2,000 for road works. These works, if sanctioned, will be available for the relief of this distress.

Thanna Ghattal.—Rate 7 pice.

Ghattal and Chunderkona Road.—Heavy earth and brick-works under District-Engineer going on on this road. 400 coolies employed; double the number could be taken on if they presented themselves. They are *not* paid by daily rates, but by contract and earn 9 to 10 pice.

Local report—"Some people are willing to work on the terms offered, but not many."

Dasspore.—Rate 7 pice.

Local report—"No demand for employment at subsistence rates."

In Ghatal and Dasspore embankment works are proceeding, and the supply of labour exceeds the demand. An excellent silk bund is just reaching maturity, and a crop of boro dhan, always a large crop, and sown this year over double the usual area, is ripening. If these turn out as well as is now expected (and the weather is all in their favour) there will be an end of all apprehension of distress in these thanahs, except among certain limited classes and in isolated cases.

I am in hopes that the same may be said of Kassijora (*vide* Tumlook report) the state of which will be carefully watched. All the above laborers paid daily, partly supplied by us with tools, partly they supply their own.

It is proposed to allow *laborers* to buy rice at 4 pice the seer at the rate of a seer a day as soon as the bazar rate exceeds that amount.

C.

10. Nothing of any importance under this head except the remark of the sub-divisional officer of Gharbetta regarding the masonry parapets of the bridges. This is contrary to the information I have received, and as Mr. Stevenson was in the station yesterday and returned to Gharbetta this morning, I have asked him kindly to examine all bridges showing signs of wear and tear and let me know the result. The road is a provincial one, repaired by the Executive Engineer.

D.

11. Government grain is stored nowhere except for the use of the Central and District Jails.

12. The Jambonee estate is gradually purchasing and storing rice. A golah has been constructed, and small quantities are also stored at out factories. Total amount purchased up to date, 461 maunds.

13. The Relief Committee have authorised the purchase of 5,000 maunds while prices are so easy. About 250 maunds had been purchased up to Saturday night. Places of storage in the mofussil will be finally selected at next weekly meeting. Purchases are being made in the town, where rice is plentiful and cheap.

E.

14. You have announced your intention of making all advances for land improvements yourself. The list drawn up in the manner prescribed by you is under preparation, and will be submitted immediately.

F.

15. (1) A District Committee was organized on the 6th instant, and the Executive Committee under it held their first meeting on the 7th. The formation of 4 Sub-Committees was resolved upon and they will be at once formed.

Vide Government letter, No. 1251—S.R., of 1st March.

16. (2) to (6) at present blank.

RESOLUTION.

Scarcity and Relief Department.

Calcutta, the 14*th March* 1874.

Read—

The fortnightly narratives of Hooghly, Burdwan, Beerbhoom and Bankhoorah, for the period ending Saturday 7th March; also the Commissioner's review of the same.

1. *Prices.*—The fortnight witnessed a fall in prices over nearly the whole of the division. The Hooghly Collector observes that up to the middle of February, prices had been slowly, but steadily rising; that they then received a check and began to fall, a change as beneficial as it had been unexpected. Considering the advance of the season, the ease in prices is decidedly gratifying. The following quotations are noted—

	On 31st January.	On 14th February.	On 28th February.	On 7th March.
	Seers.	Seers.	Seers.	Seers.
Burdwan - - -	14	13	13½	14
Beerbhoom - -	12⅜	12	12½	12¾
Hooghly - - -	11 to 12	10 to 10½	11½ to 12½	11½ to 12½

Rice is reported to be procurable readily in all the marts, but in Beerbhoom there is said to be some difficulty in procuring supplies at the smaller villages.

2. *Condition of the population.*—Notwithstanding the ease in prices, it is evident that high rates have been telling on the poorer classes. In the Sudder sub-division of Burdwan, it is stated that the lower classes are obliged to stint themselves in consequence of high prices. At Raneegunge it is stated that Europeans are become more hopeful, whereas natives take a more gloomy view of the situation. In Hooghly it is observed, that what with the fever and the high prices, infirm people and widows are coming on local charity in greater numbers. Happily there has been no serious increase of crime noted in the division. With the exception of one or two cases of destitute travellers on the Grand Trunk Road, there is no case of extreme misery. The assurances, repeated in several of the district narratives, that there has been no death by starvation is satisfactory.

3. *Employment.*—The Collectors of Burdwan and Hooghly have omitted to render totals for the number of persons on relief works, an omission which must be avoided in future. About 9,000 persons are returned as having been working on the various road works in the division, but the returns are evidently imperfect. In some parts of Hooghly, the smaller cultivators, though they have not consumed their stores of grain, are resorting to the relief works until the aus seed time. As a rule, however, cultivating occupants of land have not been figuring much among the labourers in the division.

4. *Charitable Relief.*—It is noted that Rs. 12,653 has been subscribed in the Beerbhoom district, and Rs. 7,655 in the Burdwan district, exclusive, it would appear, of the Government equivalent. The returns for other districts are imperfect or omitted. These are exclusive of His Highness the Maharajah's organisation for employment and for charitable relief, which evidently continues to be well managed. If the accounts of Cutwa are correct, relief centres as well as additional relief works must be required there. The Commissioner's attention has been specially drawn by the Lieutenant-Governor to the need for providing work and relief for pauper immigrants into Howrah, Serampore, and other towns on the banks of the Hooghly. It is observed that some of the weaver class in Bood Bood are being provided with employment through advances repayable in cloth. In connection with this subject, attention is called to the recent resolution of Government recommending encouragement to weavers in changing from cloth-work to gunny-work. The Burdwan Collector speaks of an indent for 4,000 maunds for some relief centres, but it is not stated whether the rice has been bought. In districts where there are no Government stores, Committee must buy what they require or must ask the Central Committee to buy for them.

Exclusive of the weaver-class above referred to, the numbers reported to be in receipt of charitable relief during the fortnight were—

Hooghly Committee - - - - - - -	133
Burdwan „ - - - - - - -	115
Total - -	248
Add in receipt of charitable relief at the Maharajah's poor-house -	1,000
Total - -	1,248

5. *Advances to private parties.*—The following progress up to date in sanctions, is reported in the narratives. On this, as on some other points, the Hooghly narrative is imperfect.

	Rs.
Burdwan - - - - - - - - -	14,650
Bankoora - - - - - - - -	21,917
Beerbhoom - - - - - - - -	33,910
Hooghly - - - - - - -	Not reported.
Total - -	70,477

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1,476—S.R.

Copy of this resolution, together with a set of printed copies of the district and divisional narratives, forwarded to the Commissioner, with the request that he will call attention to the imperfect character of some of the narratives. With regard to the opening paragraph of the Commissioner's review, it is observed that the fortnightly narratives of the districts ought to be despatched on every alternate.

Calcutta, the 14th March 1874.

RESOLUTION.

Scarcity and Relief.

Calcutta, the 10*th March* 1874.

The Lieutenant-Governor fears that during the present scarcity the condition of the cotton-weavers may require to be watched carefully in certain parts of the country, such as Bood-Bood and Jehanabad in the Burdwan division. Unfortunately this industry is so much on the decline, that it becomes a more and more difficult matter to help them effectually at their old craft, and especially so during the present depression of the market for piece-goods, whether indigenous or imported. The same remark applies to the subsidiary employments connected with cotton, such as spinning and colour-dyeing.

2. The case is quite otherwise with the manufacture of jute stuff, whether for gunny sacking, for sail-cloth, or, as in certain parts of North-Eastern Bengal, for clothing. The manufacture is

of old standing and yet is a rising one. The subsidiary forms of manufacture, *e.g.*, for cordage, &c., also find a ready and increasing sale. The production of the raw staple, even allowing for all fluctuations, is on an assured footing. Though power-looms are increasing, still the field for hand-looms is none the less wide. It takes a long time for power-looms to supersede the humbler hand-loom industry; even in Lancashire the hand-looms have hardly yet been completely superseded. Lastly, the staple is grown near at hand, and by a population already in close commercial connection with the districts where the weaver-class may be in difficulties.

3. Under these circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that where the weaver-class may need relief, they might, with great advantage to themselves, be encouraged to change their looms, so as to suit the more gainful, the more hopeful, and the more easy manufacture. He wishes that local committees and officers having to administer relief should give their best attention to the subject. Sir George Campbell has not overlooked the reluctance to change or adapt tools and processes; but he thinks that with considerate treatment the change may be managed in many cases, and he is assured that in all such cases it will be beneficial. Where charitable relief in the way of subsidiary employment has to be given to the weaver-class, it might in many cases be usefully given in the shape of advances, repayable in gunny bags. At first, also, advances might be made to provide the apparatus for jute weaving (it is very simple and cheap), and to obtain instruction in the new process.

The Lieutenant-Governor of course does not wish advances to be made merely to obtain this change, however desirable. Still less would he wish charitable relief for weavers to be given exclusively in this form. What he wishes is, that where weavers can be persuaded to try the change, the relief should take this form, but not so as to cease being relief.

4. In any case, the relief measures to be provided for this class of the population ought to receive timely consideration on the part of the local officers. It will not do to wait, as at Jehanabad in 1866, till the weaver class migrate wholesale.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1496 S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL in the Statistical Department, to the COMMISSIONER of the PRESIDENCY DIVISION.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, the 16th March 1874.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 30—M.A., dated the 11th March 1874, and in reply to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor approves of the orders you have issued for providing against any outbreak of distress in the 24-Pergunnahs.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor fears that a considerable influx of persons in search of work may be expected in Calcutta, the Suburbs, Howrah, Serampore, and some of the larger towns on the Hooghly. I am accordingly to request that you will be good enough at once to settle with the Calcutta and suburban Municipalities, and the District Road Committee for the commencement of works sufficiently near and accessible, at which such persons might get employment directly they come. You should communicate with the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, and inform him where such works are to be found, so that the police may be able to tell work-people where to go. You should also arrange through municipal or other agency for providing relief-houses to receive such people, in case they come, or become after arrival unfit to support themselves. The Central Committee, if applied to, would probably make a grant-in-aid of any such relief-houses.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Enclosure No 12.

No. 297½T, dated Camp Gumla, the 3rd March 1874.

From COLONEL E. T. DALTON, C.S.I., Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

My last report on scarcity and relief was despatched from Bisrampore, a place in the centre of Sergoojah, on the 18th ultimo. In a postcript, I mentioned that at a meeting held that day, the gentlemen of Sergoojah had not only all given assurances that the poor of their own estates should not be in want, but made a liberal contribution to the general relief fund. The Sergooja subscriptions amounted to Rs. 2,013, and those subsequently obtained in Jashpur to Rs. 687. I afterwards passed through the southern part of Sergooja accompanied by the manager and several zemindars; the tuppehs I traversed, appeared all fairly well off, except one, Mudgoori; there the harvest had yielded not more than one-third of an average crop. It was arranged that some reservoirs should be constructed which were much wanted and which the people greatly desired to have made, to give employment to the poor classes and improve their cultivation, and the money or its equivalent in rice to be advanced from the assets of the estate, and the Rajah promised to supply as much rice as was required from a bhandar of his in the neighbourhood.

2. On taking leave of the Sergooja Sirdars, they all solemnly assured me again that they would act up to their promises, and I need be under no apprehension in regard to their people.

3. I passed through Burway, a pergunnah of the Loharduggah district, and joined by the Rajah of Jashpur and his *suite*, entered the Jashpur territory. Of this I have little to say. It was evident that there was plenty of food in the land and that the people were in a high state of prosperity. They had reaped a crop which, if not a full average, was sufficient to leave them a surplus to dispose of, and they had not far to go for a good market; the traders were at their door.

4. I am now writing from a noted mart in the Lohardugga district and the weekly market is being held this day; I was told it would not be so full as usual as it was the great festival of the "Hooli." Nevertheless there are many thousands of people who have brought their own produce to market, chiefly rice, and it is being rapidly bought up by traders, mostly from Palamow at a little over 18 seers for the rupee. I questioned the sellers as to their stock, and they all replied that they had plenty left for the support of themselves and their families, and had not the remotest intention of disposing of more than they could afford to sell without pinching themselves. This was cheering, as I know that Palamow and Hazareebaugh are depending greatly on the Lohardugga supplies. The state of the rice market in Burway was not so flourishing. The people there declared that they had not harvested more than an eight to a ten-anna crop, but they had enough to eat, and apparently something over, as they readily sold to the camp at 18 seers. In Mudgoori in Sergooja, the price at which common rice was sold to the camp was 16 seers, in Jashpur 22½; an anna a seer in Sergooja is quite prohibitive, 22 seers for Jashpur and 18 seers for Gumla is about equivalent to traders considering the extra cost of carriage from Jashpur.

5. I have very little to add to the information already in the hands of Government regarding the districts.

6. *Hazareebaugh.*—In Hazareebaugh, the Deputy Commissioner has opened out works in the western portion of his district, the only part of his jurisdiction which, in regard to food-supply, appeared to him in a precarious state. He has expressed confidence that if we can only supply employment to a sufficient extent there will always be food sufficient to supply the laborers. He has obtained a promise from the zemindar of Koondah to import and store a small quantity of rice, but I have requested him to take further action in this direction. There should certainly be a good reserve in that part of his district, and unless he can feel confidence in the Chattra merchants having such a reserve, other measures should be taken to provide it. I would suggest that a grant for making advances for the purchase of grain be made to Hazareebaugh to the extent of half a lakh, and that the provisions of circular No. 175—S.R. of the 17th January, be extended to the district. I am not so confident as Mr. Beadon is, that the importation now going on from the southern districts to Chattra will continue through the rains without check.

7. I am glad to find that the managers of the Dhamvar and Gowan estates have a considerable store of rice in their bhandars aggregating more than 30,000 maunds. This will be a great help to the people employed on relief works in Kharakdiha.

8. *Lohardugga.*—In the Lohardugga district I have only Palamow to notice. The people have shown a disposition to flock to the works for assistance sooner, and for this time of the year, in greater numbers than I had anticipated. The number employed, 6,219, appears to have already exceeded the maximum of 1869. We have, I believe, work enough, and all useful work, ready, but the great desideratum is supervising establishment. It is impossible for Mr. Forbes without further assistance to superintend all that has been projected. This has lately been brought to the notice of Government in my letter No. 258T of the 27th ultimo. My arrangements, which Government approved, contemplated the transfer of Mr. Supervisor Brooke to Palamow, but on Mr. Oliphant's protest this is deferred. In regard to the supply of rice, I have recently seen so many proofs of the activity of the Palamow importers, that I feel pretty confident in the sufficiency of the measures adopted and sanctioned in Government orders No. 534—S.R. of the 7th ultimo.

9. Mr. Webster, manager of the Chota Nagpore estate, has been projecting some small irrigation works in pergunnah Toree of that zemindari; I have had no details as yet. It is on the same level and under the same climatic influences as Palamow, and, as represented in my letter No. 49T of the 16th January last, paragraph 5, it behoves the Court of Wards to assist any sufferers there. The Deputy Commissioner has, I notice, made provision for works to relieve the people in a portion of the Tamar pergunnah. A few hill-locked villages were reported to be in some distress, and all that is required, has, I think been done.

10. *Singbhoom.*—As the Deputy Commissioner of Singbhoom can only take account of work done, it is not very easy for him to give any definite notion of the number of people he has in employ, but the number must be considerable, and he is himself indefatigable in his movements, endeavouring to give as much supervision to cart-road, or reservoir, as it is possible for one man to give. He has not applied for assistance, but he certainly requires it. From his last letter to me, I fear there is a prospect of relief being required in Boharagra, a portion of the Dhalbhoom estate, adjoining or rather abutting into Midnapore, and therefore likely to be subjected to all difficulties which have been felt in that district. Whatever may be necessary in the way of relief the Court of Wards have the means of affording.

11. *Maunbhoom.*—For the Maunbhoom district I have nothing to add to the last half monthly report of the Deputy Commissioner, dated the 23rd ultimo. I have no later information, but I hardly think Colonel Rowlatt will obtain the rice we have consid[illegible] it necessary that he should have in reserve by advances to zemindars. The Paudra R[illegible]ly influential person who

has evinced any disposition to take an advance, and the money she takes would suffice for little more than 2,000 maunds. I have just received a petition from Paudra, purporting to have been sent by a number of ryots who call themselves people of the respectable non-working classes, asking for advances to supply themselves. It would be consonant with the policy enunciated in the Government order No. 703—S.R. of the 16th ultimo, to comply with this, and I have sent the petition to Colonel Rowlatt to enquire into, and where expedient, act on the resolution and orders referred to. The only difficulty in dealing with zemindari ryots in such matters is to provide the necessary agency. In this instance I am sure the zemindar, the Paudra Rani, would willingly act as our agent through her Dewan, Kesub Missir, who is thoroughly trustworthy.

12. During the fortnight under review, I encountered some very heavy rain in Sergooja. It commenced on Sunday evening the 22nd ultimo, and lasted all night and best part of the following day; since then, there has, up to the present date, been an alternation of sunshine and cloud, but though cloudy weather if continued, is said to affect the mowoha crop most injuriously, we have still full promise of unusual yield from that nutritious flower and from the mango, which is in magnificent blossom both here and in Sergooja, but the clouds are still about and another heavy fall of rain would probably ruin our prospects of a good mowoha season. In Sergoojah and Jashpur, the rain on the 22nd and 23rd does not appear to have injured the rubbee crops. What there is on the ground looks well, and the pulse-crops of the hill-tribes, the Korwas and others, are reported to be very fine.

No. 1379.—S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, in the Statistical Department, to the COMMISSIONER of CHOTAH NAGPORE.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR,

Calcutta, the 10th March 1874.

I AM directed to thank you for your satisfactory report (No. 297½, dated 3rd March) upon the condition of your division, and the arrangements made to meet distress.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor has every confidence that the Chiefs and Sirdars of the Tributary Estates will, under your influence, do their duty by their people.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased, in conformity with your application, to make an allotment of Rs. 50,000 to the Hazareebaugh division to cover advances to zemindars for purchase of grain. The rules as to the security for, and the due application of such advances (see Circular No. 80 of 17th November) must be carefully observed by the Deputy Commissioner.

4. If the number of workmen named by you (16,326) means the total employed daily, it is very large for the small population of Palamow. An overseer from Dehree is on his way to Palamow, to advise upon the petty irrigation works, and the Public Works Department has agreed to make another subordinate available for duty under Mr. Forbes.

5. In regard to Maunbhoom, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor has not yet decided whether Government grain should not be sent to that district. But I have to-day invited Colonel Rowlatt to state whether he is ready to receive at Barrakur, cart away, and store twenty thousand maunds of grain at three days' notice.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 110T, dated Camp Khamdih, the 22nd February 1874.

From L. R. FORBES, Esq., Officiating Assistant Commissioner, Palamow, to H. L. OLIPHANT, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Lohardugga.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my fortnightly narrative of scarcity and relief in the Palamow sub-district, for the fortnight ending Saturday the 21st instant.

First Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Palamow sub-district for the fortnight ending Saturday the 21st February 1874, submitted in accordance with orders contained in Government Circular No. 80, of 17th November 1873.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazars.—Up to date I believe the supply of rice in the bazars is fully equal to the daily requirements of the people, but the abundance or scarcity in the bazars on market days depends greatly on the arrival in time of the beparies. If these latter manage to hit off the market day, and they generally do so, the people are put to no inconvenience: but it sometimes does happen that the importation is short, and purchasers have then either to wait the next market day, or to go to some other bazar in the neighbourhood.

Frequent complaints have reached me from the people to the effect that the local traders and shopkeepers forestall them in the purchase of rice by buying up the whole of the day's importation, frequently going miles out to meet the beparies and giving them earnest-money, thereby prohibiting the people from becoming purchasers at first hand, and driving them to buy at retail rates from themselves. I have of course not attempted to interfere in any way.

Kind and price of grain selling at one or more specified principal marts.—Coarse rice imported from the Lohurdugga district, from Sirgoojah, and Jushpore, forms the chief staple food to be found in the bazars. Dals of different kinds, such as rahur, khessari, and oorid are also exposed for sale, but I have not observed that these are exhibited in very large quantities; there is, however, a reason for this: the greater portion of the dal stocks are converted by holders into "sathoo," a staple food with the people, and more profitable when sold in this shape. Oorid forms the greater bulk of the dal stocks; next to that, rahur, large quantities of which are imported from Sirgoojah. The stock of Makai (maize) is very short; the only bazar where it is to be found in any quantity is Garhwa, and the sub-district has this year almost entirely depended upon Sirgoojah stocks; present prices range from 13 to 15 seers per rupee, and for makai this may be called a famine rate. Gram is hardly to be obtained in the markets; there was a small import from Delhi a short time ago, but it was quickly bought up. The following will show the kind and price of grain selling in five principal marts as per price current of 17th February 1874:—

MARTS.	Present Price of Wheat.	Present Price of Common Rice.	Present Price of Maize.	Present Price of Gram.
Daltongunge - -	10·12	11·68	13·50	11·25
Garhwa - - -	11·25	12·36	14·62	13·50
Husainabad - -	11·80	12·	15·	14·62
Sutburwa - - -	11·25	13·50	15·	11·81
Manka - -	10·75	13·75	15·25	10·

With the exception of some 20 or 30 individuals, a few of whom are specified in the margin, I do not believe that any of the zemindars possess stocks of grain of any kind in excess of their actual requirements, for (1) food, (2) harvest operations, (3) seed. A large number are daily purchasing the first, and hoarding the two last, while a still larger number are not only purchasing food, but when the time comes will have to borrow what they require for agricultural labour (No. 2), and have very short stocks of seed.

Information regarding the amount and kind of grain believed to be in stock in the hands of zemindars, &c.

Bhya Bhagwan Deo of Untari has about—
3,000 mds. rice.
4,000 ,, dhan.
2,000 ,, pulses and coarse grains.

Babu Nand Lal Sing, of Surky, has the credit of having about double the above quantity, but I do not believe he possesses more than 12,000 maunds of grain of all kinds.

Babu Deo Narayan Sing possesses about 8,000 maunds of grain of all kinds, all retained for seed and harvest operations.

Sunkar Ram Tewari, of Haramand, possesses about 5,000 maunds, all told.

Traders.—It is impossible to arrive at any conclusion as to stocks in the hands of traders, but as the importation of rice has been steadily going on for the last four months and daily and hourly increasing in magnitude, and is not being sent out of the sub-district, but retained, as far as we know at present, for local consumption, we can only assume that stocks must largely exceed present demands, though they are not nearly so large as they would have been had they not been so low at the outset.

Ryots.—I should say that three-fourths of the ryot class are buying their daily food, and certainly not more than one-third are in possession of seed and grain for the ensuing sowing and cultivating season.

Rainfall.—There has been no rainfall during the fortnight.

State of crops.—The heavy rain which fell on the 4th and 5th instant did immense good to the growing crops. Slight damage was done to the small area of the more advanced of the dal crop; more than one half of the lands required for the ensuing rainy crop and rice crop have been ploughed up, so that the seed will be able to be sown at the very earliest opportunity.

Condition of the people.—Up to date the condition of the great mass of the people is not much changed. The agricultural classes have a little food on hand, and are looking forward to the ensuing mowha harvest and rubbee crops. They are tied down to the care of the latter for the present, and engaged in ploughing. Those who have jungle produce near their homes are helping out their small stocks of food with these, and those who have not, are doing so by the consumption of oil-cake. The heavy rain in the early part of the month caused the grain of such of the rubbee crops as had never germinated to do so, and this has given them some green food.

Actual facts as to any known cases of misery and starvation.—No cases of actual misery and starvation have as yet been reported.

Grain-theft and robberies.—No grain-thefts or robberies have occurred during the fortnight under report.

Condition of any special tracts.—The tract lying west of the town of Garhwa, and within the jurisdiction of the thannah of that name, is in a worse condition than any other part of the sub-district; when I was there, about a fortnight ago, I found the people looking somewhat thin and pinched. The poorer classes are pouring on to the works (relief work No. 6) in large numbers.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

The progress hitherto made in marking out or opening relief works has been confined to roads. Money was paid out on the 19th instant for the purpose of commencing the petty repairs to embankments in Government farms, but these works have not yet been commenced.

Works specified.—The relief works that have been opened are therefore—

No. 1, Daltongunge Station road.
„ 2, Chandwa road.
„ 3, Behar road.
„ 4, Maharajgunge road.
„ 5, Garhwa road.
„ 6, Untari road.
„ 7, Manjhiawan road.
„ 8, Jupla road.

Number of labourers.—The numbers of labourers thereon according to latest information are, No. 1, 236; No. 2, 702; No. 3, 756; No. 4, 876; No. 5, 322; No. 6, 1,686; No. 7, 495, No. 8, 304—grand total—5,377.

Supply of food thereat.—The labourers obtain their daily supplies from the bunneahs in the bazars and villages along the routes. They are experiencing no difficulties at present, but the having to go to the bazars to purchase food is a common excuse for arriving on the works late. On work No. 6 only are the bunneahs exposing food for sale on the spot; this is from a recent report.

Condition of the labourers.—The greater portion of the labourers now on the works are of the very poorest classes. I cannot say that any of them are in what may be called good condition, but then, in the best of times this class of people are not fully fed. The labourers on work No. 6, however, are decidedly ill-conditioned.

Mode of payments.—The labourers are paid daily by moonshees appointed for the purpose; strict orders have been given on this head, and the arrangements made will be fully detailed in a separate report.

Rates of wages.—The rates of wages are as follows:—

To an able-bodied man doing full work -	7	Goruckpori pice = 1½ annas.
„ a man not able to do a fair day's work -	6	„
„ a lad of 15 to 16 years - - -	5	„
„ a boy of 10 to 14 years - -	4	„
„ a boy above 6 and under 10 years -	3	„
„ a strong able-bodied woman - -	5	„
„ a weakly woman or girl of 12 to 16 years	4	„
„ a girl above 6 and under 12 years -	3	„

The market rate of pice varies; copper money is now cheap. 20 gundas or 80 pice at the present rates, equals one rupee.

Arrangements for tools.—The whole of the available tools have been distributed. On the 30th November last an indent was submitted for 1,000 tools (kodalies and picks), and on the 8th instant a further indent for 4,000 more was sent, but nothing has as yet been heard of them. Small sums have been advanced to native blacksmiths, but the number to be obtained from this source is very limited; besides these, Ganga Sahu, a wealthy mahajun of Koney has offered to provide from his private purse 100 kodalies.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

Approximate amount of private food supplies into the district from outside during the week.—It is quite impossible to give any information on this head; all I can state is that a very large number of agriculturists owning pack-bullocks are engaged in importing rice on their own account.

Sufficiency or otherwise of means of transport.—I apprehend no difficulty on this head. There are thousands of bullocks belonging to cultivators available for transport. See heading E. The remaining questions under this heading require no remark.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

The following are the places of storage selected:—

No. 1, Daltongunge Serai.
„ 2, Parasia.
„ 3, Panki.
„ 4, Nawah.
„ 5, Budooma.
„ 6, Surki.
„ 7, Nuggur Untari.
„ 8, Sillidag.

Construction of storage-houses or golahs.—The golah at No. 1, formerly the Government distillery, is now being rapidly put into a proper state of repair for the reception of rice. The other golahs, Nos. 2 to 8, are all granaries belonging to private parties, and are in excellent repair. The manner in which these golahs are to be administered has been already fully set forth by the Commissioner of the division in his No. 86T, dated 22nd ultimo.

Amount of food-grain received.—No grain has as yet reached any of the golahs, the remaining clauses under this heading therefore need no remark.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

Advance for purchases and storage.—The Commissioner in his letter quoted above to the Government of Bengal, reported having arranged for the purchase by certain zemindars of 20,000 maunds of rice, which arrangement was sanctioned by Government letter No. 534—S.R., dated 7th February. The Commissioner in his No. 87T, dated 22nd ultimo, to this office, sanctioned my advancing to the zemindars in question for the above purpose, but prohibiting my giving more than Rs. 5,000 to any one zemindar without special sanction. Under these orders Rs. 8,000 were distributed previously, and a further Rs. 8,000 during the fortnight under report to the gentlemen named in the margin; none of them have as yet reported the purchase of any rice, but I am aware that they have sent beparies to Lohardugga and elsewhere beyond the sub-district to purchase rice on behalf of Government, and it is probable that before the 15th proximo the first instalments will have reached the golahs.

	Rs.
Rai Kissen Doyal, Bahadoor - -	1,000
Thakurait Jagger Nath Doyal Sing -	1,000
Raja Ridhnath Sahi - - -	1,000
Bhya Bhagwan Deo - - -	2,000
Baboo Deo Narain Sing - - -	1,000
Baboo Nand Lall Sing - - -	1,000
Baboo Lachmi Bux Rai - - -	1,000

Advances to municipalities, and description thereof.—No such advances have been made or are contemplated at present.

Advances to private parties for land improvements, and description thereof.—No such advances have as yet been made. Upwards of 70 applications have been made for advances under the Land Improvement Act, but owing to want of proper agency to conduct the local enquiry enjoined by the rules, no action has as yet been taken on them; this matter was brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner now in camp here, and I am aware that he has applied for a staff of officers to assist me in this and other relief works.

F.—Charitable Relief.

Nothing has as yet been done under this head. The only arrangements made in preparation of the machinery of charitable relief by way of precaution has been the appointment of a Central Relief Committee at the head-quarter station Daltongunge, and of a sub-committee in each thannah and outpost, who will work under the orders of the Central Committee. I do not anticipate any necessity for relief-houses, nor do I see how they would answer in a sparsely inhabited country like this, especially as that indigent and homeless class, to be found in all densely populated districts, is not to be found here. I feel confident that, supervised by the Central Committee, the sub-committees will be able to do all that is necessary to ensure the timely distribution of charitable relief when and wherever needed.

Enclosure No. 13.

No. 29M.A., dated Calcutta, the 11th March 1874.

From Lord H. Ulick Browne, Commissioner of the Presidency Division to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

In continuation of my last fortnightly report No. 24M.A., dated March 2nd 1874, and that of the Collector of Nuddea No. 66—S.R., dated February 23rd 1874, I have the honor to submit the Collector's report for the fortnight ending on the 9th instant, No. 153—S.R. of that date, received this day.

2. Under the Government order No. 1,135—S.R., dated February 28th, 1874, the Collector's report is submitted through my office within a week of the submission of my last report, and I have little to add to what I said in that, and what the Collector says now.

3. *Headings firstly and thirdly.*—No remark.

4. *Heading secondly.*—I can confidently say that the arrangements made when I was at Kishnagur will, together with tuccavi loan works, give the people employment as fast as they seek it.

5. *Heading fourthly.*—The Collector has been called on to submit lists of members of relief committees that they may be appointed and gazetted, and worked as an intelligence dep ment until charitable relief is required. The district committee can also at once take up art-question of establishing agency in Calcutta for the sale of the cloth made by the weavers (see paragraph 6 of my last report).

6. *Fifthly.*—Applications for tuccavi loans for the execution of works to provide drinking-water continue to come in, and serve the purposes of relief works.

7. *Paragraph 7 of the Collector's report "Condition of the people."*—With reference to what Mr. Stevens says about the weavers and gunny-making, I will press on him my suggestion referred to in paragraph 6 of my last report about establishing an agency in Calcutta for the sale of the cloth the weavers are accustomed to make.

8. *The Collector's paragraph 15A. report.*—Showing what has been done to increase the cultivation of the earliest, or boro rice crop in this division will shortly be submitted.

No. 153.—S.R., dated Kishnaghur, the 9th March 1874.

From C. C. STEVENS, Esq., Collector of Nuddea, to the COMMISSIONER of the PRESIDENCY DIVISION.

IN submitting my narrative of distress embracing the fortnight ending this day, I have the honor to observe that there is not much alteration in the complexion of affairs since my last report.

2. In parts of Kooshtea sub-division, and in a few villages in the Kalantar, and in the extreme north, the supplies of grain are rather scanty, but generally the paddy in store is said to be sufficient to enable the people to pass over the crisis. The opening of mahajun's stores, and the import during the period under review from the Sunderbuns and from other districts, have caused a slight downward tendency in the price of coarse rice.

3. The prevailing rates for coarse rice at the following marts may be thus quoted:—

	Per maund. Rs.	As.	P.		Per maund. Rs.	As.	P.
Santipore	3	0	0	Bongong	2	8	0
Ranaghat	2	12	0	Kooshtea	2	14	0
Chagda	2	13	0	Chupra	2	8	0
Haringhati in Jaguli	3	2	0	Kishnaghur	2	13	0
Meherpore	2	10	0	Kaligunge	3	3	0

4. The stocks in hand are reported to have been supplemented by supplies from other places, and it is believed that they will be found to be usually sufficient to meet the demands of the people. As stated in my last report, they are almost entirely of aus rice. In Chooadanga sub-division, no stock of fine rice (purubi chaul) is said to exist, and the respectable classes are compelled to comsume the coarse amun and aus of last year's harvest, all purubi rice being bought up by Government for despatch to the Rajshahye division.

5. There were partial and slight showers of rain during the fortnight, and the state of the weather indicates symptons of more rain falling.

6. *State of the Crops.*—An improvement in the condition of the cold weather crops is reported from Chooadanga.' Boro dhan is thriving. The tobacco crop in Bongong sustained injury through being saturated by the late rains, but sugar-cane has turned out very well. The rains have enabled the ryots to cultivate their fields and to prepare them for the coming crops. The indigo has derived much benefit from the rain.

7. *The Condition of the People.*—I do not think that the people generally are at all more anxious about the future than they were. Indeed, I have been informed by the Public Works supervisor who has charge of the works in the distressed tracts that the inhabitants of those parts seem to be much easier in their minds than they were. The Government works and those taken on tuccavi loans are providing them with employment, and I am keeping back road-work enough, I hope, to carry the through the trying months of June and July. We cannot entirely depend upon the prices as showing us the condition of the country. To a man who has nothing, any price at all is a famine price. In those tracts in which the great mass of the people is very poor, the famine rate is soon reached. I am strongly of opinion that in the distressed part of this district, want of money is the difficulty more than absence of food-supplies, and therefore that abundant employment at fair rates of wages is the remedy. For this reason had the applications for tuccavi loans been double in number and amount of what they now are, I should still have been most anxious to keep work going in Government tanks so as indirectly to regulate the price of labor, and to keep it up to a fair level. I am still trying to ascertain whether the weavers can be employed profitably in gunny-making; the results so far are not satisfactory; but as I have at present only the estimates made at the jail to guide me, I am not content to let the matter drop, since the conditions of free and convict labor vary very greatly, and the latter is notoriously very dear.

9. *Actual facts—as any known cases of misery and starvation, grain-thefts and robberies.*—The case mentioned by Mr. Cornish was inquired into by him, and he seems to be of opinion that other causes had more to do with it than want of food, since the brother of the boy, of about the same age and under the same circumstances, was supported by the charity of the neighbours, and not apparently in greater distress. No new cases have come to my notice during the fortnight. During the period under review, 10 cases of theft of grain have been reported by the police.

9. *Condition of any special Tract.*—I have nothing to add to the preceding remarks.

10. *Relief Works.*—The works mentioned in my last report have been continued. But all work on the roads has been stopped for the present, except in the case of the few old or otherwise feeble persons who are getting daily wages only. Work has been given for such people also at the tank at Chandghar, the most distressed part of the district. The tanks proposed to be excavated along the two roads from Kishnaghur to Berhampore and from Mira to Plassypara, have been undertaken, and about 1,800 persons in all are daily employed in the distressed parts.

11. *Transport of Food.*—In Kooshtea from 15,000 to 20,000 maunds of food-grain are estimated to have been imported during the fortnight from Dacca, Sylhet, and Backergunge, Jessore, and the Sunderbuns, and from 10 to 12,000 maunds of the same commodity are reported to have passed during that period through the sub-division from the above-mentioned places principally to Moorshedabad; the exports are estimated at 12 to 15,000 maunds,

principally to Calcutta and Moorshedabad. In Chooadanga imports are made from Jessore and Sunderbuns; but as the imported grain is not often stored, but generally sold off at hâts it has been found difficult to estimate the amount. In Ranaghat the imports are estimated at 1,565 maunds of rice, 206 maunds of paddy, and 3,171 maunds of other grain. These supplies, especially rice, come in from Kooshtea, Bongong, 24-Pergunnahs, and Culna; the exports of rice are estimated at 386 maunds—this to Hooghly and 24-Pergunnahs—and of other grain at 2,244 maunds. In Bongong the imported grain is estimated at 17 or 18,000 maunds, and in addition to this about 2,000 maunds of paddy have been brought during the fortnight by the labourers who have returned from the Sunderbuns as remuneration for their labor. The decrease in the imported grain is said to be owing to there being no large stock in the market, as well as to the rise in the price of paddy in the Sunderbuns, from which the sub-division is chiefly supplied; about three-fourths of the above quantity is estimated to have been exported. For the reasons given in my last report, I do not rely on these figures much as guides. My impression is that trade has been somewhat less active than it had been when I last reported.

12. Storage of Government grain is not required.

13. *Advance to private persons and their results.*—About 18,000 rupees have already been given to private persons as tuccavi loans for digging tanks during the fortnight; applications have already been received in all for upwards of Rs. 40,000. In many cases works have been started.

14. Charitable relief has not commenced, but committees are being arranged in case necessity arises.

Enclosure No. 15 to the Thirteenth Special Narrative.

No. 1544, dated Fort William, the 18th March 1874.

From J. C. Brown, Esq., M.D. Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

In continuation of this office letter No. 1485 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, that the following further medical arrangements have been made in connection with famine relief works in Bengal.

(*a.*) Surgeons D. Wilkie and W. E. Battersby joined their appointments in the Tirhoot and Chumparun districts respectively on the 26th and 27th ultimo.

(*b.*) On the 9th instant, a letter was received from the Famine Relief Commissioner of the Rajshaye Division, stating that twenty additional native doctors are required for duty in his division.

(*c.*) On the 7th instant, the Deputy Surgeons-General of the Dinapore and Presidency Circles were requested to submit, as early as practicable, a complete report of the medical arrangements for the famine districts in their divisions.

(*d.*) On the 8th instant, Dr. Francis reported that he had entertained three compounders in his circle, and that twelve more were about to be sent from the Agra and Meerut Circles.

(*e.*) It will be seen from the annexed copies of memoranda Nos. 2240, 2253 and 2289, dated respectively the 4th, 7th, and 12th instant, from the Deputy Surgeon-General of the Dinapore Circle, that up to the 12th current one Sub-Assistant Surgeon and fifty-two native medical subordinates have been appointed by him for duty in the famine districts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Bhagulpore.

(*f.*) On the 10th instant, the Deputy Surgeon-General of the Dinapore Circle was requested to state the number of local native doctors that can be spared out of the fifteen men ordered from the Upper Provinces for duty under the orders of the Famine Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division.

(*g.*) On the same date Dr. Buckle was requested to state the number of medical subordinates that can be spared for duty in the Rajshahye Division.

(*h.*) On the 11th instant, Dr. Buckle stated that four men are available for duty in the Rajshahye Division.

(*i.*) Under instructions from the Government of India in the Public Works Department, Dr. Francis was requested, on the 11th instant, to place the services of an experienced hospital assistant at the disposal of the Engineer-in-Chief, Tirhoot Railway, and to arrange for the supply of suitable medical stores.

(*j.*) On the 10th instant, Surgeon Birch was, in compliance with a telegram received direct from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, directed to proceed to Durbhunga.

(*k.*) On the 13th instant, the Deputy Surgeon-General of the Dinapore Circle was requested to place the services of eight local native doctors and eight compounders at the disposal of the Magistrate of Purneah for employment in connection with the famine relief works in that district, and the Principal Medical Store-keeper was instructed to send eight packages of medical stores to the Magistrate of Purneah for delivery to the native doctors.

(*l.*) On the same day the Deputy Surgeons-General of the Umballa and Lahore Circles were
Umballa - 8 directed to arrange for placing the services of fifteen additional native medical
Lahore - 7 subordinates at the disposal of the Deputy Surgeon-General of the Dinapore
Circle for employment in the famine districts in Bengal.

(*m.*) On that date (14th), a telegram was sent to Dr. Francis, asking for the report called for on the 7th instant.

(*n.*) On the same date (14th), the Deputy Surgeon-General of the Presidency Circle was requested to state the number of persons available in his division for employment as compounders in the famine districts in Bengal.

(*o.*) Dr. Buckle reports, in his memorandum of the 14th instant, that eleven candidates have registered their names in his office for employment as compounders in famine districts.

(*p.*) On the 16th instant, the Deputy Surgeons-General of the Agra and Umballa Circles have been requested to report the number of additional hospital assistants and local native doctors that can be deputed from their divisions for employment in the distressed districts.

(*q.*) On the same date Dr. Francis was informed that fifteen native medical subordinates have been ordered from Umballa and Lahore Circles for duty in the famine districts, and told that the necessary orders will be issued hereafter for their disposal.

(*r.*) On that date, Dr. Buckle reports that, as soon as the services of local Native Doctor Abdool Majeed are dispensed with from the Sealdah Hospital, he will be provided with an appointment in the famine districts.

(*s.*) On the 16th current, Surgeon Callagan was directed to join his appointment in the North Bengal State Railway.

(*t.*) On the 16th instant, Dr. Francis was requested to state whether he required the services of 11 compounders (now in the Presidency Circle) for employment in the famine districts in his division.

(*u.*) I beg to append for His Honor's information a memorandum from the Officiating Principal Medical Store-keeper to Government shewing the number of indents for medical stores for famine districts received in his office and the dates on which the majority of them were supplied.

(*v.*) The Deputy Surgeon-General of the Presidency Circle has this day been requested to send as many native medical subordinates as can be spared for duty under the orders of the Famine Relief Commissioners of the Rajshahye Division.

(*x.*) In compliance with a telegram received this morning from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Deputy Surgeon-General of the Dinapore Circle has been instructed by telegram to send two active native doctors to Durbhunga, and the Principal Medical Store-keeper has been instructed to send the medicines asked for.

(*y.*) In conclusion I would state that, as soon as a reply is received from Dr. Francis, a complete report of the medical arrangements for the famine districts will be submitted for His Honor's information.

No. 2240, dated Dinapore, the 4th March 1874.

Memorandum from C. R. FRANCIS, Esq., M.B., Deputy Surgeon-General, Dinapore Circle, to the SECRETARY to the SURGEON-GENERAL, Indian Medical Department.

THE undersigned has the honour to report, for the information of the Surgeon-General, that the number of native doctors noted in the margin has been placed at his disposal for duty in the famine districts up to date. Advice has been received this morning of the intended departure of four more (locally entertained) from Agra. These native doctors are expected to-morrow. This will make a total of *thirty-six*, besides one Sub-Assistant Surgeon.

Whence—	No.	How disposed of—	No.
Jubbulpore	4	Tirhoot	14+1*=15
Meerut	7	Chumparun	4+3*= 7
Umballa	3	Bhagulpore	4
Lucknow	5	Gunduck Embankment	2
Agra	2	Commissioner of Patna	4†
Dinapore	11		
Total	32	Total	32

Eight native Doctors have been placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of Patna: of these he has distributed 1 to Tirhoot and 3 to Chumparun as seen at *. No intimation has been received of the distribution of the remaining 4, which are therefore retained as at his disposal. See †. Intimation has been solicited.

No. 2253, dated Dinapore, the 7th March 1874.

Memorandum from C. R. FRANCIS, Esq., M.B., Deputy Surgeon-General, Dinapore Circle, to the SECRETARY to the SURGEON-GENERAL, Indian Medical Department.

IN continuation of this office No 2240 of the 4th instant, and the telegram of the 5th instant, the undersigned has the honor to state, for the information of the Surgeon-General, that he has received intimation of the proposed departure of the hospital assistants and native doctors noted in the margin. These, added to the number already reported, complete the total to 53 native doctors who have been disposed of by this office: of these 29 have arrived from other circles, and 13 are expected in a day or two.

Hospital Assistants.	
Umballa Circle	6*
Locally-entertained Native Doctors.	
Lahore Circle	4
Allahabad.	6†
Total	16

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* Arrived	1
† Do.	2

No. 2289, dated Dinapore, the 12th March 1874.

Memorandum from W. M. Tuson, Esq., M.D., for Deputy Surgeon-General, Dinapore Circle, to the Secretary, Surgeon-General, Calcutta.

In continuation of this office memorandum No. 2253 of the 7th instant, the undersigned has the honour to state, for the information of the Surgeon-General, that the number of hospital assistants and native doctors noted in the margin have arrived from the circles noted opposite to their respective names.

	Hospital Assistant.
Lucknow Circle	1
	Native Doctors.
Allahabad Circle	5
Lahore Circle	
Presidency Circle	1

Number of Famine Indents supplied.

Dated 16th March 1874.

Districts.	Number of Indents.	Nature of Indent.	Date of Despatch.	Remarks.
Parbuttypore, Rajmehal	4	North Bengal State Railway	26th December 1873.	
Chumparun	4	Dr. Cullen's Indent	31st January 1874.	
Dinagepore	2	Famine Patarrha	27th January.	
Ditto	2	Ditto ditto	28th January.	
Ditto	1	Ditto ditto	3rd February.	
Bhagulpore	2	Dr. Baillie's Indent	19th and 23rd February.	
Chupra	1	Gunduk embankment	23rd February.	
Gya	1	Sick labourers on relief works	19th "	
Purneah	1	Ditto ditto ditto	23rd "	
Bhowanipore	1	State emigration depôt	27th "	
Tirhoot	40	Surgeon-General's sanction	4th March.	
Chumparun	1	Dr. Cullen's Indent	4th "	
Moteehari	1	Ditto Ditto	13th "	
Dinagepore	5	North Bengal State Railway	12th "	
Patna	6	Surgeon-General's scale No. 1 double supply.	13th "	½ not taken yet.
Monghyr	1	Surgeon-General's scale No. 2	13th "	
Rampore Beauleah	1	Labourers employed in famine	13th "	
Goruckpore	1	Double supply Surgeon-General's scale No. 1.	-	Ready for despatch.
Chumparun District	7	Surgeon-General's scale No. 2	-	Will be ready and reported to Commissioner by the end of the week.
Tirhoot District	30	Ditto ditto		
Purneah	8	Surgeon-General's scale No. 1	-	Will be ready by the end of the week.
Besides these above	10	Surgeon-General's scale No. 1 double supplies.	-	Ready if required for any other famine district.

MEMORANDUM.

I submit herewith the result of Lieutenant Bisset's inquiries respecting the Punjab grain traffic. He has exerted himself to the utmost, and his report is most valuable and opportune.

2. It appears that there has until recently been a want of concerted action between the Traffic Departments of the two lines, though I make no doubt that every one has done his best in his own sphere.

3. Lieutenant Bisset has accordingly sketched out a working scheme for the through service between the Punjab and the famine districts which is calculated to economise the carrying power of the Sindh, Punjab and Delhi and East Indian Railway Companies, and at the same time facilitate the grain trade.

4. This scheme was laid by Lieutenant Bisset before a meeting of the Government Controlling and Railway Officers at Lahore, and received their entire concurrence.

5. I have now discussed the subject with Mr. Stephenson and find him ready to co-operate heartily. He states, as a matter of fact, that of the wagons necessary to make up the East Indian Railway quota, 480 have already been placed on the "through service," and that the balance of 120 shall be at once arranged for, so that by the end of the current week a fixed and uniform dispatch from the Punjab to the famine districts of 1,250 tons of grain ought to be considered a certainty.

6. In addition to the above "through service" which depends on the concerted action of the Sindh, Punjab and Delhi, and East Indian Railways, the latter Company has engine power to lead a daily average of 200 tons of grain from Delhi, in addition to the ordinary traffic, making a total from the Punjab of 1,400 tons.

7. The dispatches of grain from Cawnpore and other stations in the North-Western Provinces may be expected to maintain their present averages, which are about 150 tons per diem, and about 100 tons per diem is now coming in from the Central Provinces *viâ* the Jubbulpore line, making a total daily "downwards" dispatch to the famine districts of 1,700 tons.

8. It was a part of Lieutenant Bisset's instructions to arrange, while at Allahabad, for the submission by the Traffic Manager of daily approximate telegraphic reports of downwards dispatches of grain, distinguishing the chief stations of destination, in order that His Excellency might every day receive information respecting the movement of grain towards the famine districts from both extremities of the Railway. The traffic Manager undertook to compile and forward this information direct to me, but he seems not to have realized the importance of the subject. I accordingly instructed Lieutenant Bisset to see him again, and I hope there will be no further delay.

9. I consider these daily reports essentially necessary as a guarantee that all concerned are exerting themselves in a methodical and energetic way, and I will urge the Agency to see that the desire of His Excellency to be furnished with this information is complied with.

10. Lieutenant Bisset reports that the present accumulations of grain at the Sindh, Punjab and Delhi Railway stations amount to about 23,000 tons or 118 train loads, and it seems quite clear that, as long as the present margin of profit can be obtained (stated by Lieutenant Bisset at from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per 100 maunds), the supply will continue to exceed the available carrying power of the two Railways.

11. I therefore submit, for the consideration of His Excellency, whether the present exceptionally low rate of carriage ought to be continued, say beyond the 1st April or after present accumulations have been worked off, for it seems to me that traders are acting on an erroneous belief that the Railway can carry all the grain offered at the rates now quoted.

12. It should further be noticed that of the various descriptions of grain, as given in the margin, now forwarded to the famine districts, about one-half are such as are usually considered food for cattle, and I am not aware that there is any scarcity of this description of grain in the districts this side the Ganges, while, as far as I can learn, a little or none of the grain imported by traders into Patna from the Punjab is finding its way across the Ganges into Tirhoot.

Grain from the Punjab according to most recent statements.

Wheat - - - - - -	9 per cent.
Maize - - - -	14 „
Rice - - - - - -	3 „
Jowar (coarse millet) - - -	35 „
Bajra (millet) - - - - -	5 „
Gram (pea) - - - -	19 „
Barley - - - - - -	15 „

13. Another point for very serious consideration is the capacity of Patna and other cities on the line of Railway to absorb the supplies of grain with sufficient rapidity. Whatever is done by Government must, I think, take the shape of co-operation with the merchants in their efforts to remove the grain clear of the Railway, and I submit, for the consideration of His Excellency, that a civil officer of local influence might be very usefully employed in reducing the efforts of merchants to a system, so that by advice and material assistance (when needed) the most might be made of the available carriage.

Confusion and wasted energy at Patna must be at least as prejudicial as it would be at one of the Government depôts, and it seems to me essential that the operations at Patna should be brought under proper control.

14. In the present crowded state of Patna Railway Station, no engineering improvements, such as those suggested by Lieutenant Bisset, can be safely undertaken. (I satisfied myself on this point when I visited Patna, in January,) but I submit that the Bengal Government might be moved to place further pecuniary aid within reach of the Patna municipality if they are prepared to open out the new road from the ghât station to the city, recommended by Lieutenant Bisset.

15. Lastly, it remains for me to notice the carrying power of the East Indian Railway; and as I had the advantage of explaining my views on this head to His Excellency in person yesterday, it may be sufficient for me to record that to the best of my judgment the East Indian Railway Company ought to obtain a reserve supply of wagons so as to furnish a margin for days when the dispatches are impeded by bad weather, or accidental delays in unloading.

16. Under ordinary conditions, traders are allowed 48 hours to clear their goods, but in the present times of pressure wagons are discharged on the spot under special arrangements, and Government has been regardless of expense in facilitating the Railway operations; so that it seems to me but fair that the Railway Company should meet the crisis to the extent of having sufficient covered rolling-stock to place a reserve of 150 wagons on the upper division of the line, and 140 wagons (or sufficient for one daily train of 35 wagons between Howrah and the famine districts) on the lower division, for the grain traffic solely.

17. The former quantity can be obtained from the B. B. and C. I. Company, and the latter from the Calcutta and South-Eastern State Railway, on terms which I have communicated to the Agency.

18. The engine power is, as far as I can judge, sufficient to meet present requirements; but the provision of a reserve of engine-drivers before the commencement of the hot season ought to be urged on the serious consideration of the Agency.

F. S. TAYLOR, Colonel,
Consulting Engineer to the Government of India.

Calcutta,
The 19th March 1874.

MEMORANDUM.

Grain traffic from the Punjab, dated in Mail Train, 12th March.

I arrived at Loodiana on the 9th and saw the station there, visited the Deputy Commisioner, and had a long conversation with as many of the chief traders as could be collected.

I went on to Lahore on the 10th, and on that day and the 11th, I consulted with Colonel Pollard, who kindly arranged a meeting with Mr. Harrison, the Agent, Mr. Ross, the Traffic Manager, and Mr. Bocquet, the Locomotive Superintendent of the Sindh, Punjab and Delhi Railway. On the information thus arrived at, I am able to base this memorandum.

Quantity of grain accumulated.

The last complete statement of the accumulations, dated the 28th February, shows that there were awaiting despatch—

		Mds.
To foreign line (chiefly for Patna)	- - -	4,28,000
To local eastward (chiefly for Khuttowlee and Gazeeabad)	-	2,14,000

Total 6,42,000 maunds or 23,580 tons, or 118 train loads on the Sindh, Punjab and Delhi line.

The grain that is above entered as local is nearly all intended, eventually, for the famine districts, and would, if facilities were given, be offered for "through" carriage.

It has hitherto been offered as "local" to secure early despatch (for Khuttowlee, where it takes the Ganges Canal to Cawnpore, and for Gazeeabad, where it has to be re-booked by the East Indian line) which has been more easily got for "local" than for "through" goods.

The reason of this is briefly that the Sindh, Punjab and Delhi Railway have employed on "local" traffic all sorts of vehicles, open waggons, timber trucks, and even passenger carriages, while they have been obliged to confine the through traffic to covered wagons, of which their own line has been starved by the extensive use of Sindh, Punjab and Delhi Railway covered wagons on the East Indian Railway. So the through traffic has been hampered, while the local traffic has been free.

And here it may be noted that, with a limited amount of stock and locomotive power, the employment of it to the fullest possible extent on the short lead from Howrah to the famine districts gives twice the amount of grain landed there, that would be possible with the same stock and power employed on the longer journey from the Punjab.

It may safely then be said the whole of the 118 train loads would be booked through to the famine districts if the traders saw any hope of getting it despatched within a reasonable time.

This accumulation is within the station premises only, and I am assured that it may be taken as representing with sufficient accuracy the present state of the station yards.

And it is believed that the stocks lying in the bazars or serais adjoining the Railway stations are more than equal[*] to the accumulations inside the station yards, while it is certain that the supplies in the country (independent of the present abundant crop) are scarcely yet affected by the heavy despatches that have been made both to Bengal and to the sea board *via* Mooltan.

So long, then, as the profits of trading remain such as they are at present, it is absolutely certain that the supply of private grain to the Railway will continue fully equal to its carrying power, even if this be expanded.

The enquiry of the Government of Bengal whether any room can be found for Government grain transport without interfering with private trade may thus be answered at once in the negative.

The profits are very large, and there is no want of enterprise among the native traders who are ready at Loodiana, for instance, to contract to fill 100 wagons a day with through grain, principally for Patna, and this too, all through the period of harvesting during which the influx of grain from the districts will be small on account of difficulty about local carriage.

Average of jowar, bajra, gram and maize.†

DETAILS.	TO PATNA.					
	Rates, 12th March, from Loodiana.			Rates, 12th March, from Rajpoora.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
First cost of 100 maunds - -	125	0	0	117	11	0
Brokerage on 100 maunds, at 3 per cent	3	12	0	3	9	0
Freight, at ⅛th pie per maund - -	53	15	0	50	8	0
Bags - - - - -	15	10	0	15	10	0
Handling and carriage to station -	6	4	0	6	4	0
Profit for 100 maunds - -	19	4	0	30	3	0
Selling price at Patna -	223	13	0	223	13	0

† Maize at Rajpoora only.

Clearing off present accumulations.

The clearing off of the present accumulation would, in the present brisk state of trade, only make room for another similar one, unless the carrying power of both lines were very largely increased, both in wagons and engines. Wagons and engines can be got, but engine drivers are not to be found in the country, and it is impossible to train raw men to this work.

If, then, the increase of power is demanded by the emergency, drivers must be telegraphed for at once, in order that they may arrive in time to supplement and relieve the present staff during the hot weather. Indeed, from all I have learnt, this relief will be required even if no more than the present traffic has to be maintained.

Apart from the question of increasing the stock to carry all the grain that offers, which appears quite impossible, there is doubtless much to be done by the more harmonious working of the two lines which has lately been initiated.

If the number of grain wagons that can be worked away daily from Gazeeabad by the East Indian Railway Company be distinctly stated, and this can be ascertained from the total of

[*] Colonel Pollard says they are four times as great.

(1st), the present through wagons taken over at Gazeeabad, (2), the wagons now despatched with grain, re-booked at Gazeeabad, and (3), a portion of the Delhi and Cawnpore (*viâ* Khuttowlee and Ganges Canal) grain traffic which can only be estimated at, say, one-third of the whole, then the total of these three reduced to the equivalent working power from Gazeeabad may be taken as the number desired.

This number, when ascertained and multiplied by 8 (the number of days occupied in the double through journey), gives the total number of wagons required for the through service will be obtained.

My estimate of the total that the East Indian Railway can safely work along with their local traffic, is over 180 wagons a day, but I take this as the required number, and the stock of wagons required as 1,440, or to allow for a small margin, say 1,500 covered vehicles. Of this number, the Agent, Sindh, Punjab and Delhi Railway, expressed his readiness and ability to supply 900, the number of his covered wagons now available for and engaged on this service, and about 200 open wagons in addition. I think it desirable to exclude the open wagons from the calculation, because the Punjab traders are very unwilling to book their grain "through" in open wagons, and have lately refused to do so.

If, then, the East Indian Railway can place the balance of 600 wagons on this service, and maintain a regular supply, the through traffic will be served as well as the present joint stock of vehicles and locomotives of both lines will admit. If the East Indian Railway cannot meet this want in addition to the demand for vehicles on the lower part of the line, I think then, if the maximum that can be got down from the Punjab is to be got down, the Government should ask the Agency to increase their number by hiring more.

This is all that can, in my opinion, be done, and this programme, if carried out, will soon produce a regular stream of traffic, which will, with a well-regulated system of despatch, tend very much to put a stop to any further great accumulations.

With reference to the enquiry made by the Deputy Secretary, Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce, as to the existence of any block on the stations of the Sindh, Punjab and Delhi Railway or of the East Indian Railway, I have ascertained that the stations on the Sindh, Punjab and Delhi Railway are working perfectly freely, but that their despatching powers are unequal to the traffic offered. This is not from their own want of stock or power, but from the limit that has to be imposed on the through traffic. One improvement might be suggested, *viz.*, that the trains should be made up so as to leave less marshalling to be done at Gazeeabad, where delay is certain to arise from this cause.

On my way up the East Indian Railway, I found the stations working well and without any block, but when at Loodiana on the 9th, I saw a telegram requesting that booking to Patna City should be stopped for two or three days.

The present block is due to causes entirely outside the Railway control, but its removal is very much delayed by the well-known difficulties of working Patna Station. These are so well known, that it seems almost unnecessary to recapitulate them, but I shall do so in the hope that no further unnecessary delay may take place in doing what is necessary both at the city and the ghât stations.

The difficulties arise from—

1st.—The want of a cross over road from the Patna ghât Branch, and the delay in other rearrangements of the yard, which have been so persistently urged by the traffic officers.

2nd.—The want of room for carts all round the goods sheds, and the platforms of the city station.

3rd.—The want of any road from the station into the city or chowk, a want which has been urged by the Consulting Engineer's Office since 1871, and which has been unfortunately recognized too late for the present emergency.

The improvement called for to meet want 1 would put a stop to the frequent detentions that at present occur to trains at Patna.

The improvement pointed at in want 2 and 3 work into each other to some extent. If there were more room round the city station, there would be less need of the road from the ghât station into the city, and if there were any cart road from the ghât station into the city, the grain going into the city itself could seek either route, and the city station would be less crowded.

I have hastily summarized the result of my enquiries, and I have thus had the advantage of submitting my notes on the questions affecting the through traffic to Colonel Pollard, who accompanies me down the line. Colonel Pollard expresses his concurrence in what I have written, but says that he himself would probably have written more strongly on the want of harmony in the earlier working of the through traffic.

I send this on by the mail train in which I have written it, but I halt at Gazeeabad and Delhi to collect further information there.

Umballa, W. S. S. BISSET, Lieut., R.E.,
The 12th March 1874. Offg. Depy. Consg. Engr. to the Govt. of India.

P.S.—At Rajpoora, which I have just passed, where the grain from Puttiala comes in, the rates of all grain stuff except wheat are 34 seers per rupee. The cry is for wagons to send it in.

W. S. S. B.

No. 890.

From Arthur Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Dept. of Agriculture,
Revenue and Commerce.
Agriculture & Horticulture.
Famine.

Sir, Dated Calcutta, the 12th March 1874.

I am directed to request that, under the orders of the Government of Bengal, the annexed copy* of a telegram from Bankipore of the 9th of February, addressed to the *London Daily News*, may be transmitted to the Commissioner of Patna, with instructions for him to report:

1*st*. Whether any deaths had occurred from starvation at that time in the Patna division, and if any have since occurred; if so, how many, where they occurred, and when they were reported by the local officers.

2*ndly*. Whether women of high caste have been obliged, as a condition of obtaining relief, to work on the Government relief works with common coolies; and if so, by whose directions and under what circumstances.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
Arthur Howell,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

* "The condition of Northern Tirhoot and Chumparun is growing worse. Distress is intensifying, and becoming actual famine. Several deaths have occurred from starvation. *Hundreds of high-caste women are to be seen labouring on the Government relief works with common coolies.* * *"

No. 1578—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Calcutta, dated 18th March, issued March 1874.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 890, dated the 12th instant, requesting the submission of a report regarding the alleged deaths from starvation in the Patna division, and the statement that high caste women have been employed on relief works with common coolies, I am directed to forward copy of a communication, dated Durbhunga, the 15th March, from the Commissioner of Patna on the subject.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor concurs in the account furnished by Mr. Bayley, and can testify from observation of the facts, as *vividly* evident in the conduct of the people, that it is almost impossible to save the lives of many children, because nothing will induce their parents to take them to our relief houses. This can only be done by sheer force, and that would probably create a panic. His Honour would observe that it is not caste-prejudice that influences these people in the matter, but the timidity of a miserable and abject people most difficult to move out of their accustomed grooves.

3. With regard to caste-feeling, I am to say that His Honour has lately passed through crowds of tens of thousands of women employed on relief works without a complaint being made on the score of caste. His Honour believes that there are very few people of high caste in the Tirhoot district, and it must be remembered that people of the same caste vary greatly in their habits. The Lieutenant-Governor would observe that in many parts of India, Brahmin women, wives of respectable cultivators, work quite freely in the fields. The Tirhoot Brahmins do not work, but there are other Brahmins who do. Good caste Rajpoot women are more particular, Rajpoots having adopted the Mahomedan habit of secluding

their women; but there are Rajpoots and Rajpoots, and many people calling themselves by that name are really of very inferior caste.

4. I am to add that probably, as Mr. Bayley remarks, it is a proof of hard times that these women come on the works; but the Lieutenant-Governor has as yet seen no symptoms that want has driven the better classes to great extremities.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Dated Durbhunga, the 15th March 1874.

From S. C. BAYLEY, Esq., Commissioner of Patna, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honour to reply, as completely as I can, from memory, and without reference to all the narratives, to the call made by the Government of India in their letter No. 890 of 12th March 1874.

Before the 9th of February there had been reported three deaths from starvation in Sarun, all of which on enquiry turned out to be deaths from natural causes, and quite unconnected with famine.

In his narrative of 15th January, Mr. Worsley reported five persons as having died of fever brought on by want of food. The case was enquired into by Mr. Llewhellin, assistant manager, Court of Wards, and though these persons had not died directly of starvation as at first reported, it seemed certain that their deaths were attributable to insufficient food.

In his narrative of 26th January, Mr. Worsley reported one death by starvation, well substantiated, at Jhunjarpore; and again, in his last narrative, he has reported three deaths, all caused by insufficient food on the Durbhunga and Buheyra road.

These are all the cases that have been reported to me so far as I can recollect; but it is impossible to say of many deaths whether they occur from immediate starvation or from disease brought on by insufficient or improper food. In the case of children, I am sure that there must be many deaths from the latter cause. I have seen myself, and the Lieutenant-Governor has, I know, observed also, numerous cases of children in an advanced stage of emaciation whose parents were in good condition and earning wages on the works.

In reply to the question about women of high caste being employed on relief works, I can say that I have myself seen on the road between Ramgurwa and Adapore in Chumparun, where 3,800 labourers were congregated, a number of Brahmin and Rajputni women; the hazree or roll showed, I think, 120 women and children altogether of castes unaccustomed to labour on roads.

These women had come with their husbands and other members of their family for relief. They had come of their own accord, and were not applicants, so far as I could learn, for gratuitous relief. I may mention, however, that I inspected this road on the 24th January, before gratuitous relief centres had been organized, and while it was distributed only to a small extent through planters and at police offices. I questioned a few of the women, but there was nothing about their appearance showing them at all driven to extremities. They were of high caste, but not of a high class in society, and though certainly not accustomed to labour on public roads, were not such women probably as would object to going about their villages publicly. I mentioned the matter in one of my demi-official reports as showing to my mind the existence of severe distress in the neighbourhood. The work was under charge of Mr. Lethbridge, and I visited it in company with Mr. T. Gibbon of Bettiah.

No. 17 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

Famine.

To the Most Honourable the MARQUIS of SALISBURY, P.C., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS, Calcutta, the 20th March 1874.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Despatch No. 2 of the 23rd January* from your Lordship's predecessor. We are gratified to learn that the measures and the policy which we have adopted with respect to the present scarcity in parts of Bengal and Behar have met with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

* Copy in Command Paper, 933, of 1874, page 52.

2. The weekly despatches and telegrams, and the fortnightly special narratives from the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, which we have periodically forwarded, have kept Her Majesty's Government fully informed of the progress of events. This information has been furnished as it arrived; it is voluminous, and we recognise the fact that it would be difficult for any one at a distance, who has not carefully watched the current of events in each separate locality, to appreciate accurately the general situation of affairs. Moreover, the anticipated yield of the spring crops is now pretty well known, and we are, therefore, in a position to define with greater accuracy than heretofore the prospects of the year; while the measures which we have adopted for the relief of distress are in a forward condition. We think, therefore, that the moment is opportune for a brief review of the general position of affairs in respect to the policy of Government, the amount of distress which is to be anticipated and the steps which have been taken to relieve it, and lastly, to the actual condition of the people in the famine-stricken districts. Her Majesty's Government will thus be able to judge of the adequacy of the measures which we have adopted.

I.—GENERAL POLICY OF GOVERNMENT.

(1.)—Policy in respect to private Trade.

3. It was necessary at the outset to define broadly the duties which Government was prepared to take upon itself and to decide how far reliance should be placed upon the operations of trade to supply the anticipated deficiency of food in the affected districts. We have from the first considered that any general deficiency in the food supply of a large continent like India, containing a population of some two hundred millions who live chiefly by agriculture, and comprising within its limits extensive tracts of country subject to very different climatic influences, is in the highest degree improbable. We looked, therefore, to the grain-producing districts of Bengal which had not been affected by the drought, and to the rest of India, to supply the deficiency where the rice crop of 1873 had failed. It appeared to us that it was essential to assure traders that Government did not intend to interfere with their operations. The importance of this point has throughout been frequently pressed upon the Government. In the early part of November exaggerated rumours as to our intentions were current, and received a certain amount of credence. An impression was getting abroad that Government intended to take upon itself the food-supply of a great portion of the population of Bengal. Any such impression would have been disastrous, because the operations of dealers in grain, upon whom we had mainly to rely, would thereby have been paralysed.

4. A Resolution was published on November 7th, in which the general policy of Government was declared in the following terms:—

> "The Governor General has full confidence that the energy and enterprise of those engaged in the internal trade of British India will prove equal to the occasion, and that supplies (excepting under the conditions to be noticed hereafter) will generally be at hand to meet any deficiencies of grain in different parts of the country.

"It has been officially reported that on the very first appearance of the prospect of a short autumn harvest large quantities of grain were imported into the trade centres of Behar, and much evidence has since been received to the effect that grain is being despatched by the merchants without any delay or hesitation to the principal marts in the districts likely to be affected by scarcity. The Governor-General is sanguine that the same commercial activity will prevail wherever it is needed, and that it will become greater and greater according as the demand for it may be intensified.

"It has, however, been proved, by the sad experience of famines in India, that exceptional circumstances may arise whereby numbers of persons may be exposed to danger of starvation, or to disease arising from want of food. In all such cases, where human life may be at stake, the Government and its officers will do their utmost to apply the most effectual remedy that may be practicable, and will strive, by forethought and management, to prevent the occurrence of any such misfortunes."

We designedly announced the principle which we had determined to adopt before alluding to the exceptions which we anticipated would arise to its application, and we think that the result of the publication of this Resolution, together with the encouragement given to local traders by local officers, who in this respect received precise instructions, has been so far satisfactory that the intentions of Government became gradually well understood, and that trade, save in exceptionally situated localities, has been extraordinarily active.

5. We are anxious that our views upon this important subject should be clearly understood. The ordinary motives which induce a trader to send his grain to the market in which the highest price is to be obtained hold good in India as elsewhere; in fact, the native traders are peculiarly alive to their own interests in this respect, carefully watch the fluctuations of the local markets, and send supplies to those marts in which they can realise the highest profits. We have from the first believed, and we are still of opinion, that in respect to most parts of the country reliance may safely be placed upon dealers in grain to distribute the supplies of food according to the wants of the community, leaving to Government in those parts the task of providing, by means of relief works and gratuitous relief, for those who are too poor to buy food at the high prices which must be expected. At the same time we came to the conclusion that in some parts of the country, which are remote from the great lines of communication, it was necessary for Government, owing to the inactivity of trade, to take upon itself the task of sending in supplies of food. This had to be done early, because traffic is to a great extent interrupted during the rainy months, and the deficiency cannot then be made good.

6. It is in the highest degree desirable that the area in which the Government is obliged to take upon itself the onerous duty of providing food for the whole or the greater part of the population should be as circumscribed as possible. The attempt to feed the whole population of all the districts affected by the drought through Government agency is not only unnecessary, but we believe it to be impossible, and that the attempt would terminate in disaster. For these reasons we have from the commencement done all in our power to encourage trade. Our endeavours have been so far successful that we have reason to hope that the task which we have to perform, although one of great difficulty, is now reduced to manageable dimensions.

7. Another and quite separate branch of this subject relates to the exportation of food-grains. Our reasons for not prohibiting that exportation have been expressed in the Viceroy's Minute of January 30th, and we need not allude to the matter further. We will only add that, so far as we can yet see, there will be no difficulty in procuring a sufficiency of food. The difficulties consist in its conveyance to the distressed districts, and its distribution there, and would not have been alleviated by any prohibition of exportation.

See Command Paper, 933 of 1874, page 54.

(2.)—Measures taken to alleviate Distress.

8. We pass on to the chief methods upon which Government rely for the relief of distress. These are—1st, the employment of labourers on public works, their wages being paid in money or grain; 2nd, the distribution of gratuitous or partly gratuitous relief.

(a.)—*Relief works.*

9. We look upon the provision of employment upon public works at the outset of a period of scarcity as a valuable preliminary and precautionary measure,

whereby the means of providing themselves with subsistence are afforded to the labouring population and to the smaller cultivators, who are not unaccustomed to labour for hire. This application of public works has been proved to be sound by the experience of former periods of scarcity in India. We, therefore, directed our attention in the first instance to the provision of public works in all those parts of the country which were affected by the drought. Works on a large scale were provided by the Government of India, whilst instructions were issued to local officers by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to provide an adequate number of local relief works within easy reach of all portions of the districts in which severe distress was anticipated.

(b.)—*Gratuitous relief.*

10. We have from the first recognised the fact that, besides those whom it is possible to relieve by employment on public works, there are considerable numbers who from age, sickness, caste usages, or other causes will have to receive relief either wholly or partly gratuitous. This relief is given through the agency of Relief Committees acting in communication with, and under the general instructions of, the officers of Government, whom we hold directly responsible that no deaths from starvation shall occur which can be avoided by any exertion or arrangement within their power and the means placed at their command.

Enclosure No. 1. See Part II., pages 135 and 136.

11. We have already forwarded to your Lordship a copy of the instructions which we have issued to Relief Committees, but for easy reference we append another copy to this despatch. Briefly, it may be said that the duties of these committees are to distribute gratuitous relief to persons unable to work; to provide employment at or near the homes of persons who are capable of performing light labour, such as spinning, weaving, &c.; to provide in such a manner as from local experience they may consider best for the relief of women and of persons whose caste usages preclude the application of a labour test; to sell grain under conditions to which we shall presently allude more particularly; and, where distress is general, to adopt a system of village relief. To this latter point we attach great importance, because the congregation of large masses of people away from their homes leads to much mischief. In framing the above instructions we have endeavoured to provide for all contingencies which we can at present foresee; but in order that no inconvenience should arise from too rigid an adherence in all cases to the precise terms of the instructions, we have impressed upon Relief Committees and on all Government officers that should any unforeseen circumstances arise they are to act promptly on their own responsibility and to the best of their discretion.

12. It is not, and it never has been, the intention of Government to require work as an invariable condition to the grant of relief, or when work is required to be rigid as to its precise amount. Neither do we desire to use the issue of cooked food as a test by which to gauge the necessity of giving relief to all applicants. In order that there should be no possible misapprehension on this subject the Resolution of Government of March 6th contained the following passage:—

> "The Government has not prescribed the invariable use of any test, either by labour or by the distribution of cooked food, for the purpose of determining who are fit objects for relief. Such tests are desirable and necessary under certain circumstances. It is right that able-bodied men, accustomed to labour, should, as a general rule, be required to work in return for the food or money supplied to them. It is desirable that light work should be found for others where this can be arranged profitably and without obliging large numbers of people to leave their homes. In dealing with certain classes of distress, especially in towns, the issue of relief in cooked food may be useful as a test. But stringent tests are inapplicable to those limited tracts of country where, owing to the great failure of the crops and the absence of private trade, the Government have, in accordance with their Resolution of the 7th of November last, assumed the task of importing grain for sale and distribution to the people. In such tracts the difficulty will be, not to prevent undeserving applicants from being relieved, but to ensure that sufficient supplies reach those who require them."

(3.)—Sale of Grain by Government.

13. Where large numbers of people have been collected together upon public works provision has been made for the issue of part of their wages in food, or, what amounts to the same thing, for the sale of food to them at a rate which has been fixed by the Government of Bengal at 10 seers for the rupee. But, besides

the provision thus made, it has become necessary, for reasons which have been stated before, to make arrangements in some parts of the country for the supply of food to large masses of the general population. This is a most difficult and delicate task. After careful consideration we adopted the course which was successfully pursued in dealing with the Irish famine. We have directed the collectors of certain districts to make arrangements, if possible through the agency of traders, for the sale of grain from Government stores, if a serious deficiency of grain in any part of their districts is apprehended. The selling price is fixed at that of the nearest large mart where supplies are readily brought in by railroad or river, together with such addition representing the cost of transport as may be considered proper. Sales will be stopped as soon as the local trade receives sufficient supplies, and any competition with the local trade will be carefully avoided. It is to be observed that the instructions which we have issued on this subject allow of the sale of food below market rates as a means of relief to persons whose cases have been inquired into by Relief Committees or Government officers. In addition to the sale of grain upon the principles above explained, we have directed local officers to make use very largely of the system (well known in India) of making advances to cultivators on repayment after the next harvest. Zemindars will in many cases become security for their tenants; but where this arrangement is impracticable advances will still be made to cultivators of the soil if there is a reasonable probability of repayment. We rely very much upon this system for the distribution of food among a large and important class of the population, who should be mainly engaged upon preparing their land for future crops, and, therefore, could not be continuously employed with advantage upon public works.

(4.)—Measures of secondary importance adopted for the Alleviation of Distress.

14. In addition to the measures which we have already described, some others of secondary importance have been adopted.

(*a.*)—*Remission of Land Revenue.*

15. The first of these has reference to a remission of the land revenue. We are of opinion that the occurrence of scarcity is not of itself a sufficient reason for the postponement of revenue instalments in Bengal and Behar, where the land revenue has been permanently settled. In Regulation I. of 1793 (the Permanent Settlement), section 7, article 6, it was distinctly stated that—

> "in future no claims or applications for suspensions or remissions on account of drought, inundation, or other calamity of season, will be attended to."

We wish to adhere rigidly to the principles laid down in 1793 by Lord Cornwallis, but we do not consider that it is inconsistent with those principles that the State should deal liberally with those zemindars who may distinguish themselves by employing labour on works of permanent improvement, or importing grain for distribution, or sustaining their ryots in a season of difficulty, or by any act of munificence towards their tenantry, or of charity towards the people in reference to the scarcity, which may be shown to the satisfaction of the local officers. We accordingly instructed the Bengal Government* that in such cases the collector should refrain from the application of any coercive process in respect to unpaid arrears of the instalments due on the 12th January, and may postpone part or whole of the coming instalments of the 28th March and the 28th June. The payment of arrears may be distributed over a term not exceeding two years from the date of the original postponement.

* Letter to the Government of Bengal, No. 112, of the 15th January. (See Part I., page 154.)

(*b.*)—*Other minor measures.*

16. With respect to other minor measures, Government has freely granted loans to corporations, municipalities, and trusts, as well as advances of money for agricultural improvements, and to non-official gentlemen and traders who have undertaken to import grain. Authority has been given to make advances for the purpose of purchasing seed-grain. The railway rates of freight have been reduced to one-half their ordinary amount. Aid from the army, commissariat, and other public departments has been freely afforded. Lastly, facilities have been given to unemployed labourers to emigrate.

II.—AMOUNT OF ANTICIPATED DISTRESS AND MEASURES ADOPTED TO RELIEVE IT.

17. The absence of any trustworthy statistics as to the area under cultivation in each district* and the out-turn of each crop has throughout rendered it a matter of extreme difficulty for us to estimate the extent of the danger with which we have to cope. Even at this late period, although the utmost attention has been given to the subject, our estimates are necessarily somewhat conjectural; but, in order to be upon the safe side, we have always accepted the highest estimate which has been made by any responsible authority.

18. The tract of country in which distress will be more or less aggravated comprises portions of the Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye divisions. The population of the whole of those divisions amounts to about 25 millions. The rough estimate formed by us last November of the number of persons who, judging from the experience of former times, would be likely to come upon the hands of Government, was about 2½ millions, or 10 per cent. of the whole population† for a period of seven months. We are now able to form a more detailed estimate of our wants.

19. The amount of distress to be anticipated varies very much in each district, and, indeed, sometimes in each sub-division. In those parts in which a considerable portion of the cultivated land is irrigated, or in which the failure of the rice crop was not very extensive, or in which the spring crops promise a good yield, there is a comparative abundance of food. In others every degree of deficiency exists. In the worst districts, where the rice crop has completely failed, and the spring crops are so small that no material aid can be derived from them, the deficiency of food-supply may be said to be almost absolute.

Enclosure No. 2. See page 167.

20. The detailed calculations of the requirements of the affected districts are appended to this despatch. We anticipate that the area of severe distress will be confined to a tract of country having a population of about 15,000,000; of these we estimate that at the worst period Government will have to provide food for about 2,663,000 people, or about 18 per cent. of the whole population. The total allotment of grain to these districts is about 327,500 tons. In the remaining districts, containing a population of about 10,000,000, detailed calculations have not been made, but for the most part the percentage of persons who will have to be fed is expected to be comparatively trifling. Allotments of grain amounting to about 60,000 tons have been made to these districts.

21. Our original calculations were based upon an average daily consumption of half a seer‡ per head per diem. Sir R. Temple's recent calculations have, however, been based on a daily consumption of three-fourths of a seer per head, and we have thought it safer to adopt the higher estimate. The total amount of grain required according to the best estimate which we can frame is about 338,000 tons. We have arranged for a supply of about 465,000 tons, which will leave a reserve of about 127,000 tons. Of this about 385,500 tons will come from beyond sea. About 160,000 tons have already arrived, and ships are daily arriving as fast or even faster than the railways can convey the rice up-country. We do not anticipate any difficulty in making further purchases, should they be required. We have from the first been of opinion that the greatest difficulty would be experienced, not in obtaining supplies, but in the proper organization of the land transport and the detailed arrangements for rendering food available at the right places to those who might be in want of it. The number of people for whom it is possible to provide by grain imported from without is limited by the carrying power of the railways, and, again, the amount which can profitably be sent by rail to the famine-stricken districts is limited by the number of carts which can be procured, and which, when procured, can be loaded and despatched daily from the railway stations.

22. Although some grain both on account of Government and private traders reaches the distressed districts by water-carriage, the chief reliance both of Government and the trade must be placed upon the railways. The East Indian Railway traverses Behar, and is throwing grain into that province both upwards from Calcutta and downwards from the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab. The Eastern Bengal Railway takes supplies up from Calcutta to

* Bengal is divided for administrative purposes into, 1st, Divisions; 2nd, Districts; 3rd, Sub-divisions; 4th, Thannahs.

† Despatch to Secretary of State, No. 8 of 30th January 1874. (See Part I., page 185.

‡ 1 Seer = 2 lbs.

Kooshtea and Goalundo, from whence they are distributed in the Rajshahye division by means of steamers, boats, and carts. The amount of Government grain already sent up the East Indian Railway is about 117,000 tons, and the amount sent up the Eastern Bengal Railway is about 33,000 tons. The East Indian Railway are now taking daily an average of 2,000 tons of Government grain and 400 tons of private grain up-country, and the Eastern Bengal Railway are taking an average of 800 tons of Government grain up to Kooshtea and Goalundo. At the same time the trade is sending large quantities of grain down from the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab into the famine districts. We are informed that 23,580 tons of grain, or sufficient to load 118 trains, are awaiting despatch at stations on the Scinde, Punjab, and Delhi Railway. This accumulation is within the station premises only, and it is believed that the stocks lying in the bazars adjoining the railway stations are more than equal (they are said to be four times as great) to the accumulations inside the station yards, while it is certain that the supplies in the country (independent of the present abundant crop) are scarcely yet affected by the heavy despatches that have been made to Bengal. The daily average amount of grain which is now being brought from the north and west into the famine districts is 1,700 tons, of which some portion is fodder for cattle. Your Lordship will, therefore, observe that, including what is being done by Government and what is being imported by grain-dealers, grain to the amount of about 5,000 tons per diem, or sufficient to provide a daily ration for nearly 8,000,000 people, is converging on the famine districts.

23. Under these circumstances, should it become necessary to make further purchases on Government account, we propose to draw upon the abundant markets of the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces, which, in so far as Government is concerned, are as yet almost untouched.

24. The difficulties connected with the transport of grain by rail are, however, slight as compared to those to be encountered in removing the grain from the railway stations to depôts in the interior of the distressed districts. At the beginning of January we were led to believe, from a careful consideration of the reports submitted by the Government of Bengal, that the arrangements for local transport and the organization for distributing relief were not progressing so quickly as could be wished, and accordingly a Conference was held on the 8th of January, the proceedings of which were submitted to your Lordship's predecessor in our Despatch No. 5 of the 16th January, when the subject was fully discussed. A little later it became evident that, in spite of the endeavours of Sir George Campbell, the arrangements for local transport were insufficient, and that this and other matters demanded earnest attention and prompt action. We considered it indispensable that an officer of high rank, possessing our fullest confidence, should be at once deputed to visit the distressed districts in person, with full powers delegated to him to act according to his discretion. At that time Sir G. Campbell's health unfortunately prevented him from going. His Excellency the Viceroy, therefore, with the full concurrence of Sir G. Campbell, deputed our honourable colleague Sir R. Temple to perform this duty. Sir R. Temple's appointment was accordingly notified in a Gazette Extraordinary of the 21st of January, which was sent home to your Lordship's predecessor in our Despatch No. 6 of the 23rd of January.

25. The exertions made by Sir Richard Temple deserve our warmest thanks. In a very short space of time a transport service on an enormous scale has been organized. On the 26th February Sir Richard Temple reported that arrangements had been made to employ 70,000 carts and over 150,000 bullocks north of the Ganges, and that about 50,000 carts were already at work. Although the number which it has been found possible to obtain has in some parts fallen short of what was expected, at the same time these figures will be sufficient to show your Lordship the scale on which operations have been undertaken. The supplies for Tirhoot and Chumparun, in which districts the worst distress is anticipated, are mainly drawn from the Patna and Barrh stations. From Bunker Ghât, which is a depôt on the north bank of the Ganges near Patna, three million maunds of grain are to be despatched before the commencement of the rains. We are glad to state that the contract for supplying the requisite amount of transport is working very well, and much credit is due both to the contractors and to the Government officers who are superintending the arrangements. About 20,000 maunds a day are being despatched from Bunker Ghât to Chumparun and Western Tirhoot.

26. We regret to say that the contract for sending 1,800,000 maunds of grain from Chumpta Ghât, which is the depôt on the river opposite Barrh station, into Western Tirhoot is not working so satisfactorily, but every effort is being made by Sir George Campbell, who is on the spot, to provide adequate means of transport. In the meanwhile the Railway from Chumpta Ghât to Durbhunga is progressing rapidly towards completion.

III.—Actual Condition of the People.

Enclosure No. 3. See page 170.

27. The narrative of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the district reports give full information as to the actual condition of the people and the progress of the measures which have been adopted to alleviate distress. For convenience of reference we append to this despatch a summary of the last district reports. From a careful perusal of these reports we gather that the condition of affairs is this: In South Behar, about which some anxiety was originally felt, it is now clear that distress will not be nearly so great as was at first anticipated. Actual distress, more or less severe, exists in parts of North Behar. For instance, in the Ramnugger tract of Chumparun it is reported that—

> " during the last few days there is a marked change for the worse in the condition of the people throughout a large part of the sub-division."

Generally speaking, it may be said that distress where it has arisen has been relieved. There is, however, one exception to this generally satisfactory condition of things. Shortly after the publication of the last narrative, accounts from Durbhunga became alarming, and Sir George Campbell thought it best to proceed at once to the spot himself. From the report contained in his special narrative which we forward to your Lordship to-day, it appears that, on His Honour's arrival, he found that famine of considerable severity had set in through the tracts about Bahera, Hatee, and Singhya in the Durbhunga sub-division. The people were flocking to the relief works in enormous numbers. The organization for the relief of distress was not in a sufficiently forward condition. Many of the poorest labouring classes had become pinched, and a few of the most wretched had reached the point of starvation. Only three or four actual deaths are recorded, but it is feared that directly or indirectly more may have occurred, of which we have no full information. Since His Honour's arrival he has been most active; the local organization has been much improved; village-to-village relief in detail is being arranged; every endeavour is being made to draft off to their homes the large numbers who have congregated on the relief works, and, as far as we can judge, we think that His Honour is justified in reporting that " widely-spreading want has been stayed."

28. While we must repeat the expression of our disappointment * that the preparations in this limited tract were not earlier completed, we fully appreciate the great difficulties with which the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the local officers have had to contend. We feel certain that all are now exerting themselves to the utmost, and it would be unreasonable to expect complete success everywhere in an undertaking of such great difficulty and magnitude.

*Despatch No. 11 of February 13th, 1874. (See Part I., page 209.)

29. It will be our duty, as soon as the measures immediately necessary for transport and relief have been completed, to obtain full and accurate information as to the means of communication which will remain open during the rainy season to those parts of the country where there may be a deficiency in the supply of food, in order that we may be prepared, if necessary, to increase the supplies. We shall also shortly endeavour to communicate to your Lordship the best comparative statement that we can compile to show the general prospects of the country in respect to food-supplies in this year and in the year 1866.

We have the honour to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servants,
(Signed) NORTHBROOK.
" NAPIER OF MAGDALA.
" B. H. ELLIS.
" H. W. NORMAN.
" A. HOBHOUSE.
" E. C. BAYLEY.

Enclosure No. 2.

Memorandum showing the estimated number of persons likely to require relief and the provision which has been made for them.

I.—DISTRICTS IN WHICH THE MOST SEVERE DISTRESS IS ANTICIPATED.

1.—*Tirhoot.*

The number of persons who will require relief from Government is estimated to be—

1,000,000 for 120 days.
500,000 „ 60 „
250,000 „ 90 „

These will require 3,234,375 maunds. Provision has been made for 4,200,000 maunds.

2.—*Sarun.*

It is estimated that 200,000 persons may come upon the hands of Government for from 3½ to 7 months. 500,000 maunds have been allotted to the district, which is a full supply for 4½ months. In addition to the above, the Manager of the Hutwa estates has arranged for 180,000 maunds, being a full supply for the population on those estates (80,000 persons) for four months.

3.—*Chumparun.*

The estimate for the number of persons who will be upon the hands of Government is as follows:—

316,000 for 90 days.
237,000 „ 60 „
158,000 „ 30 „
79,000 „ 60 „

For these 977,625 maunds will be required. Provision has been made for 1,000,000 maunds. The Manager of the Bettiah estates has, in addition, arranged to import 150,000 maunds.

4.—*Bhaugulpore.*

The estimate for Bhaugulpore is as follows:—

274,650 for 105 days.
137,325 „ 60 „
68,612 „ 30 „

These would require 733,829 maunds. The estimate of Mr. Barlow, the Commissioner, is considerably less than this. Sir R. Temple thinks that it will be sufficient to make provision for 730,000 maunds.

5.—*Purneah.*

The number of persons who it is estimated will require relief in Purneah is shown in the following table:—

Thannahs.	Total Population.	Estimated percentage of population who will require relief.	Estimated numbers who will have to be relieved.
Kusbah Amour - -	114,177	30 per cent. -	34,242
Bulrampoor - - -	115,961	Ditto -	34,788
Kudbah - - -	134,158	Ditto -	40,245
Bahadurgunge - - -	173,511	15 per cent. -	26,026
Kissengunge - - -	144,164	Ditto -	21,624
Purneah - - - -	148,619	Ditto -	22,292
⅓rd of Arrareah - -	60,947	Ditto -	9,142
Total - -	891,507		188,359
Remainder of District -	- - -	- - -	50,000
			238,359

It is estimated that the above numbers will require food for 4½ months. This would amount to 603,361 maunds. Provision has been made for 650,000 maunds.

6.—*Dinagepore.*

The following table shows the estimate of the number of persons who will require to be relieved in Dinagepore:—

Thaunahs.	Population.	Estimated number of persons who will require relief.
Ghoraghat - - -	16,925	251,700 or 60 per cent. of the total population.
Ranee Sunkal - -	78,696	
Pateeram - - -	66,866	
Gungarampore - - -	75,196	
Kalliagunge - - -	94,728	
Hemtabad - - -	87,089	
Rajarampore - - -	197,106	174,830 or 30 per cent. of the total population.
Bungsihari - - -	78,288	
Putneetola - - -	122,700	
Porsha - - -	48,803	
Nawabgunge - - -	46,573	
Peergunge - - -	89,296	
Total - -	1,002,200	426,530

It is estimated that—

				Maunds.
All of these will require to be fed for		3 months	- - -	=719,730
One-half or 213,265	ditto	2 „	- - - - -	=239,910
One-quarter or 106,632	ditto	2 „	- - -	=119,955
		Total	- - -	1,079,595

Provision has been made for 1,200,000, leaving a margin of 120,405 maunds.

7.—*Rungpore.*

The following table shows the estimate for Rungpore:—

Names of Thaunahs.	Population.	Proportion expected to need assistance from Government.	Number of persons to be provided for.
Mygunge - - - - -	123,000	20 per cent. - -	24,600
Molunga - - - -	255,000	15 „ - - -	38,250
Peergunge - - - - -			
Chilmaree - - - -			
Sadoollapore - - - - -	120,000	10 „ - -	12,000
Gobindgunge - - -	163,000	50 „ of 18,000 - 5 „ of remainder	9,000 8,150
Burobaree - - - - -	508,000	5 „ - - -	25,400
Nisbutgunge - - -			
Koergunge - - - -			
Durwanee - - - -			
Oleepore - - - - -	425,000	No per-centage calculated, as only a small number are likely to be affected.	10,000
Nagessuree - - - -			
Total - - -	1,594,000	—	127,400

It is estimated that the whole of the above number will be required to be supplied for two months; one-half or 63,700 for two months, and one-fourth or 31,850 for two months; 268,664 maunds of grain will therefore be required. Provision has been made for 300,000 maunds.

SUMMARY OF THE FOREGOING.

District.	Total population of District.	Estimated number of persons who will require relief at the worst period.	Time in months.	Food required.	Food for which provision has been made.
				Maunds.	Maunds.
Tirhoot - -	4,400,000	1,000,000	All for 4 ½ „ 2 ¼ „ 3	3,234,375	4,200,000
Sarun - - -	2,064,000	280,000	3½ to 7	680,000	680,000
Chumparun - -	1,441,000	316,000	All for 3 ¾ „ 2 ½ „ 1 ¼ „ 2	977,625	1,150,000
Bhaugulpore - -	1,826,000	274,650	All for 3½ ½ „ 2 ¼ „ 1.	733,829	730,000
Purneah - -	1,715,000	238,359	All for 4½	603,361	650,000
Dinagepore - -	1,502,000	426,530	All for 3 ½ „ 2 ¼ „ 2	1,079,595	1,200,000
Rungpore - -	2,150,000	127,400	All for 2 ½ „ 2 ¼ „ 2	268,664	300,000
Total -	15,098,000	2,662,939	—	7,577,449	8,910,000

II.—DISTRICTS IN WHICH DISTRESS OF A LESS SEVERE NATURE IS ANTICIPATED.

1.—*Bogra.*

The following table shows the estimate for Bogra:—

Thannah.	Population.	Estimated numbers who will require relief at the worst period.
Khettal Bogra - - -	258,123	77,500
Seebgunj Badalgachee Panchbeebee Sherepore - - - -	175,243	35,000
Total - -	433,366	112,500

Of these it is estimated that—

	Maunds.
The whole (112,500) will require food for 2 months - -	126,562
One-half or 56,250 „ 2 „ - - - -	63,281
One-fourth or 28,125 „ 3 „ - - -	47,461
	337,304
Provision has been made for - - - - - -	240,000

2.—*Remaining districts.*

For the remaining districts detailed estimates have not been received, but the following allotments have been made:—

	Maunds.
Patna - - - - - - - -	60,000
Gya - - - - - - - - -	200,000
Shahabad - - - - - - - -	70,000
Soane Canal Works - - - - - -	170,000
Monghyr - - - - - - - - -	300,000
Rajshahye - - - - - - - -	100,000
Maldah - - - - - - - - -	150,000
Northern Bengal Railway - - - - -	200,000
Sonthal Pergunnahs - - - - - - -	135,000
Total - - -	1,385,000

III.—TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRAIN FOR WHICH PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE.

The total quantity of grain required is therefore—

	Maunds.
For the very distressed districts - - - - - -	7,577,449
For the remaining districts - - - - - - -	1,622,304
Total - - -	9,199,753
Or Tons - - -	338,226

The amount of grain allotted is as follows—

	Maunds.
To the very distressed districts - - - - - -	8,910,000
To the remaining districts - - - - - - -	1,625,000
Total - - -	10,535,000
Or Tons - - -	387,316

The reserve allotted amounts, therefore, to 387,316—338,226=49,090 tons.

The total amount of Government grain ordered is 465,255 tons, including 12,355 tons which is to be imported by the Rajah of Bettiah into Chumparun and by the Manager of the Hutwa Estates into Sarun.

The unallotted reserve is, therefore, 465,255—387,316=77,939 tons, and the total reserve is—

	Tons.
Allotted to distressed districts - - - - - -	49,090
Unallotted - - - - - - - -	77,939
	127,029

It is to be observed (1) that all the above calculations are based upon a daily ration of ¾ of a seer, or 1½ lb. of grain, all round, men, women, and children, which is a high average; and (2) that no credit has been taken for any grain imported by private persons who have received advances from Government for that purpose, with the exception of the Hutwa and Bettiah Rajahs.

A. HOWELL,
Depy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

March 20th, 1874.

Enclosure No. 3.

SUMMARY OF DISTRICT NARRATIVES FOR THE FORTNIGHT ENDING MARCH 19TH, 1874.

PATNA DIVISION.

1.—PATNA DISTRICT.

(Report, dated March 8th).

A.—State of the country.

THE several bazaars at head-quarters and in the interior of the district continue to be well supplied with grain of all sorts, and the harvesting of the spring crops, which is now going on generally throughout the district, has largely supplemented the supplies brought from other places. Judging from the large importations daily being made by private traders, the Collector has no doubt whatever that the supply will be quite equal to the demand, provided that trade is allowed to take its own course, and that Government does not step in and become a purchaser from the local markets.

The reports of the spring crops are very good.

No cases of misery or starvation have been brought to light. After visiting nearly all the local works in progress, the Collector reports that he has not seen a single case of distress or a single man, woman, or child employed on them who could not give a fair day's work for a fair day's wages, provided they were willing to do so.

The number of cases of robbery, theft, and house-breaking last February was 239 as against 167 in February 1873.

B.—Relief works.

The average daily number of labourers employed on relief works throughout the district in the past fortnight was 6,529 as against 6,956 in the previous fortnight. The Collector accounts for this falling off from the fact that the labourers are now finding plenty of work in the fields, and that he has stopped work in some of the localities where it was evident that there was no demand for labour.

C.—Transport of food.

A large amount of grain has been transported into the Patna district, but as the greater portion of it is in transit to other districts it will be accounted for hereafter.

D.—Storage of Government grain.

Out of 60,000 maunds allotted to the Patna district, 58,822 maunds have been received, and 53,088 have reached their final destination.

E.—Advances to private parties.

No advances have been made during the past fortnight either for the purchase of grain or for agricultural improvements. Rs. 30,000 were advanced to three leading zemindars in the previous fortnight. The Collector accounts for the cessation of applications for advances from the fact that those who have already made purchases find it difficult to sell what they have got owing to the abundance of the spring crop which is now being reaped.

F.—Charitable relief.

No gratuitous relief has as yet been found necessary in this district.

2.—GYA DISTRICT.

(Report dated March 9th.)

A.—State of the country.

THE bazaars continue to be well supplied. There is no dearth of food, although quoted prices are exceptionally high.

The late rains have done much good to the spring crops. All the sub-divisional officers are unanimous in pronouncing the crops excellent. The road works are deserted in order to secure the harvest. The Collector reports that "the state of things is everything that can be desired. "The price of food has fallen in most places. * * * The condition of the people still "continues good, and may be expected to remain so for another month, that is until the rubbee "is harvested."

It has been found necessary to afford some minor relief to the class of professional beggars, who, from high prices, are unable to get sufficient from begging.

There have been no cases of ascertained misery or starvation.

There were 504 cases of robbery, thefts, and house-breaking, and 95 cases of grain-thefts last February as against 209 cases of robbery, &c., and 25 cases of grain-thefts in February 1873.

B.—Relief works.

The daily average of persons employed on the roads in the past fortnight was 843.

C.—Transport of food.

Private importations in the past fortnight amounted to 7,625 maunds as against 5,105 maunds in the previous fortnight. The means of transport are reported to be sufficient.

D.—Storage of Government grain.

21 store centres have been selected and 126,811 maunds stored, leaving about 73,000 maunds to complete the full allotment of 200,000 maunds for the district.

E.—Advances to private parties.

In the past fortnight about Rs. 1,200 were advanced for the purchase of grain; Rs. 2,154 were advanced for land improvements as against Rs. 3,776 in the previous fortnight.

F.—Charitable relief.

162 professional beggars have received charitable relief.

3.—SHAHABAD DISTRICT.

(Report dated March 10th.)

A.—State of the country.

THE supplies in the principal marts are reported to be sufficient. Grain is being largely imported by rail. There has been a very perceptible fall in prices.

Favourable reports have been received of the spring crops in the Arrah, Buxar, and Sasseram sub-divisions. In the Bhubhooa sub-division, except in a small portion which is irrigated, the crop is below the average. Frost has done some harm to peas and pulse.

The condition of the labouring and agricultural classes is improved. Pressure is being felt by those who subsist entirely on charity, and who from bodily infirmity are incapable of labour. Arrangements have been made to relieve all such cases. No known cases of starvation have been reported.

There has been no remarkable increase in the number of grain-thefts and robberies.

B.—Relief works.

The average daily number of persons employed on relief works was 1,279, of whom 483 were women and children.

C.—Transport of food.

Grain has been imported in considerable quantities by local traders. No inconvenience is at present experienced in finding transport, which is said to be sufficient for all present requirements, both of the Government and private importers. The Collector expresses some anxiety lest the transport available in the district should be drawn off to the tracts north of the Ganges.

D.—Storage of Government grain.

There are 9 central depôts for the storage of grain. In these depôts 22,010 maunds have been stored.

E.—Advances to private parties.

No advances were made for the purchase of grain during the past fortnight. Applications aggregating Rs. 4,600 were received and are under consideration. A few applications for advances for land improvements were also made.

F.—Charitable relief.

No actual relief operations have commenced beyond giving assistance to a few people here and there who were reported as requiring aid. A District Committee has been formed and a Sub-divisional Committee for each of the sub-divisions of Arrah, Sasseram, Buxar, and Bhubhooa. Nine Sub-Committees have been appointed in the Arrah sub-division and 10 in the Sasseram sub-division. Arrangements are being made to form Sub-Committees in the other two sub-divisions.

4.—TIRHOOT DISTRICT, NORTHERN DIVISION.

(Report, dated March 7th.)

A.—State of the country.

IN the Seetamurhee sub-division the supply of food-grains has been nowhere scarce except in one thannah. Prices have a tendency to rise. The sale of Government grain has commenced.

In the Modhubunee sub-division prices have slightly fallen at some of the marts. In the Durbhunga sub-division the supply of food-grains still continues to be sufficient, but in Bahera and Singhya rice is not procurable, and other food-grains are steadily increasing in price. *Kurthee*, a grain rarely eaten by the people in ordinary years, is now one of the commonest articles exposed for sale in Bahera. The sub-divisional officer reports that in the Bahera bazar he saw a bunniah who had just exchanged a seer of kurthee for 1½ seers of mustard seed, or, in other words, for nearly three times its value. This, though an isolated case, is believed to be a fair illustration of the recklessness to which cultivators are driven for the want of food.

On the subject of stocks, the sub-divisional officer of Modhubunee is of opinion that no great stock of grain is in the hands of the traders. In Durbhunga the sub-divisional officer thinks that there is still grain in the country, but the Collector, Mr. Worsley, reports that the people are flocking to the relief works, and that they all say that there is no grain in the villages. At the same time a large number of labourers employed on the Durbhunga an Bahera road have hitherto been supplied with facility from the stores in Durbhunga, and the Collector accounts for this by supposing that the bunniahs, being aware of the immense quantity of grain that Government is importing, are anxious to sell all they can at the highest possible rate, that is to say, at a slightly lower rate than that of Government grain.

In the Seetamurhee sub-division the reports of the spring crops are fairly good. Reports from Modhubunee and Durbhunga as to the yield of the spring crops are bad.

The Seetamurhee sub-divisional officer mentions several cases of severe distress which have come under his notice, and which have been relieved. In the southern portion of Jalleh thannah the labourers on the relief works are described as being "all thin and half-starved." In the south-eastern part of the sub-division the people are said to be "in the worst state possible." Sufficient employment has been provided for the lower classes, but until relief circles are formed, adequate arrangement cannot be made for the relief of high-caste families. Successful efforts have been made to introduce cotton spinning and other light domestic work against this class of persons.

The Modhubunee officer reports that the people are much straitened, and have turned out in very large numbers on the relief works, but no cases of actual starvation had come under his notice.

The Durbhunga officer reports that "many of the lowest castes are suffering from actual "famine. Want shows itself most in the young and aged, and during my late tour I have seen "old men and young children in a very precarious condition indeed. Of course all such cases "were at once put under gratuitous charitable relief." Three cases of starvation have occurred viz., two on the Bahera relief works, the deceased being children in arms, and the third of a man of about 60 years of age on the Durbhunga road relief work.

The number of cases of dacoity, &c. in last February was 212 as against 68 in the corresponding month of last year.

B.—Relief works.

The total number of labourers employed daily on relief works in the three sub-divisions is as follows:—

Seetamurhee - - - - - -	22,456
Modhubunee - - - - -	31,000
Durbhunga - - - - - -	48,284
Total - -	101,740

The arrangements for paying the large number of labourers on the Durbhunga-Bahera road were at first very defective. The Collector reports as follows:—"The effect of regular and full "payments on this work has been to attract from the eastern end of the road (12 miles distance) "and from other works in the south-east, large numbers of labourers who must have shortly "been reduced to a state of starvation through the large retrenchments made from their wages. "I have spoken to several of these new comers, and find that they had been regularly defrauded "of one-third of their subsistence wages. This fact fully explains what Mr. Macdonnell noticed "a week ago at Bahera, viz., that all the labourers (some 2,000) at the end of the road were so "weak and emaciated as to be almost incapable of doing work at all. On visiting the road this "morning I was much pleased to observe the healthy tone and spirit of the labourers. Though "there is a very great deficiency of tools, all the labourers, old and young, were working with "some sort of implement, and apparently with a will. Up to a week ago the work has been "neither more nor less than charitable relief on a huge scale and in the worst form. Large "sums of Government money were being embezzled by the distributing agency; wages of some "sort were paid to all who asked for them, and most demoralizing habits were being rapidly "engendered amongst thousands of persons with whom we should have to deal for many months. "For some days now I have not received a single complaint from any labourer on this work. I "have also noticed a marked improvement in their general appearance." Regular payment of the labourers on this road has now been secured. An English engineer and a large staff took over charge of the road on the 5th of March.

C.—Transport of food.

The details in connection with the transport of food to this sub-division will be found in Sir Richard Temple's Minute, No. 35, of the 26th February* appended to the twelfth Special Narrative. The large contract for supplying the Durbhunga and Modhubunee sub-divisions with 18 lakhs of maunds from Barrh has not been working well. The Company which undertook the work were not able to convey one lakh in 17 days, or to secure more than 17,000 carts.

The Railway from Chumpta Ghât opposite Barrh to Durbhunga is progressing rapidly.

Large quantities of fodder have been stacked along the lines of transport.

D.—Storage of grain.

The quantity of Government grain stored is as follows:—

	Maunds.
Seetamurhee - - - - - - - -	152,393
Modhubunee - - - - - - - - - -	80,705
Durbhunga - - - - - - - - -	50,940
Total - - -	284,038

Nineteen relief circles have been established in Seetamurhee, 11 in Modhubunee, and 12 in Durbhunga. Each circle contains several places where grain is stored.

E.—Advances to private parties.

In Seetamurhee during the past fortnight Rs. 3,166 have been advanced for land improvements and for the construction of wells; Rs. 500 to grain-dealers for the purchase of grain, and Rs. 11,575 to zemindars to help their ryots.

In Modhubunee Rs. 920 have been advanced for land improvements.

In Durbhunga applications have been received for advances for importing grain to the amount of Rs. 8,000, which are under consideration.

F.—Charitable relief.

In the Seetamurhee sub-division the number of persons receiving charitable relief at the date of the last report was about 2,000. The state of these persons is reported to be so bad that "they would die if not regularly fed."

The sub-divisional officer at Modhubunee reports that "charitable relief at present is "restricted to issuing cooked rice at head-quarters and most of the thannahs and other "centres."

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* See Part II., page 164.

The sub-divisional officer of Durbhunga writes—"The system of relief which we are now carrying out, and which has been in its main features originated by Sir Richard Temple, differs radically from all systems which previous famines brought into operation. The key-note of our system is the prevention of the assemblage at any centre of large masses of indigent persons, and the establishment in every village of relief operations, bringing to the doors of those able to work remunerative labour, and to the doors of those unable to work gratuitous relief.

"To this end Sir Richard divided the sub-division into two relief sub-divisions (allowing, however, the controlling influence of the sub-divisional officer to remain), and re-divided these again into 12 circles, and promised for each circle a competent administrative officer, of whom, however, I with regret remark in passing, only three have arrived.

"The system you have for this sub-division approved of is the following:—

'Premising that it was necessary to connect the Circle Superintendents or sub-committee officers with the people, it was evident that the circle should be sub-divided to such a manageable extent as to permit of the relief officer being, if not in all cases personally acquainted with the general condition of each group, at all events vicariously acquainted with the intimate state of every village. Therefore the circle was sub-divided into as many village groups as would allow of one subordinate officer visiting daily, or at most once every two days, each village in the group. The maximum number of *whole* villages, which with this object in view could be safely included in a group, was fixed at ten. As inspector and executive officer under the Superintendent for each group, an educated respectable resident is chosen, it being a most desirable thing that in the relief operations local knowledge should be, if possible, utilised. To aid the Inspectors so appointed in procuring information, bringing relief where wanted, and supervising village relief works, two peons are attached to the Inspector, and the chowkidars in each village in the group are also to report to the Inspector the state of their villages daily. The Inspector is to submit daily to the Superintendent a statement under prescribed headings, showing the condition of the group under him. He is to see that sufficient work is provided for the storing, and that fit subjects for charitable relief are not denied it. He is to give orders on the storekeeper for raw materials, and is to see that the manufactured product is duly paid for by the storekeeper, and is to be responsible for the due expenditure of the money allotted for village relief work. This completes the intelligence and executive department in which I have striven to utilise as much as possible local knowledge and neighbourly feeling.'

"It would be manifestly useless to know where distress lay, if we had not at hand the means to alleviate it. We had, therefore, to bring home to each group of villages remunerative labour for the strong, and gratuitous charitable relief for the weak.

"This we did by opening, in a conveniently situated village of the group, a relief work, such as excavation of a tank, calculated to employ the people and benefit them in addition. We also established in each group of villages a local grain store, drawing its supplies from the circle depôt, at which the village labourers might procure food with the wages of their labour. Attached to this store is a depôt where cotton may be obtained by respectable females in indigent circumstances desirous of supporting themselves; and in charge of this local grain store is a mohurir, whose duty it is to keep a few simple forms and make necessary returns to the Superintendent, see that grain is sold to labourers and distributed to those on gratuitous relief. As a matter of detail, I may mention that this local grain store, when established in a group in which there is a depôt, is entrusted to a bunniah, the depôt-keeper in this case making returns. In all other cases the mohurir has a bunniah under him to sell. A peon is attached to the store.

"This is the outline of the system. Now I give you an example of its working. Being anxious to give Messrs. Marindin and Harris a clearer conception of their duty than any verbal explanation could give, I went with them to Bahera and formed a group round Bahera. On entering each village in the group we had all the poor collected. Those unable to work we at once put on gratuitous relief, subsequently forming a register of such, showing the number on the register of each, his name, residence, and quantity of gratuitous relief he was entitled to. and giving him a ticket with these particulars inscribed on it, and directing him to present it at the local store weekly, where the storekeeper, having a duplicate of the register, would dispense the requisite relief. Having done this, we proceeded to determine what village relief works might, with due regard to the wants of the people and the propinquity of imperial works, be commenced, and the village agency to work them. Having settled this point we proceeded to find out the number of females who were desirous of spinning cotton and issued orders accordingly. Having seen all the village headmen and respectable residents, we finally appointed an Inspector, fixed on a local rice store, and, in the case of this circle, appointed a bunniah to the charge of it.

"In reducing our theory in this case to action, we experienced no material obstacles, but it would be unwise to conclude from this that we shall meet with none; we shall often find a group in which no resident is fit for Inspector; then we shall not hesitate to employ outsiders.

"It may be objected to the scheme that we cannot under it permit persons not on the works, but having money, to buy grain, and that the Inspector cannot also be paymaster. I do not think the former objection of any weight, for those who wish to buy our grain at the fixed rates in small quantities *bonâ fide* for food should certainly be allowed to do so, for the presumption then is they cannot get food elsewhere.

"On the latter point we are at present utilising the Jeyt ryots; but if this does not suit, we are at liberty to employ paid agency.

"I will now, having given you the system in its entirety, state more specially what has been done during the fortnight in the way of charitable relief. I have already mentioned that, in constituting the group of villages around Bahera, we put on charitable relief all we saw in need.

We also visited the relief work going on near Bahera, believing that on it might be some inhabitants of those villages and others in similar condition. We drafted all such persons, and put them on charitable relief. We have commenced the same system in Durbhunga with reference to the poor on the enormous relief work here, and have opened a relief house for such until our measures are complete for sending them on to their homes. But it is evident that these are merely unsystematic attempts, as far as Durbhunga is concerned, to relieve a continuous and enormously increasing pressure. Without our Circle Superintendents being at their posts, and village works open to divert the tide, those efforts can be only very partially successful. Caste prejudice, too, seems, as you told me, cropping up in a way which militates against the success of those efforts.

"In times like these I do not wish to record anything needlessly alarmist, but I feel bound to say, what from my previous reports may be deduced, that the Superintendents' arrival has been too long protracted up to date. I have only three men at work—Mr. Henry in Durbhunga, Mr. Marindin in Desouta, Mr. Harris at Hattee. Mr. Aickman has just left for his post. Since writing the above, Mr. Paul has joined and been sent to Mahomedpore. It is my belief that every day henceforth which sees the Singhya and remaining Bahera circles, and the Mahomedpore and, perhaps, Hyaghat circles without their Superintendents, must bring forth fatal consequences.

"In concluding this portion of my report I have only to add that the instructions given by Sir Richard Temple with reference to Durbhunga town are being systematically carried out by Mr. Henry, who is, I may be permitted to say, working very zealously and creditably.

"Appended to this report is a copy of instructions I drew out for Mr. Henry's guidance. They are the same as those which guide the conduct of other Superintendents, with the exception of some necessary modifications. Mr. Henry has had already made out the general register of poor, and is now engaged in testing it. I hope before next report the system will be in full operation. In Durbhunga, unlike the eastern parts of the division, we are still a-head of famine."

Sir George Campbell has visited Northern Tirhoot in person. His report is as follows:—

Condition of the people.

"The only tracts in which the condition of the people is clearly getting worse, and in which there is at present actual famine, are the three north-east sub-divisions of Tirhoot (with a population of two millions), and a comparatively small tract of North Chumparun, with a population of about 300,000.

Tirhoot, the Lieutenant-Governor's visit.

"The last Narrative will have shown that there was cause for uneasiness about the state of parts of North Tirhoot. Immediately after the despatch of that Narrative the accounts from Durbhunga became still more alarming; there seemed reason to believe that there had been a considerable outbreak of famine there. Under these circumstonces the Lieutenant-Governor thought it right himself to proceed to the spot in order to satisfy himself of the state of things, and to do all that he could to assist in dealing with the calamity. He was the more anxious to do this as so much has now been trusted to local officers on the spot, and Mr. Metcalfe, the new Relief Commissioner, specially charged with the relief of North Tirhoot, was proceeding to take up his duties, while Mr. Bayley, the Commissioner of the Division, was at hand. The Lieutenant-Governor was thus able to meet these officers on the spot where the greatest want had arisen to concert with them the necessary measures, and to see Mr. Metcalfe fairly started in his task.

Condition of affairs in Durbhunga.

"On the Lieutenant-Governor's arrival he found there could be no doubt that famine of considerable severity had set in through the tracts about Bahera, Hathee, and Singhya in the Durbhunga sub-division, east and south-east of Durbhunga. The people were flocking to the relief works in enormous numbers. Voluntary agency was unfortunately not forthcoming so freely in Durbhunga as in most other parts, and it had not been found possible to organise local labour arrangements so rapidly. The lower classes of this part of Behar are a most miserable and timid people, most difficult to move. At first none will come to anything new. When they begin to come they come with a rush like a great flock of sheep. It was necessary to offer work for long, and search them out before they could be got to it. A very full and complete Government organization was being gradually elaborated, but unhappily we are always liable to surprise among such a people, and in a limited tract it proved that some of the poorer classes had begun to starve before that organization was in full operation. There was no dearth of supplies in the country; they were forthcoming at a dear rate, and the population at large was was not seriously affected, but many of the poorest of the labouring classes had become much pinched, and a few of the most wretched had reached the point of starvation. The character of the distress and of the population were both such that the free use of relief works is, more than anything, effective. These were very rapidly extended and very indulgently managed, all comers being admitted, even though their work was little more than nominal. It is believed that by this means widely-spreading want has been stayed. Meantime, special care is given to those who have starved or nearly starved; they are well supplied with food and necessaries. The arrangements for village-to-village relief in detail, already in progress, are pressed on as fast as possible. At this season the population who are on the works do not suffer from exposure, and all who are not much reduced seem almost happy and contented there, so much so that it may be difficult to get them home again.

Popularity of the relief works.

"The Lieutenant-Governor went through 49,000 people employed on the largest works extending over several miles; many of them were very miserable; but the only loud complaint and strong appeal to him which he encountered was from a large group of families collected together, who seemed the most reduced and miserable of all. When he came to inquire into their grievances it turned out that they had been selected by Mr. Metcalfe as quite unfit for work, and were to be taken in and specially cared for. With loud wailings they protested against such treatment, and only prayed to be allowed to remain on the works. It is impossible to save the lives of many reduced children, because the parents will not come to our relief-houses until sheer force is used, and that might create a panic. Except, however, these very reduced cases the works suffice for the present.

"Though wages are low and food dear, the indulgence which allows whole families to come on the works and receive payment makes them very popular and enables the people to subsist. Women and children are much more numerous than men. It is, however, impossible to continue long to allow the numbers collected together to increase, and all efforts are now given to deal with the needy in detail. Some progress had already (17th March) been made in sifting the immense masses of people on the largest works; the able-bodied, who prefer good wages, are being kept on considerable works where a stricter system can be enforced; the less able villagers, and those who are better at their homes, are being sent to petty village works, and those unfit for any work are being put on charitable relief. Commencement is also made of dealing with cultivators by advances.

Charitable relief organization.

"The Lieutenant-Governor, the Commissioners and their officers, have occupied themselves in carrying out the details of these arrangements under the general rules already laid down. A large European agency had been arranged for, but the Lieutenant-Governor found the native agency to be deficient. He has directed every effort to call out and use the village agency which the country affords, to stimulate the landholders and their agents to get such paid native agency as the country affords. But superior native agency is not available. The population being Hindustanee, and more allied to the people of the North-Western Provinces than to those of Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor appealed to the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces for aid. That appeal was promptly responded to, and a number of selected native officers have been sent down by Sir W. Muir; they will be of the greatest use. Some good Bengalee officers and some Bengalees selected by the Commissioners of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions have also been sent to assist in the work. The native officers will be especially useful in many circles; and in some circles where civil servants of limited experience of the country are in charge native coadjutors will be invaluable, especially in dealing with that most difficult but most important part of our operations—the advance of money and grain to respectable cultivators, whom assistance may enable to tide over the period of distress.

General result of operations in Tirhoot.

"The Lieutenant-Governor has visited both several parts of the very populous Durbhunga sub-division and parts of the two other specially distressed sub-divisions of Tirhoot, Seetamurhee, and Modhubunee. In one part of Modhubunee there seems to be some cause of apprehension, but the sub-divisional officer is going to the spot, and it is hoped that danger will be obviated. The Lieutenant-Governor has been happy to find a concurrence of official and non-official testimony (confirmed so far as he has seen by his own observation) that in these two sub-divisions, as well as in the greater part of the Durbhunga sub-division, the want which was certainly coming very rapidly on the people has been met and stayed. The means were found of managing relief works and giving aid in a rough way wherever it was most necessary, pending the completion of a more perfect organisation. Everywhere there is a great resort to the relief works. Everywhere other forms of relief are rapidly progressing, and the result has been to save the people from starvation. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts he may believe that it is only in the comparatively limited tracts above alluded to that actual starvation has been reached, and that in those tracts it is now stayed. Only three or four deaths are recorded as actually due to starvation: it may be feared that directly or indirectly a few more may have suffered, of whom we have no full information; but it is believed that everything possible has been done to arrest the evil, and that with the help of God we shall succeed."

TIRHOOT DISTRICT (SOUTHERN DIVISION.)

(Report, dated March 10th.)

A.—State of the country.

In the Hajeepore sub-division it is reported that no scarcity exists in any of the local marts.

In the Mozufferpore sub-division the price of rice is from 9½ to 10 seers the rupee. Grain is said to be still procurable in small quantities at a time in all the local marts. In the Tajpore sub-division common rice has slightly risen in price during the fortnight, but there is no scarcity yet in the bazar.

The spring crops are estimated to give a fair yield. The report from Tajpore says, "Now " that we have got the rubbee harvest, with a coarser grain still procurable in the market at " rates which do not put them beyond reach of the poor, the condition of the people is more " encouraging; still June, July, and August must be terrible months to many."

In the Mozufferpore sub-division it is said that "distress is daily becoming more marked." Arrangements for village relief and inspection are in progress, and the sub-division has been divided into eight circles. The Deputy Collector believes that "no deaths have occurred " attributable *solely* to starvation."

In the Tajpore sub-division many are reported to be dependent and miserable. In the Hajeepore sub-division "there appears to be no prospect of destitution or starvation."

The number of cases of dacoity, &c., in the month of February 1874 was 166 as compared to 85 in the corresponding month of last year.

B.—Relief works.

The average daily number of persons employed on relief works, as far as known, was, according to the last returns, 9,314, but, owing to many relief works being under planters and others, who have not sent in returns, this figure is probably considerably below the truth.

C.—Transport of food.

The large contract for supplying food to Northern and Western Tirhoot from Bunker Ghât, opposite Hajeepore, is working very well. In the week ending the 4th March, 138,523 maunds of Government grain were sent away for Chumparun and Tirhoot. On an average 20,000 maunds are sent daily. The Deputy Collector reports, "the transport of grain from the three " depôts of Conti, Russulpore, and Ather in the Sudder (Mozufferpore) sub-division to depôts in " Seetamurhee is going on very satisfactorily. Sufficient carts are available; no delay occurs " in loading or unloading; the bullocks appear strong and in good condition; the roads are kept " in as fair order as is possible for the immense traffic upon them." Private importations are still continuing into Hajeepore from Patna in small quantities; but now that almost all the local means of transport have been absorbed by Government, it is not to be expected that any large quantity of private importations can be made.

D.—Storage of Government grain.

The quantity of Government grain stored is as follows:—

	Maunds.
Hajeepore - - - -	5,179
Tajpore - - - -	18,467
Sudder - - - -	38,601
Total - -	62,247

E.—Advances to private parties.

In the Sudder sub-division 8,000 rupees have been advanced for the purchase of grain, besides some small advances in the other sub-divisions.

F.—Charitable relief.

In the Sudder sub-division one district committee and three sub-committees have been appointed. No special relief sub-divisions have been opened. The sub-division has been divided into eight circles for the purpose of visitation and relief. Native Deputy Inspectors have already been appointed to six of these.

In Tajpore and Hajeepore no charitable relief has been commenced.

SARUN DISTRICT.

(Report dated March 11th.)

A.—State of the country.

The bazars of the district are sufficiently supplied with grain, but importations have fallen off during the past fortnight. In the Sewan sub-division it is reported "that the bazars continue to " be abundantly supplied with grain both by importations from other districts and by local " supplies from the villages round the different markets. The supplies far exceed the demands " at present, and a great deal of the grain brought to the markets is often carried away unsold." Government stores for the sale of grain have been opened on the Hutwa estate, and Mr. Hodgkinson writes that "the demand for grain sold by the managers of the estate in the western zillahs " may be said to have entirely ceased, although it was pretty active for the few days immediately " preceding the commencement of the spring harvest."

The state of the crops continues good, and two thirds of an average crop on the area sown may be considered as sure.

No cases of starvation have yet occurred, but isolated cases of distress are reported and are provided for. The northern half of the district, comprising the thannahs of Burragaon, Burrowlee, Bassantpore, Mashrakh, and Pursa, is the tract which occasions anxiety.

The total number of cases of dacoity, robbery, &c. in February last was 279 as compared to 219 in the corresponding month of last year.

B.—Relief works.

The average daily number employed on relief works during the fortnight was 91,542, and the number on the last day was 76,794. The falling off in the numbers is attributable to the harvest operations and to the occurrence of the Mohurrum and Hoolee festivals. About a fourth of the number employed belonged to the non-labouring classes. The Collector reports that "it has " throughout been found impossible to pay the labourers daily, as was erroneously inferred by " Government. The endeavour is being made to ensure payments being made as speedily as " possible."

C.—Transport of food.

Sir Richard Temple visited the Sarun district early in last month, and reported that the district authorities appeared confident regarding the resources of the district as to the supply of bullocks and the transport of grain. Their view was confirmed by what Sir Richard learnt from indigo planters and others.

D.—Storage of Government grain.

Thirty-three store-houses have been selected, in which 223,985 maunds have been stored; 34,720 maunds were in transit.

E.—Advances to private parties.

Rs. 129,700 have been advanced for the purchese of grain for sale; Rs. 286,890 to zemindars for grain and money advances to their ryots; and Rs. 57,205 for land improvements.

F.—Charitable relief.

The district has been divided into 62 relief circles; relief centres have been opened at two places, but the Collector reports that "the very small number who have availed themselves of " these sufficiently shows that there is no immediate necessity for any large scheme of charitable " relief. I have not had any return from Bhoney, but in Hutwa only 14 persons have been " admitted, aud they receive a daily ration of cooked food; of these 14, only 3 have been " admitted solely on account of weakness from privation."

CHUMPARUN DISTRICT.

(Report dated March 9th.)

A.—State of the country.

In the Gobindgunj and Kessuria thannahs it is reported that the condition of the people is not improving. "Otherwise well-to-do ryots are hard pressed and apply on all sides for loans. " They refuse to accept charity, and they will not work; they generally pledge as security " cattle and trees, half of which latter the landowner claims." Officers hove been directed to treat these cases under the latter part of clause *f*, paragraph 3, of the Instructions to Relief Committees. The smaller cultivators have the relief works to go to and flock in large numbers to them.

In the tract bordering on the Nepal frontier between Adapore and Kutkenwa (a tract in which scarcity has all along been expected) distress is reported, and it has been ascertained that grain is not to be had in the neighbourhood. Steps have been accordingly taken to sell grain to the petty dealers. The grain will be sold at Rampore, three or four miles south of Kutkenwa, at 11 seers the rupee, on condition (which will be publicly proclaimed) that the dealer retails the same to the public at 10 seers.

No cases of starvation have been reported.

B.—Relief works.

Numerous relief works have been started in the district. The average daily number of persons employed is 53,825.

C.—Transport of food.

The arrangements under this head continue to work satisfactorily. The amount stipulated (50,000 maunds a week) has been duly conveyed.

D.—Storage of grain.

Of a million maunds, which is the total allotment for this district, 429,116 maunds had been received on the 7th March and 294,000 actually stored.

E.—Advances to private parties.

The total amount expended in advances is as follows:—

	Rs.
For storage of grain - - -	1,32,000
Assistance to ryots - - -	60,000
Land improvements - - -	15,112

F.—Charitable relief.

The district has been divided into five circles, in most of which there will be sub-committees. The average number of villages in each circle is 459, and the average population 286,500. In most of the circles Inspectors have been at work for some time. Native doctors with medicines have been sent to five places, and hospitals commenced. In one circle the number of persons gratuitously relieved dnring the fortnight was 300. Details as to the relief given in the other circles have not yet been received.

The sale of Government grain at Ramnuggur has commenced.

2.—RAJSHAHYE DIVISION.

1.—Moorshedabad District.

(Report dated March 7th.)

A.—State of the country.

In most parts of the district the supplies in the bazars are sufficient.

The reports of the crops are good; a larger area than usual has been sown with boro dhân (early rice), and $\frac{14}{16}$ths of an average crop is expected.

The Collector reports that many poor persons almost everywhere will require gratuitous relief, and that such relief is being organized.

The sub-divisional officer of Jungypore reports that in thannah Mirzapore be observed some poor women grubbing for the roots of a species of lotus in the dry bed of a tank. This they do every year, and he does not look on it as a special sign of distress. Distress, hewever, prevails throughout Mirzapore, and, if it had not been for relief works, matters would have assumed a serious aspect in that thannah.

No actual cases of starvation or extreme misery have been reported.

Cases of distress have been relieved out of the funds set apart for charitable purposes.

There have been 91 cases cases of theft, &c. in February and March of this year as compared to 50 in the corresponding period of last year.

B.—Relief works.

About 2,200 people are on an average employed daily on relief works.

C.—Transport of food.

The means of transport in the district are reported to be sufficient.

D.—Storage of Government grain.

No allotment has yet been made to this district, but the Collector has recommended that 500 maunds should be sent to Jungypore.

E.—Advances to private parties.

Several small advances have been made for digging tanks.

F.—Charitable relief.

Seventeen Committees and Sub-Committees have been appointed. Twelve relief circles have been opened, managed by planters, zemindars, and other residents; 16 workhouses or centres for the distribution of food and gratuitous relief have been organised. The last report does not contain detailed information as to the number of persons who have received gratuitous relief.

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2. Dinagepore District.

(Report dated March 9th.)

A.—State of the country.

The principal traders say that prices will not rise much higher thah they are at present, and that there will be scarcity, but not famine. On the other hand, the landed proprietors and respectable villagers think that in a month there will be great scarcity, and by the end of April considerable distress. The Collector thinks that the villagers are in the main right, and that we are on the eve of a great scarcity, and that but for Government aid great distress may be anticipated. Sir Richard Temple reported on 11th March that no marked distress yet existed, nor had any marked symptom come under his observation, but that "distress might break out at " any moment. The outbreak of distress and the rapid rise of prices have been retarded only " by the demonstration of the preparations of Government."

The number of criminal cases in connexion with scarcity during last February was 119 as compared to 58 in the corresponding month of last year.

B.—Relief works.

The number of labourers continues to increase on all the works, and women are coming for employment. Some 30,000 persons are being employed.

C.—Transport of food.

Sir Richard Temple, who recently visited the district, reported on the 12th March that transport arrangements had been made to bring 10 lakhs into the district by June. The remaining two lakhs necessary to complete the total allotment can be brought into the district by watter-carriage after June. About 50,000 maunds a week are coming in. The cattle are in good condition.

D.—*Storage of grain.*

200,000 maunds have been already stored, and Sir Richard Temple is of opinion that the remainder of the full allotment for the district (1,200,000 maunds) can be stored before the rains commence. It is to be borne in mind that the river navigation of the upper parts of the district will be open during the rainy season.

E.—*Advances to private parties.*

No advances were made in the past fortnight to private persons. Two zemindars applied for an advance of Rs. 5,000 each in the previous fortnight.

F.—*Charitable relief.*

27 depôts have been supplied with grain; 13 remain to be supplied. It has been arranged to divide the district into 13 relief circles. There are at present no Public Works establishments attached to these circles, but overseers will be sent as soon as possible.

3.—RAJSHAHYE DISTRICT.

(Report dated March 9th.)

A.—*State of the country.*

The cold-weather crops promise to yield a fair out-turn.

There have been no cases of actual starvation. The people are reported to be in good condition, although in some villages which the Collector visited he found some looking rather pinched.

The number of cases of theft, &c. in February 1874 was 229 as compared to 109 in the corresponding month of last year.

B.—*Relief works.*

The average daily number of persons employed on relief works during the week ending the 7th March was 10,714, of whom 461 were women and children. This is a great increase on the previous week, in which only 5,260 persons were employed.

C.—*Transport of grain.*

Full returns are given by the Collector as to the transport of grain. A large quantity has been received and despatched; but as a very great portion of it does not remain in the district, but only passes through in transit to other districts, the amount imported is accounted for elsewhere. The despatches from Godagari, which is one of the great depôts on the Ganges, have not come up to the estimates, and would have been larger had it not been that for three days there was no grain to forward. The Collector thinks that by arrangements which he has now made this is not likely to occur again.

D.—*Storage of Government grain.*

The amount of grain stored in the district is not given in the last return.

E.—*Advances to private parties.*

Rs. 29,600 have been advanced for the purchase of grain, &c.

F.—*Charitable relief.*

Some poor-houses have been started, and a few persons, mostly professional beggars, have been relieved.

3.—MALDAH DISTRICT.

(Report dated March 10th.)

A.—*State of the country.*

In the central and southern markets supplies are plentiful, and prices are generally stationary. At Rohunpore, the largest rice mart in the south-eastern district, supplies are abundant, and on the last market day half the quantity of rice and paddy brought in for sale was reported as left unsold when the market closed. Private trade is active.

In the north-west tract (thannah Kurbah) prices have risen slightly, and the quantity of rice exposed for sale is diminishing. The villagers come in considerable numbers to the relief works, and grain is being distributed to ryots on credit or for cash.

The reports on the cold-weather crops are very good. The Collector says—" They look " excellent, and in many places strike me as being 'heavier' crops than I have sometimes seen " in other years. The natives say so themselves."

The boro dhân (early rice) promises well; a larger area than usual has been cultivated, and the out-turn is estimated to be over 200,000 maunds.

No cases of distress or starvation had been reported.

There were 45 cases of theft, &c. last February as compared to 11 in the corresponding period of last year.

B.—Relief works.

The average number of persons daily employed on relief works is 2,252, of whom 576 were women and children.

Shops for the sale of Government rice have been opened at four relief works, where the nearest village shops were more than two miles distant. The total amount of Government rice sold at them up to the date of the last report was 56 maunds.

C.—Transport of food.

The transport arrangements are working satisfactorily. The total receipts in the district up to March 7th were 255,235 maunds, of which 29,071 maunds had arrived at their final destination at store-houses in the district, and 226,164 maunds had passed through or were in transmit for Dinagepore. The Collector says that " this large quantity of grain has hitherto " gone on without a single block, but additional effort will be made to keep sending it on while " the weather is tolerably cool, for each day as the weather gets hotter will tell on the carriage " cattle." Several water routes will be opened after the rains commence.

D.—Storage of Government grain.

29,071 maunds of grain have been stored, leaving about 70,000 maunds to complete the full allotment of 100,000 maunds.

E.—Advances to private parties.

Rs. 10,000 have been advanced to one Rajnath Guha to enable him to purchase grain in Calcutta. He has applied for another Rs. 40,000, which the Collector recommends should be granted to him.

Rs. 20,000 have been advanced for land improvements, excavating tanks, &c.

F.—Charitable relief.

The district has been divided into four circles, and a special officer placed in charged of each. Within each circle relief centres have been selected and sub-committees organized; 2,936 persons have received charitable relief during the fortnight. Excepting in thannah Kurbah all the cases relieved were those of the infirm, sick, beggars, &c., who in every year would be on the hands of the public for support. In Kurbah those who are not usually beggars, but who now feel distress, come for help.

4.—RUNGPORE DISTRICT.

(Report dated March 9th.)

A.—State of the country.

The supply in the large bazars is still well maintained, but the rice which is brought for sale is nearly all imported. Very little of it is home produce. In some of the smaller bazars the supply is said to have been deficient at times, but the deficiency seems to have been only temporary.

The winter crops are all doing well. Potatoes have yielded a bumper crop. The wheat harvest has just commenced, and there is likely to be a splendid crop. The âus rice has been sown to a very large extent, probably to nearly double as much as usual. It is already sprouting and looking well.

The Collector has been on tour in the south-west of the district. He reports a large amount of distress to the west of Peergunj thannah. Grain will be advanced to the poorer cultivators in this quarter under the rules already promulgated.

The Collector has visited Barobaree thannah, from which the reports were bad, but he found the condition of the people not so bad as he had been led to believe, though there is considerable distress. He does not think that there will be more than great scarcity in this thannah. The Native Doctor, who visited the relief houses at Maheegunj and Sundergunj, reports that the class of people who come to the relief houses are chiefly women, children, and men who have been reduced to beggary by old age, and were so diseased and deformed as to be permanently unfit for work.

B.—*Relief works.*

37 roads have been opened as relief works, and others have been marked out.

The number of persons employed upon relief works on the 7th March was 3,995 men and 86 women, showing a considerable increase on the last returns, but the Collector considers the number is surprisingly small for a district containing such a large population as Rungpore. He attributes this to two reasons—1st, their inability to do such hard work as road-making, as many of them are reduced by constant fever and spleen; and, 2ndly, that the number of persons who earn their living by daily labour is very small. Government shops for the sale of rice to labourers employed on relief works have been opened.

C.—*Transport of grain.*

The transport arrangements are working smoothly.

D.—*Storage of Government grain.*

Nineteen places have been selected as store centres for Government grain; 80,151 maunds had been received in the district, of which 67,238 maunds had reached their final destination.

E.—*Advances to private parties.*

Rs. 71,000 have been advanced to help ryots or to purchase grain or for land improvements.

F.—*Charitable relief.*

Relief operations are now fairly started in all the distressed tracts. The returns showing the number of persons relieved are incomplete, but, as far as the Collector has been able to give figures, the probable number is 3,460. A considerable number of women have been given cotton to spin.

5.—BOGRA DISTRICT.

(Report dated March 9th.)

A.—*State of the country.*

There is no deficiency in bazar supplies at present.

Fair reports are received of the cold-weather crops. A certain amount of pressure is felt by the people on the land where no cold-weather crops are grown, and this, the Collector thinks, will spread with more or less severity for some months to come, probably to the end of July, when the âus crop on these tracts will be a seasonable help. With the precautions which have been taken, the Collector does not anticipate famine. There have been no cases of misery and starvation.

There were 123 cases of theft last month as compared to 62 in February 1873.

B.—*Relief works.*

The number of persons employed on relief works on the 7th instant was as follows:—

Men - - - - - - -	1,971
Women - - - - - -	1,161
Children - - - - - -	803

C.—*Transport of food.*

Grain-dealers are importing food into the district from Pubna, Dacca, and Mymensing. The means of transport are sufficient. There has been no block on the transport routes.

D.—*Storage of Government grain.*

30,009 maunds of Government grain had been received up to the 7th instant. It had not as yet been found necessary to use any of the Government grain imported.

E.—*Advances to private parties.*

Some small advances have been made.

F.—*Charitable relief.*

Committees have been appointed, but operations do not as yet appear to have been found necessary.

3.—BHAUGULPORE DIVISION.

1.—MONGHYR DISTRICT.

(Report dated March 7th.)

A.—State of the country.

The bazars continue to be well supplied. Although there is difficulty in getting rice in some petty bazars, there is plenty of the cheaper kind of grain for all who have money to purchase it.

The spring crops are in most places very good; they have been much benefitted by the rain, which fell in January, but for which the Collector thinks the state of the district must now have been most deplorable.

The Collector has been travelling about the district, and found the people generally in fair condition, but he thinks that many persons will probably require assistance before long. A number of paupers from Tirhoot were recently wandering about the district, many of whom were in a very forlorn condition. Three deaths from starvation were reported in the last narrative; none have occurred since.

There were 38 cases of theft, &c. between the 12th February and the 5th March as compared with 55 in the corresponding period of last year.

B.—Relief works.

At present there is plenty of work in the district for the entire labouring population either at cutting the crops, collecting opium in the poppy-fields, making Government roads and zemindaree embankments, or preparing fields for future crops.

The number of labourers employed on relief works on March 7th was 4,088.

C.—Transport of grain.

The district has been largely denuded of transport by the contractors, who have engaged every available cart for work north of the Ganges, but the Collector does not anticipate any difficulty in providing transport for the Government grain which has been allotted to him.

D.—Storage of Government grain.

190,323 maunds of Government grain have been stored in 25 selected spots.

E.—Advances to private parties.

The provisions of the Land Improvement Act are now becoming generally known, and numerous applications for advances are being made all over the distressed tracts. About Rs. 30,000 have been advanced under this Act.

F.—Charitable Relief.

Sixteen relief circles have been opened; 42 sub-committees have been appointed. In Jamoee sub-division, where the distress is worst, the Superintendent has for some time past been from village to village relieving distress wherever it existed.

2.—BHAUGULPORE DISTRICT.

(Report dated March 10th.)

A.—State of the country.

The Collector reports that since the last narrative he has been over a large extent of country in all the worst tracts of Soopool, as well as tracts where but little distress need be apprehended. He says—"With the exception of one long and narrow tract to the extreme north-" west of the Soopool sub-division I find nothing which would justify the assertion that *famine* " is imminent." Prices have fallen, and grain is more easily procurable throughout the north of the district.

A splendid rubbee crop is expected, and should it not be damaged by rain or hail, the Collector thinks that general distress will be averted till June.

The condition of the people generally is not so bad as had been anticipated, and excepting some of the lowest labouring classes, there is ample work for all who wish it in the Soopool sub-division; during the Hoolee and Mohurrum festivals even these men left the works. On some of the roads every man did so to join in the processions. The cultivators as a class are fairly occupied tilling their own lands, and even the labourers on the roads may be expected to leave them for the coming harvesting operations.

B.—Relief works.

The daily average number of coolies employed on relief works was 5,427. The experiment was tried of selling Government rice at 10 seers the rupee at two relief works, but it does not appear to have been brought, as other grains were cheaper in the market.

There were 96 cases of theft, &c. during last February.

C.—Transport of grain.

A contract has been made for six lakhs of maunds to be carried from Monghyr to Soopool in four months. The last report does not contain detailed information as to how this contract is working. Considerable difficulty was at first experienced by reason of so many carts having been drawn off towards Tirhoot. Private accounts state that the contract is working satisfactorily.

D.—Storage of Government grain.

Thirty-five places have been selected in which to store Government grain. The amount already stored is 166,557 maunds, exclusive of grain brought in by the Court of Wards.

E.—Advances to private parties.

During the last fortnight Rs. 8,000 have been paid as advances for the purchase of grain; Rs. 15,000 have been advanced to zemindars to help their ryots, and applications for a further advance of Rs. 6,500 have been received.

F.—Charitable relief.

All the relief centres have been opened, some of them "more as feeders than on account of actual distress."

The Collector reports that as yet the applicants for relief consist almost entirely of the lowest class of habitual beggars.

3.—PURNEAH DISTRICT.

(Report dated March 9th.)

A.—State of the country.

The supply in the town of Purneah is still increasing, and petty dealers come in to buy from the importers.

Isolated cases of great distress are found occasionally and relieved, and in many villages a few families are found to be very badly off; but the Collector thinks that "it is clear that there is no general distress from the few persons who come to work on our roads."

The prospects of the spring crops continue excellent. As long as the supply of grain is kept up as it is at present the Collector says he has no fears for the people, as the agricultural requirements of well-to-do ryots and villagers, and the relief works as at present arranged, can afford employment to all who desire to work.

The total number of thefts, &c. last February was 97 as compared to 36 in the same month of last year.

B.—Relief works.

The average daily number of persons employed on relief works was 2,923. Government rice has been sold to the labourers at 12 seers the rupee.

C.—Transport of grain.

The transport power during the past fortnight has increased enormously. Up to the evening of the 7th, 311,933 maunds had been carted away from Caragola, the average daily number of carts leaving being 757. About 3,000 pack-bullocks and ponies are working between Bulrampore and Barsoe, which are two of the most inaccessible places. This mode of transport is reported to be capable of almost indefinite expansion.

D.—Storage of Government grain.

Twenty-seven centres for the storage of grain have been selected, but the last reports do not state how much grain was actually stored in them.

E.—Advances to private parties.

During the last fortnight the advances to private parties were inconsiderable, but in the preceding fortnight Rs. 25,200 were advanced for the purchase of grain, and the Collector thinks that these advances kept down prices.

F.—Charitable relief.

The number of committees and sub-committees appointed is 39. The number of persons relieved in the Sudder and Kishengunj sub-divisions was 4,536. In the Arrareah sub-division it is reported that 4,000 persons are daily receiving gratuitous relief.

A system of village relief has been adopted. In one place only has cooked food been distributed. At the other relief centres raw food was given.

4.—SONTHAL PERGUNNAHS.

(Report dated March 11th.)

A.—State of the country.

FAILURE of food has been nowhere reported, although in some parts supplies are said to be very limited. No known cases of starvation and misery have been reported.

B.—Relief works.

The report on this head has not been received.

C.—Transport of food.

The means of transport are said to be quite sufficient.

D.—Storage of Government grain.

3,106 maunds of rice have been stored, but none has yet been sold. The total allotment of grain to the district is 135,000 maunds.

E.—Advances to private parties.

No advances have yet been made, but a zemindar has applied for a loan of Rs. 10,000 to improve his estate.

F.—Charitable relief.

The Collector says "We have nothing under this head."

A. HOWELL,
Depy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
Dept. of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

March 20th, 1874.

MINUTE by Honourable Sir R. TEMPLE, K.C.S.I.

No. 52.

Malda, dated 18th March 1874.

1. I have now completed my journey through the worst portions of the four districts of the Rajshahye Division, where severe distress is expected, viz., the districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, Bogra, and Malda, which have been formed by the Local Government into a separate Relief Division under Mr. W. Le F. Robinson as Commissioner. The observations and proposals which I have made regarding each of the districts will be found in the Minutes, Nos. 45, 46, 47, and 48, dated 11th, 14th, and 16th March. It now remains briefly to summarise the main points under one view.

2. The area and population of the four districts may be stated as follows:—

District.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Number per Square Mile.
Dinagepore	4,126	1,501,924	364
Rungpore	3,476	2,149,972	619
Bogra	1,501	689,467	459
Malda	1,813	676,426	373
	10,916	5,017,789	459

3. The number of persons which I have estimated, in consultation with the local authorities, as likely to need aid from Government during the worst months of the distress, together with the per-centages of such numbers on the population, may be stated thus:—

	Nos. at worst from 2 to 4 Months.	Per-centage on Population.
Dinagepore	426,530	60 per cent., on 419,500
		30 " " 582,766
Rungpore	127,400	20 " " 123,000
		15 " " 255,000
		10 " " 120,000
		50 " " 18,000
		5 " " 145,000
Bogra	112,500	30 " " 258,123
		20 " " 175,243
Malda	62,433	30 " " 92,011
		25 " " 55,316
		15 " " 48,999
		10 " " 103,758
		5 " " 65,548
Total	728,863	

4. The provision of Government grain, as already ordered by the Local Government, or as now proposed by me, may be thus stated in maunds:—

—	Already ordered by Local Government.	Additional proposed by me.	Total.	Already advised in District up to 7th March.
Dinagepore	1,000,000	200,000	1,200,000	200,000
Rungpore	200,000	100,000	300,000	120,000
Bogra	50,000	190,000	240,000	20,000
Malda	100,000	50,000	150,000	29,000
Totals	1,350,000	540,000	1,890,000	369,000

5. I was particularly requested by the Government of Bengal to revise the relief arrangements in the districts, and to settle them wherever they remained to be settled. I found that this business was to some considerable extent done in Dinagepore and partly in Rungpore. I have now, in consultation with the local officers, fixed all the circles. Their numbers are as follows:—

—	Number of Circles.	European Officers.	Native Officers.	Subordinate Officials.		
				Civil.	D.P.W.	Medical.
Dinagepore	13	9	4	29	13	13
Rungpore	9	4	5	9	6	9
Bogra	7	3	4	3	6	6
Malda	3	3	2	5	3	3
Totals	32	19	15	46	28	31

6. All the officers (Native and European) have been appointed; most, though not all of them, have joined. Of the subordinate officials most of the civil have been appointed, but many have not yet joined. Few only of the medical or public works subordinate officials have been appointed, but I have made urgent application for them.

7. The relief works consist chiefly of roads and of tanks. The total length of the roads in miles I give below. The tanks are numerous, but the number

cannot be given. The number of labourers as known up to the latest report is also given, but it is increasing daily.

	No. of labourers as known up to second week of March.	Total length of relief roads of district in miles.
Dinagepore	43,500	420
Rungpore	7,000	723
Bogra	3,935	160
Malda	2,252	187
Totals	56,687	1,490

8. The rate of wages for an adult male is 2¼ annas in the Dinagepore, Rungpore, and Bogra districts per diem, task-work not being undertaken under 3 annas. The same rates prevail in Malda.

9. The number of circles in which I have authorised the sale of Government grain under the rules is—

Dinagepore	4
Rungpore	3
Bogra	None.
Malda	1

10. The number of grain depôts in the several districts, nearly all of which depôts contain stores, is as follows :—

Dinagepore	30
Rungpore	15
Bogra	8
Malda	8
Total	61

11. The number of carts employed in the transport of grain in the several districts is as follows; if this number appears small as compared with other divisions, we must remember that in all the districts water-carriage is largely used, sometimes by country boats and sometimes by steamers :—

	Carts with pair of bullocks.	Country boats.	Steamers.
Dinagepore	5,000	250	—
Rungpore	450	50	1
Bogra	250	20	1
Malda	2,000	400	1
Totals	7,700	720	3
Add carts from Purneah District employed in Dinagepore District	1,500		
Total	9,200		

Pack bullocks not having as yet been employed. A reserve of 1,500 carts has been ordered, 500 for each of the districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, and Malda.

12. The amount of advances as yet taken by zemindars for the assistance of their tenantry, and the money advanced to traders for the importation of grain from a distance, may be thus approximately given, though it is hoped the amount will be largely increased. In round numbers zemindars have taken 90,000 rs., traders 40,000 rs.

13. The number of persons at present receiving charitable relief may be thus stated for the present, though it is to be feared that the number will now increase:—

	Daily.
Dinagepore	None.
Rungpore	3,460
Bogra	None.
Malda	2,936
Total	6,396

In Bogra some relief is given by private subscriptions.

14. No death from want, or from disease caused immediately by want, has as yet been reported from any district.

15. The cause of the distress in all the districts is the partial failure of the summer or Aus rice crop, and the still greater failure of the winter (Hemantee) rice crop, from scantiness of rain in the summer and autumn of 1873; together with the absence of any considerable cultivation, in the distressed tracts, of spring crops, wheat, and pulses to make up for loss of rice.

16. The worst period of distress in all the four districts is expected to set in during May, and to last to the middle of August; but the distress will last in some degree till December.

17. Private import trade is tolerably active in the Rungpore, Bogra, and Malda Districts, but not at all in Dinagepore. Again, the situation of the Dinagepore District is much more difficult than that of the other three districts, because it is isolated at all times, land-locked in the hot season, though enjoying some facilities of water-carriage in the rains; whereas the other three are on the banks of the large rivers, navigable by boats or steamers all the year round.

18. Lastly, I desire to speak in high commendation of the Relief Commissioner, Mr. W. Le F. Robinson. His extensive local knowledge, his promptitude in action, and his thoughtful care for the people entitle him to the confidence of Government in the execution of his very important duty.

(Signed) R. TEMPLE.

LONDON:
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

AND

THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN COUNCIL,

RELATIVE TO

THE FAMINE IN BENGAL.

PART IV.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1874.

[C.—955.-III.] *Price 2s.*

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 18 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To the Most Honourable the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS, Calcutta, the 27th March 1874.

IN continuation of our despatches on the subject of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal we have the honor to enclose the Supplement of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 25th instant, containing the latest statements of prices current and of the condition and prospects of the crops. There is little to remark in either statement beyond the anticipated failure of the mohwa crop in the Sonthal Pergunnahs. In other respects the reports are satisfactory, the prospect of the cold weather crops generally being very good; in prices there is no great change.

2. We have received Your Lordship's telegram of the 24th instant (marginally annexed), requesting that a weekly report of the aggregate of known famine deaths from the first may be included in our usual weekly telegram. We enclose our correspondence with the Government of Bengal on this subject, from which it will be seen that the Lieutenant-Governor has undertaken to furnish the required information in future. From the same correspondence His Honor's opinion will be gathered as to the number of deaths that have occurred in addition to those officially reported. As regards the additional telegrams, we have to observe that where the figures in two consecutive weekly telegrams have been identical, it is owing to the fact that from the more distant districts the Bengal Government had only fortnightly reports; but the Lieutenant-Governor has now arranged to obtain weekly returns from all districts, and the latest statistics will be duly communicated to you. Your Lordship may rely on our vigilant attention being maintained on those districts where distress may be expected to arise, but which are not yet classed among the most distressed districts.

Telegram from Secretary of State, London, to Viceroy, Calcutta,—Dated 24th March 1874.

Yours 21—Report with weekly telegram aggregate of known famine deaths from first; figures in additional telegram accidentally copied from last; keep attention upon half famine districts.

3. We have made frequent mention in our telegrams and despatches of the condition and prospects of the crops in the North-Western Provinces, and we now enclose the Supplement to the last *Allahabad Gazette* of the 21st instant, containing detailed information of the state of things in each district of those provinces. We consider the report on the whole to be very satisfactory.

4. We have expressed our general approval of the measures undertaken by the Chief Commissioner of Oudh to prevent famine in some of the northerly districts of that province, and we have every reason to hope that these measures are adequate for the relief of the distress that may be there anticipated. Our correspondence with the Chief Commissioner will be found enclosed.*

Adverting to the 28th and 29th paragraphs of our despatch No. 17 of the 20th instant, we enclose a copy of our letter† to the Government of Bengal, in which, besides other observations which appeared to be called for by the last special narrative, Your Lordship will observe that we have requested the Lieutenant-Governor to supply us with full information as to the means that will exist during the rainy season, both for employing the people and for importing and distributing any additional supplies of food that may be required in excess of our present estimates.

* Pages 5 to 10.

† Page 10.

5. Lastly, with reference to paragraph 13 of our despatch No. 11 of the 13th ultimo, we forward a Note,* prepared in the Public Works Department, showing that we have sanctioned the Lieutenant-Governor's proposals for the immediate commencement of the project for the extension of irrigation in North Behar throughout the tracts bordering on the Nepal Frontier, where the distress is most severe.

* Page 11.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
NAPIER OF MAGDALA.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

ENCLOSURES.

No. 1021, dated the 25th March 1874.

From A. P. **Howell**, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the **Secretary** to the **Government** of **Bengal**.

The Right Honourable the Secretary of State has requested that the aggregate of known famine deaths from the first may be reported to him by the Government of India with the weekly telegram which is usually despatched upon Friday of each week.

2. I am therefore directed to request that the Government of Bengal will furnish a statement giving this information on Thursday next and on each succeeding Thursday. As the Lieutenant-Governor has personally visited the worst part of Tirhoot, and communicated recently with the local officers, I am further to request that His Honor will be good enough to state his opinion whether the reports received from private sources, that many deaths of adults have occurred at or near Buhera and Jinghya, besides those officially reported, are correct or exaggerated.

3. The Government of India understand, from the letter of the Government of Bengal, No. 1578 S.R., of 18th instant, that His Honor fears that many deaths of children must have occurred in Tirhoot in consequence of the scarcity, besides those which have been officially reported.

Paragraph 2.

No. 1835 S.R., dated the 26th March 1874.

From C. **Bernard**, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the **Deputy Secretary** to the **Government** of **India**, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1021, dated 25th March, and in reply to submit that the number of "known famine deaths" up to the present date, as reported to Government, is as follows:—

Tirhoot District.—Four cases, as per Mr. Bayley's letter of the 15th, submitted under cover of my letter, No. 1578, of 18th March.

Monghyr District.—Two cases, as per enclosure No. 4, of the Twelfth Special Narrative.

Total, six cases.

The Lieutenant-Governor has arranged to obtain weekly reports from the worse districts regarding occurrence of famine deaths and on other points required for the weekly telegram to Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

2. In my letter* of to-day's date has been submitted a report of three deaths at Serampore, near Calcutta; but, as has been submitted in my letter, the Lieutenant-Governor does not reckon these cases as "famine deaths."

* No. 1834 S.R.

3. With reference to paragraph 3 of your letter, the Lieutenant-Governor is not sure to what private reports reference is made, as he does not remember particular specific assertions in any definite form to the effect stated. He must submit that, in times of scarcity and the early stages of famine, it is totally impossible to distinguish deaths accelerated by scarcity and bad food from natural deaths. He has not the least doubt that among a very poor and helpless population, such as exists in North Tirhoot, many people die when food is dear who would not die, or would not die so soon, if it were cheap. He believes that there have not been deaths

from direct starvation among healthy adults; but from what he saw of the people about Baheria and some of those on the works near Durbhanga, he fears that among such a population a good many old, weakly, and sick people must have succumbed to insufficient nourishment. Similarly, as before mentioned, many young children are much emaciated, even when their parents are not so. The Lieutenant-Governor does not believe that the parents starve the children to feed themselves, but only that the children are first affected by scanty and bad fare. This result is much aggravated by the native habit of nursing children for two or three years. A child so nursed suffers much when the mother fares indifferently and the food for the child fails. The Lieutenant-Governor has already explained the extreme difficulty of saving such children, owing to the unwillingness of the parents to bring them to our hospitals and poor-houses. He himself saw the emaciated children carefully fed with milk at the temporary hospital which he arranged at Baheria, but the mothers strongly resisted staying there in spite of every concession and arrangement that could be made. Under such circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot but fear that many children of a weak and sickly character die. Similarly, he believes that some old and infirm people die on account of scanty food. He is happy, however, to say that, so far as he saw and can learn, it is only in the part near Behar that want has reached the point that many people are emaciated, and the weakly must in some numbers die. Every attention is now being given to improve matters there.

No. 1158, dated Lucknow, the 3rd March 1874.

From H. J. SPARKS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Oudh, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

I am directed to submit, for the consideration and orders of the Government of India, the following report on the measures of relief which the Chief Commissioner finds will be necessary to prevent famine in this province.

2. Sir George Couper has just returned to Lucknow from a tour through the distressed districts, and the steps which he has already taken, as well as the further proposals contained in this letter, have been adopted for the most part on the spot, and all after the most anxious consideration of the circumstances, and in constant communication with Mr. Copper, the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, the Superintendents of Encumbered Estates, the Maharajah of Bulrampore, and his most trusted lieutenants, especially his diwan, Lalla Ram Shunker, who virtually manages his estates, the Agents of His Highness the Rajah, Kapurthala, and the talukdars generally whose estates are situated in the places where distress prevails or is to be apprehended.

3. The districts in which it was feared that the failure of the winter rains would cause an amount of distress, which would require the aid of Government to relieve, were Sultanpore, Faizabad, Gonda, and Bharaich.

The Chief Commissioner, therefore, proceeded from Lucknow to Sultanpore, and passed through that district, and also through Faizabad, Gonda, Bharaich, and Seetapore.

Sultanpore.

4. In Sultanpore some lands were out of cultivation, owing to the too early cessation of the rains, but those which had been sown were in excellent condition, and have been greatly improved by the rain which fell at the beginning of last month. Therefore, although a very severe frost has caused some injury to arhur, peas, and gram, the local officers are confident that, unless the spring crops when about to be cut are destroyed by hail, no relief will be necessary.

Faizabad.

5. The appearance of the crops north of the Gomti was not so satisfactory as of those on the other side of the river. This was in part owing to the frost which had in the meanwhile befallen the peas and arhur, but also because the insufficiency of the rains had interfered more materially with agricultural operations, and a less breadth of land than usual was under crop; in addition to this, the rains in the early part of January had failed us.

6. Under the circumstances, the Commissioner wisely, as the Chief Commissioner thinks, directed the commencement of some desirable local works, in order to feel the pulse of the distress. Notwithstanding, the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. King, was very confident that relief works would nowhere be required, though he thought there might be partial distress in portions of the Birhar pergunnah, which lies in the north-east portion of the district, on the banks of the Gogra. The labor rates were so fixed as not to attract professional labor from a distance or interfere with the ordinary demand for agricultural services.

7. Work was commenced at Baskari on the 19th January. Comparatively few people came, and on the 27th January there were for the first time over 100. Between that date and the 1st February the numbers fluctuated, the fewest being 155, the largest number 469. On this the Deputy Commissioner reported that the people who came were the ordinary laboring class; that they showed no signs of starvation or extraordinary distress; that men would not work for small wages, the great mass of the laborers being women and children. Considering that the test had proved that relief works were not required, he proposed to close the works. Mr. King was requested to keep the works open for another fortnight and report the result.

8. The Superintendent, Encumbered Estates, Mr. Harington, started some small works calculated to relieve his distressed tenantry, but he now thinks they were hardly necessary, though desirable as keeping on the safe side.

9. By the latest accounts the bulk of the crop has escaped the frost and is exceptionally good. The greatest benefit has resulted from the rain at the beginning of February, which fell in time not only to save the unirrigated rabi crops without injuring those on the irrigated land, but to set the ploughs going, and thus offered agricultural employment at a time when it was really required. The remissions and suspensions of revenue, which the Chief Commissioner will propose in a separate communication, will, it is believed, afford material relief to all classes of agriculturists, and the Chief Commissioner accepts the opinion of the Commissioner that, if these be accorded, there is not, and will not be, so far as can be foreseen, any necessity for relief works in the Faizabad district.

Gonda.

10. In the three northern pergunnahs of Gonda matters look serious. In Tulsipur $\frac{8}{9}$ths of the total crop of the year is kharif, and of this again $\frac{3}{8}$th (or $\frac{1}{3}$rd of the whole) is the jarhun, or late rice. The whole of this has been destroyed. In Bulrampore, 47 per cent. of the crop is kharif, and of this 51 per cent, (or $\frac{1}{4}$th of the whole) is "jarhun;" all this is gone. In Utrawla 63 per cent. is kharif, and of this 30 per cent. (or about $\frac{1}{5}$th of the whole) is jarhun, which has completely failed. The arhur crop throughout this district suffered severely from the intense frosts in the middle of January.

11. It was evident, therefore, that measures must be taken to start relief works and to store food grains in that part of the country which is not easily accessible during the rainy season. In so far as relates to operations in the Tulsipur and Bulrampore pergunnahs, the Chief Commissioner can confidently rely on the officers of Government receiving valuable assistance from the sole proprietor, the Maharajah of Bulrampore, and his employés. It is not alone to the generosity of this nobleman that the Chief Commissioner would trust, for in this instance both he and his farmers and subordinate holders will be impelled to strain every nerve to protect their own interests, which are most seriously at stake.

12. In the north-eastern corner of Tulsipore and in the immediate neighbourhood of Bulrampore the people will not require much assistance, but elsewhere, where the rice crop, on which the people mainly depend, has largely failed, and the stocks of grain are small, there is reason to apprehend that without being pressed by actual famine many agriculturists will abandon their homes, unless they can obtain employment on which to support themselves. From such a disaster the estate would not recover for years, and it would take long to induce a class of people to return, who are always prone on the least provocation to cross our border into Nepal, where it is the policy to encourage settlers by allowing them to cultivate on most favourable terms. Happily the Bulrampore estate is thoroughly well managed, the duties of administration are judiciously and methodically distributed, and thus the condition of the people can be known, and aid can be afforded them with comparative ease through the tehsildars of circles and the substantial village farmers.

13. At present it appears that it will be unnecessary to find labour except in the three northern pergunnahs, Tulsipore, Bulrampore, and Utrawla, and perhaps in the north part of the Gonda pergunnah. Further relief works in various directions are, however, being projected, and preliminary surveys made, and all will be in readiness to open works if they are required.

14. Roads to open out the district and connect or act as feeders to existing lines of communication are the most suitable undertakings, and those most likely to be of use hereafter.

These are shown in the accompanying sketch map, and are as follow:—

(1.) Earthwork on road from Utrawla to Bulrampore, and on towards Ekona, 30 miles, calculated to employ 1,500 persons for, say, three months, at a cost of Rs. 13,952.

This work has been opened. On the 5th February, 976 people were employed. On the 8th, the number had risen to 1,800, on the 12th to 2,962, and on the 22nd to 3,100.

(2.) New line from Utrawla to Tulsipur, 16 miles, calculated to employ 1,700 persons for three months, cost Rs. 18,000. This was opened on the 6th February with 94 people. By the 12th (when the last return was despatched) the number was 474.

(3.) Collecting metal for 8 miles of the road from Utrawla towards Gonda, providing for some 500 persons for three months, at a cost of Rs. 9,000.

(4.) Repair of the old Military frontier road from Pachperiea on the east through Tulsipur to Gubbapur on the west, towards Nepalgung, being about 45 miles. A section of this was opened on the 12th of February, with 71 people; on the 14th the number had trebled.

(5.) Road from Tulsipur to Bulrampore, 16 miles.

(6.) New road from Chandlira dip on the Military road to Muttra, a grain mart in the Bulrampore pergunnah, on the frontier of Gonda and Bharaich, across the Rapti river, through part of the Bharaich district to Khargupur, a flourishing bazaar, thence to join the Bulrampore and Colonelgunge road (this would give some employment in the north-west part of the Gonda tehsil; and the road, which would open out a district where there is ordinarily a considerable grain trade, would be of real benefit hereafter).

(7.) Road from Rehra on the Nawabgunge and Utrawla road through Sadulanugger to Chandradip Ghât on the Kuana (18 miles).

(8.) Diversion from Sadulanugger *viâ* Mankapore to Khorasa on the Faizabad and Gonda road, 22 miles. These two last (7 and 8) are only to be undertaken should a necessity arise, which is not at present anticipated, for relief works in pergunnah Sadulanugger.

(9.) From Gumri Ghât on the Utrawla Gonda road to Hiathoke on the Gonda Bulrampore road (this will give employment in the north of the Gonda pergunnah, if it becomes necessary to supply it).

15. It is estimated that the projected works in the Bulrampore, Tulsipur, and Utrawla pergunnahs will provide employment for six months to an average of 15,000 persons per diem; and this is the outside number which it is expected may require work in order to maintain themselves until the next rice crop is reaped.

16. The principle on which the rates of wages are to be fixed is that they shall not attract professional labor from a distance, or interfere with the existing demand for agricultural services. They will be adjusted from time to time with reference to these considerations.

17. A provision of two lacks of rupees for the execution of the works (one to six) is required; other funds must be obtained for the other works should it be necessary to proceed with them.

18. The people on the works will be paid daily by munshis appointed by the Deputy Commissioner, in order to save the Public Works Department unusual trouble in the Account Department; but the executive engineers assisted by overseers, and sub-overseers, put in charge of convenient sections of the works, will have charge of the construction, and will exercise general control over all operations, under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner, and arrange the rates of payment to be made to individuals or classes of labourers.

19. The funds necessary for carrying out the works will be furnished to the Department Public Works, and the Divisional Engineer should from this source supply the Deputy Commissioner from time to time with cheques for such sums as are required. Accounts will be furnished to the Department Public Works, by whom the bills will be prepared and submitted in due course to the Controller for audit.

20. At present it is not found necessary to provide shelter or grain-shops for the people employed on the works, as they live in their immediate vicinity; but the Deputy Commissioner has arranged that when the numbers increase those laborers who come from too great a distance to return to their homes shall be provided with rough hutting, and that shops for supplying them with grain shall be established.

21. The Deputy Commissioner has drawn up a scheme for a central relief committee at Gonda, with branches to afford sustenance at poor-houses in the vicinity of the relief works to those sufferers who, by reason of age, infancy, or physical infirmity, are unable to do manual labour. He apprehends that the subscriptions from natives of the district will be very small. But a meeting is about to be held at Lucknow in connection with the general Famine Relief Fund, and it is hoped that from that source some assistance will, if necessary, be available.

22. In Tulsipur and Bulrampore, where the most universal practise is to receive cultivators' rents in kind, and to remunerate agricultural and farm labor by payment in grain, the people are accustomed to retain considerable grain supplies; but owing to the failure, which has been referred to, of the rice crop in all but a small tract in the north-east of Tulsipur, and the fact that owing to the drought no second (rabi) crop has as usual been sown on the early rice lands, and to the irresistible temptation to sell, to which high prices have subjected the holders of grain, the present stock of grain is believed to be unusually low. After the commencement of the rains the country north of the Rapti will be almost entirely dependent on internal resources, for movements of grain across the Rapti in the ordinary course of trade will cease, the passage of the river being difficult. Doubtless the farmers have stores enough to maintain themselves, their families, and a considerable number of their laborers, and at present the demand is sufficiently met by the supply from existing stores and importations; but the Chief Commissioner entirely agrees with Mr. Capper that it is advisable to supplement the stocks collected by private individuals, so as to ensure that throughout the rainy season there will be food available for those who desire to purchase it, and it is estimated that for this purpose a stock of some 70,000 maunds of the course food-grains will fully suffice.

23. The grain will not be stored in large depôts, but the country divided into six circles, within each of which a certain amount of grain will be laid up in various places by selected trustworthy thekadars of the Maharaja, under the supervision of his officials and our own. The stores will be kept untouched until the commencement of the rains, when the grain will be available for sale, but be always open to inspection by the officials, in order that their existence be ascertained.

24. Of the purchase money, Rs. 75,000 cash will be advanced by the Government to the Maharaja at Gonda, the remainder he will himself provide, the Deputy Commissioner allowing such suspension of his revenue payments as may be found necessary. The advance will be recovered in 1282 Fusli, or as may be otherwise arranged hereafter.

25. The purchases will, it is hoped, be made by the Maharaja through his farmers and tehsildars without any hindrance to supplies coming daily to market, and, in addition to the farmer's private stocks, each farmer required to keep part of the surplus stock will make up the quota prescribed for him by the Superintendant of his circle. Purchases made in this way by persons accustomed to the business, possessed of carts and bullocks acclimatised to the Terai, and well acquainted with its wants and capabilities, and further deeply interested in the success of the measure, will be properly effected more cheaply than if made direct by the Government officials, and will not be so likely to cause the rise in prices which might in that case be expected. The expense of storage will be saved, the cost of purchase will be merely the interest on the advance made to the Maharaja, and the distribution of the grain stored will be more effective than any we can make.

26. Of course it will be necessary for the district officer closely to supervise the arrangements and completely satisfy himself that the store is being really got together; and it has also been arranged that the Maharaja should at once apply to the Deputy Commissioner to assist him in making purchases from a distance if difficulty is experienced in effecting them locally.

27. Still further to provide against the results of any failure of the rabi crops more severe than there is now much reason to anticipate; but to be on the safe side it is thought advisable to arrange for a grain depôt of 50,000 maunds at Gonda. The result of such a failure might be a shortness in the food supply in parts of the Utrawla pergunnah and the north-east part of the Gonda pergunnah; and a store at Gonda would be invaluable. The store would consist of the cheaper rabi grains, and would be got together when these come into the market, and from a sufficient distance not to effect local trade. The Deputy Commissioner should be empowered to spend Rs. 1,00,000 on this account. The Commissioner writes—"This store would not be necessary were it not for the very large exportation of grain of all sorts, which has been continuous, and seems likely to last. Speaking generally as to this district, with the remissions given, the arrangements for food which have been sanctioned, and the relief works as above, I do not anticipate any unmanageable distress; but had nothing been done, it would now seem that to avoid famine the inhabitants of the Terai pergunnahs must have left their homes at the cost of infinite misery to themselves and of ruin to the revenue and agricultural prospects of that country.

"I do not see cause to increase my estimate of the number of people for whom work will have to be provided. Owing to the rain and bright sun, the prospects of the rabi harvest have greatly improved; and had it not been for the serious loss of a large "arhar" crop, the distressed area would have been much circumscribed. As it is, the harvesting of the rabi and the regular ploughings will soon commence, and furnish regular employment to many thousands."

28. The Chief Commissioner fears that Colonel Shaw, the Deputy Commissioner of Bharaich, in the first instance somewhat under estimated the probability of distress in his district. There is now no doubt that in parts along the north of the district there is, and will be, considerable suffering. In the neighbourhood of Gabbapur and in the Bhingai terai, Mr. Capper found the people as badly off as in the adjoining pergunnah (Tulsipur) of Gonda. The rice crop had entirely failed, and in many villages there was no rabi. Again, near Kakardari on the frontier there was a small but scattered group of villages where famine was imminent. Near Nanpara, also, there was some apparent distress; but the result of opening work in that neighbourhood has been to show that aid is not so much required as in other places.

29. The Chief Commissioner, whilst yet in the district, gave general sanction to the commencement, as occasion might require, of the following works:—

(1.) Earthwork on the road from Nanpara to Bhinga, a line which will be extended from Bhinga to Ekona. Total distance, about 45 miles.

(2.) Raising the road from Nanpara to Motipur, 15 miles.

(3.) From Lakahi on the Nipal frontier to Manghat, and thence through Churda, Malhipur, and Bangaha to the Bhinga road at, say, Pipraghat, about 41 miles.

(Along this route there is now a considerable fair weather traffic in grain under difficulties.)

(4.) Road from Charda to Nanpara.

(5.) Road from Bhinga to Gubbapur to join the Military road, 11 miles.

(6.) Continuation of the Military road from the Gonda Bharaich border, through Gubbapur to Baghora Tal on the Nepal frontier, 13 miles.

(7.) Opening out, where necessary, and so far as necessary, country village roads.

30. The surveys are being pressed on, and work has been commenced in various places. On the Military road (No. 6) there were on the 10th February 350 persons employed; on the 19th the number was 3,000; and the Deputy Commissioner writing on the 25th says that by the latest accounts it was 2,500. It is not improbable that many Nepalese may flock to these works; and should this prove to be the case, the influx of these people must be carefully watched, as if it proceeds to a great extent the arrangements, made only with reference to the wants of our own suffering people, may be seriously affected. Should this be the case further communication will be addressed to the Government of India.

31. At Motipur, Charda, and Kakardari, the officers of the Forest Department are loyally assisting the district authorities, and have been able to afford useful employment for those in want of it. At Kakardari they commenced operations with about 200 people; on the 25th February the number employed was 1,700.

32. On a section of the road between Nanpara and Bhinga (No. 1) near Nanpara, there were employed on the 12th 422, on the 13th 510, and by the latest accounts, dated 25th February, 600 persons. But these were chiefly labourers of the ordinary class, not one-sixth being agriculturists.

33. Employment has also been given on the road between Charda and Malhipur (No. 3). The number of persons at work is reported by the Deputy Commissioner on the 25th to be 1,200.

34. Thus there are at present some 6,000 persons employed. An estimate of what may be required can be but a rough one; but the Chief Commissioner thinks that it will be sufficient if work is found for an average of 5,000 persons per diem for six months; and for this Rs. 65,000 are necessary. The works will be carried out, the payments made, the accounts kept, and the rate of wages determined in the same manner as in Gonda.

35. The Commissioner would like to have 10,000 maunds of grain stored at Nanpara in case of need, and for this purpose he asks for an advance of Rs. 22,500. Gubbapur will be the

centre of one of the grain circles provided for from Gonda. No further supply is thought necessary.

36. The expenditure on famine relief work to be provided for in Gonda and Bharaich is:—

Gonda.		
Works in the three Northern Pergunnahs - -	2,00,000	
Advance for grain (all, or nearly all, recoverable) -	1,75,000	
		3,75,000
Bharaich.		
Works - - - - - - -	65,000	
Advance for grain (all, or nearly all, recoverable) -	22,500	
		87,500
Grand total Rs. -		4,62,500

Of this sum of Rs. 4,62,500, however, Rs. 1,97,500 are for the purchase of grain to be held in readiness for the people to buy; and this will in all probability be recovered. There remain Rs. 2,65,000 to be spent on relief works.

37. The expenditure detailed in the last paragraph can, doubtless, be met from Provincial funds; but I am to submit that the works it is proposed to set on foot are purely local, and of little or no provincial importance. They have been devised simply to bring work within the reach of people who would otherwise die for the want of it, and to utilize that work as far as possible. Under these circumstances, the Chief Commissioner trusts that the Government of India will not think that the Provincial funds should be sacrificed to these measures, and that he may hope for aid from the Imperial Exchequer.

38. It may possibly be found necessary to provide a substitute for the Commissioner to carry on his judicial work, should he be called on to prolong for some time his stay in the distressed districts. In the same way, it may be necessary to relieve the tehsildars of the distressed districts of their ordinary duties, and to appoint substitutes for them. These arrangements will cost money; but as Sir George Couper will only adopt them where and when he feels that they are required by the circumstances of the case, he is confident that he may rely on their being approved by His Excellency in Council.

39. The energy, judgment, and resources of Mr. Capper, the Commissioner of the Faizabad Division, merit the warm acknowledgments of Sir George Couper; and he also desires to say that he relies greatly on the activity and perseverance shown by the Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Gonda, Mr. Maconochie.

No. 1024.

From Arthur Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Commissioner of Oudh.

Dept. of Revenue,
Agriculture, and Commerce.
Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

Sir, Dated Calcutta, the 25th March 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter No. 1158 of the 3rd instant, submitting a report on the measures of relief which you have set on foot and propose in order to prevent famine in the Province of Oudh.

2. The Governor-General in Council has read your careful and complete account with much interest, and I am desired to express his full approval of the measures adopted. In carrying out these measures, you have received valuable assistance from Mr. Capper, the Commissioner of Fyzabad, and from Mr. Maconochie, the Deputy Commissioner of Gonda, and I am to request that you will inform these gentlemen that their services are appreciated by the Government of India. The acknowledgments of Government are also due to the Maharajah of Bulrampore for his cordial co-operation in the work of relief.

3. In order to indicate fully to you the general policy to be followed on an occasion of this kind, I am to forward herewith the Resolutions of the Government of India of the 7th November last and of the 6th instant. This policy was explained to you in personal communication by the Viceroy at Lucknow. But where any modification of these general instructions may be required by local circumstances in Oudh, you are authorised to act on your own discretion. The Governor-General in Council relies upon you to take care that relief works are provided near villages, so as to prevent undue concentration of labour, and that relief circles are organised in time, under proper supervision.

4. Your arrangements, described in paragraph 25, for the purchase of grain, have been wisely designed, and the issue of the advances required for the purpose in each district is approved. With regard to your proposal in paragraph 38, for the appointment of additional officers, the Governor-General in Council will consider favourably any application you may wish to bring forward when circumstances require it.

5. In other Provinces, the operation of Act XXIV. of 1871, the local public works loan Act, and of Act XXVI. of 1871, the land improvement Act, has been very beneficial under similar

circumstances; and I am to enquire whether either enactment could not be usefully applied in Oudh.

6. The Governor-General in Council will give full consideration to any definite proposal which you may make as to the share of expenditure to be borne by the Provincial and Imperial Exchequers respectively in the work of relief. The principle of the allotment of charge is that measures for the relief of distress in such extraordinary cases as famine are borne by the Imperial Exchequer, but in the case of relief works the expenditure is charged to local funds, so far as such expenditure is in return for work done; and the balance of charge, that is, the extra cost of the works consequent on the employment of persons for the purposes of relief, is borne by imperial funds.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
ARTHUR HOWELL,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1025.

Copy of correspondence is forwarded to the Financial Department for information.

No. 1026.

Copy of correspondence is forwarded to the Department of Public Works with reference to paragraphs 19 and 34 of the Chief Commissioner's letter.

No. 1027.

Copy of correspondence is forwarded to the Calcutta Central Relief Committee for information.

No. 998.

From ARTHUR HOWELL, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL.

Dept. of Agriculture,
Revenue, and Commerce.
Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

SIR, Dated Calcutta, the 21st March 1874.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of letter No. 1588 S.R. of the 19th instant, forwarding the thirteenth Special Narrative of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal from the 6th to the 19th instant inclusive.

2. The Governor-General in Council observes with satisfaction the efforts which have been made during the last fortnight, under the direction of the Government of Bengal, by the local officers in those parts of the province which are affected by the scarcity, to complete the preparations both for the transport and storage of grain and for the distribution of relief.

3. But it is with much concern that the Governor-General in Council has learnt that the alarming reports which induced the Lieutenant-Governor to visit Durbhunga have been to a very considerable extent borne out by the facts. His Excellency in Council desires to express his thanks to His Honour for the active measures which, during his visit, he has taken to complete the organization for the relief of distress and to instruct the local officers in the difficult task which they will have to perform.

4. The Governor-General in Council is glad to hear that the Lieutenant-Governor believes that "widely spreading want has been stayed," and while he must repeat the expression of his disappointment that the preparations in that part of North Tirhoot were not earlier completed, he fully appreciates the difficulties with which the Government of Bengal and the local officers have had to contend. He feels certain that all are now exerting themselves to the utmost, and it would be unreasonable to expect complete success everywhere in an undertaking of such great difficulty and magnitude.

5. Now that it may be hoped that the necessary organization for the relief of distress has been completed, the Government of India desire to direct the attention of the Government of Bengal to the collection of full information of the means that will exist during the rainy season both for employing the people and for importing and distributing supplies of food should it become necessary to increase the supplies already allotted to the distressed districts, especially in North Chumparum and North Tirhoot.

6. These investigations should be in sufficient detail to enable preparations to be made so that action may be taken without further enquiry should the necessity arise. If it be thought desirable to depute special officers to make the enquiry respecting the power of transport

during the rains, the Government of India will be happy to provide the assistance of such officers.

7. The Governor-General has noticed the careful report prepared by Colonel Nicolls, and included as Appendix F. in the thirteenth Special Narrative, on the public works opened in the distressed districts. Doubtless, in providing for the employment of masses of people, great difficulties must have arisen, and I am to suggest the propriety of deputing Colonel Nicolls, or some superior officer of the Bengal Public Works Department, to inspect the public works that are now in progress in Behar, and to give his advice and assistance to the local officers upon the subject.

8. The Government of India feel some anxiety with regard to the provision of seed grain in those parts where failure of the winter rice crop has been very great, and I am to request that the particular attention of local officers may be drawn to this subject. Authority has already been given to make advances freely for the purpose of providing seed grain.

9. The sanitary arrangements in those places where large numbers of people are or may be collected together upon public works have very properly been the subject of constant attention on the part of the Government of Bengal. I am to suggest that here again, as in the case of public works, some inspection on the part of a superior officer might be desirable, with a view of assisting and advising the medical officers who may be in local charge.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
ARTHUR HOWELL,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 161 I., dated the 24th March 1874.

Endorsement by the Government of India, Public Works Department.

Forwarded to the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, for information and inclusion in the weekly despatch to Secretary of State, at the request of His Excellency the Governor-General.

NOTE.

In the resolution lately published by the Government of India, Public Works, Nos. 78–82 I. of 12th February last,* and duly forwarded to Her Majesty's Government for information, the wants in respect to irrigation of Tirhoot, Chumparun, and the neighbouring districts in Bengal suffering from scarcity were reviewed and certain schemes indicated for investigation. Of these, one of the principal ones was a high-level canal from the River Gandak, projected in 1871 by Mr. Stoney, Executive Engineer for the Chumparun District, which it was considered might perhaps be advantageously extended beyond the Bagmuttee River to provide irrigation in the neighbourhood of Northern Tirhoot.

The Local Government has now, after a partial inspection of the localities by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, urged the desirability of commencing work on this line, to afford employment to the people in the north of the districts bordering on the Nepal Frontier, which is one of the most distressed tracts, and the Lieutenant Governor's proposals have been sanctioned in this department. The detailed project has not yet been received, but it is under preparation and is expected shortly.

The operations to be carried out at present consist in:—

(1) Lining out the canal, and
(2) Constructing a road along one bank of the line, which will be used for the carriage of materials.

If further work should be required to give full employment to the people, the excavation is to be commenced in such a manner as to leave room for any subsequent widening which may prove necessary.

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* See No. 140A of Collection IV., pp. 143–154.

No. 20 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To the Most Honourable the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS, Calcutta, the 3rd April 1874.

WE have the honour to transmit the fourteenth Special Narrative of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal from the 20th March to the 2nd current inclusive.

2. We believe that the present position of affairs in the distressed tracts and in the country generally is satisfactory, that although the number of persons seeking relief is high (not less than 800,000) and more than double that of the previous fortnight, still the relief is being efficiently dispensed. We consider that the proceedings of the Bengal Government and its officers are worthy of commendation.

Page 27. 3. We forward copy of a letter from the Government of Bengal transmitting an elaborate and complete note by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal narrating the result of his recent visit to Eastern Tirhoot. His Honour's views so ably expressed in this note on a great variety of points relating to the scarcity have our general concurrence.

4. A copy is forwarded herewith of the *Allahabad Gazette* of Saturday the 28th ultimo, giving the latest particulars of the scarcity in the south and south-eastern districts of the North-Western Provinces.

5. We trust that the relief establishments of both the superior and the subordinate grades have been formed of sufficient strength to meet the present and also the probable demands upon their services. But it is further necessary to prepare beforehand a reserve of trained officers of all grades ready on the spot to fill the places of those who may be incapacitated by any of the many misfortunes incidental to operations of this description, and to supply any deficiency which may hereafter become apparent as the work developes itself. In order to commence the formation of such a reserve, we have, on the recommendation of the Bengal Government, ordered eight experienced Civil Officers from the Punjab and the Central Provinces for service in Behar, in addition to the very large staff already sent there, and 30 additional Medical Officers of the subordinate grades from the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay.

6. We hope very shortly to submit to your Lordship some despatches from the Government of Bengal summarizing the transport arrangements by rail, by river, and by inland carriage in the distressed districts.

7. Although we regard the situation of the distressed districts to be for the moment satisfactory, we bear in mind that the abundant harvest now being reaped in the valley of the Ganges not only improves the condition of the people generally, but also affords employment to very large numbers from those tracts where the crops have failed altogether. When this advantage shall cease, as may probably be the case before the end of April, a further accession, perhaps in very large numbers, to our relief works may be apprehended.

8. Whether such augmentation of our operations shall occur sooner or later, we must remember that the large number now employed forms but a part of the number whom we expect eventually to be called upon to assist, and for whom we have made due provision. But inasmuch as the actual number on or about the 1st April is rather below the number estimated to be on our hands by that date, we derive some hope from this circumstance that the estimates for the ultimate requirements and the provision based thereon will prove adequate.

We have the honour to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
NAPIER OF MAGDALA.
R. TEMPLE.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.

FOURTEENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF THE DROUGHT IN BENGAL FROM THE 20TH MARCH TO THE 2ND APRIL 1874.

THE weather of the fortnight has been singularly favourable. There has been rain[*] over a great part of Bengal Proper, where it was wanted for the early rice and for other early crops, and where it has enabled the people to occupy themselves in preparing the ground for the later crops. If, as is often the case in seasons like the present, rain continues to fall in Bengal from time to time during the next three months, all these early crops will do very well, and the early rice (September crop) will make a fair start. In Behar, where heavy rain would have done harm to the spring crops, very little has fallen, and the hail which fell in certain limited tracts did but little damage. The spring crops have thus been for the most part successfully harvested, and the little rain that fell did some good to the cheena (early millet) now in the ground. Now that the wheat, barley, and other spring crops have been nearly reaped, much will depend in Behar on whether we get good rain during April. The unfortunate tracts in Tirhoot which most suffered from the failure of the rice crops, having little other crops to reap, still suffer from the continued want of rain, and their water-supply is beginning to fail. The people are now anxiously looking out for rain, not only for the petty crops on the ground, but also for a supply of water and grass, and to enable them to plough the land and sow indigo and some other crops. In Tirhoot the land has been so parched by continuous drought that without copious rain during the next few weeks preparations for the next crop will be difficult and early sowings impossible.

Price of grain.

2. In Western Bengal there has been little change of prices during the fortnight; in Calcutta, and over the greater part of Eastern Bengal, prices are somewhat easier than they were at the time of last narrative; but there has been a general rise of prices over the Rajshahye Division; in North Behar also common rice has become somewhat dearer during the fortnight. In Monghyr an abundant spring crop has brought prices down. The price of wheat, barley, maize, and other staples has not grown dearer during the fortnight, and the comparative steadiness of the price of these grains is some makeweight against the rise in the price of rice. The returns furnished by the Chamber of Commerce show that, on the 27th March, the price of rice had fallen about 3 per cent. in Calcutta; but for the rest of the fortnight prices were steady though the demand was limited. The price-currents for the two weeks will be found at enclosure No. 2. The present

[*] *Rainfall of the fortnight in inches at some of the principal district head-quarters.*

Burdwan	1·14
Beerbhoom	0·38
Calcutta	0·0
Nuddea	0·87
Maldah	0·0
Dinagepore	0·0
Dacca	3·43
Sylhet	4·51
Tipperah	2·84
Patna	0·32
Tirhoot	0·0
Chumparun	0·10
Bhagulpore	0·0
Lohardugga	0·65

quotations for some of the principal districts compare with the prices of rice shown in preceding narratives as follows:—

	Number of seers of common rice sold for a rupee.			
	On 31st Jan.	On 28th Feb.	On 14th March.	On 28th March.
Burdwan - -	14	13½	13	13¼
Beerbhoom -	12⅜	12½	13½	13½
Hooghly - -	11 to 12	11½ to 12½	11½ to 12½	12 to 13
Calcutta - -	12½	12¼	12½	13
Dinagepore -	13¼	14	12¾	10¾
Maldah - -	11¾	12	12	9½
Rungpore - -	11¼	11¼	11⅛	11½
Dacca - -	16	14	12	13
Backergunge -	16½	15	16	16
Chittagong -	18	16½	13	16½
Noakhally - -	17½	13	13	15
Patna - -	12	13½	13	12
Shahabad - -	13	12½	12¼	12¾
Tirhoot - -	10	10	9½	8½
Chumparun -	11¾	11	12	10¼
Bhagulpore -	12⅝	11⅜	13¾	11¼
Lohardugga -	15½	16	15	14
Maunbhoom -	15	14½	14	14½

Other grains, maize, pulses, commonly used in Behar, were selling by the latest returns at from 13 to 14 seers per rupee in Tirhoot, 13 seers in Chumparun, 16 to 17 seers in Sarun, and 18 to 20 seers in Patna.

State of the crops.

3. There is little to add to what was said in last narrative regarding the outturn of the spring crops. The harvest has been very good so far as it goes, and from more than one district it has been reported that the ears of wheat and barley are fuller than was expected. The early spring rice is doing well, and so also is the early millet (cheena) up to the present date. The reports of the last fortnight unfortunately give no ground for hoping that the spring crops of North Tirhoot will be fuller than was expected at the time of the last narrative. North Tirhoot and a small strip of North Chumparun are the only Behar tracts wherein the spring crops have not contributed largely to help the people through the difficulties of the present season. From two districts of East Bengal report was received that the heavy rain of the 23rd March had to some extent retarded agriculture. But subsequent open weather has remedied any temporary difficulty of this kind, and the early crops all promise well. The April crop of mulberry leaves and the outturn of silk during that month promise to be unusually good. In parts of Midnapore, Rajshahye, Moorshedabad, Beerbhoom, and some other districts the April silk crop is of much importance to the ryots. The crop of mhowa flower, which in the wilder parts of the country to the west forms a large part of the food of the poor during April and May, promises to be good everywhere except in a part of the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

Supply of grain.

4. The supply of grain in the principal local markets at the prices quoted is sufficient, except in parts of Tirhoot, Chumparun, Purneah, Rungpore, and Palamow; from one or two places it is reported that people who went to buy their weekly supply of rice at the nearest bazaar had to come back without it. But, on the whole, the local supplies of grain are maintained wonderfully well. Even in part of Tirhoot, where there was not more than one-eighth of an average autumn crop, and where there had been hardly any spring harvest at all, the chief entrepôts had plenty of grain, and the local markets are fairly well supplied, an active petty trade having been hitherto maintained, and supplies brought up from the Ganges and the railway. In several places, where the Government grain stores were opened to the workpeople or to the public comparatively little of the Government grain was purchased; indeed, it is only in North Chumparun and a part of Purneah and in Tirhoot on the works that any considerable quantities of Government grain are being sold either to workpeople or to the public, through the local dealers.. From some of the tracts in Tirhoot through which Govern-

ment grain is being most largely carried fears have been expressed lest the private supplies in the bazaars should run short, because dealers are unable to replenish their stores from outside owing to want of carriage. The Sub-divisional Officer of Tajpore, through whose jurisdiction are carried the supplies of grain for North Tirhoot, writes:—"I am anxious about the bazaar supplies; the "contractors from Chumpta Ghat have lately taken to using pack animals. " * * * I do not know how this great importing sub-division has been "hitherto supplied, with nearly all its carts drawn off to feed those tracts which "usually export to it; but of this I am certain, that if pack-bullocks are also "taken up the bazaar supplies must fail." Results like this cannot, in view of the great operations Government have undertaken, be altogether avoided; but the local officers have been desired to do all they can to mitigate the evil, and they have been especially prohibited from using any sort of compulsion to bring into Government service the pack animals employed on the private trade.

Private importations of grain.

5. There is still no considerable import of grain on private account from beyond sea. But into some of the distressed districts grain still flows briskly from other parts of India. The Sarun district continues to receive supplies from outside, much of which comes down the Ghogra river from Oudh. Rungpore, Bogra, Rajshahye, and Maldah are supplied to a considerable extent from East Bengal, but of the amount of these supplies Government has no precise statistics. The import of private grain by railway into Behar was—

From the North-Western Provinces and Punjab - - -	17,928	tons for the fortnight ending the 21st March.
From Calcutta and places in Bengal	7,737	ditto ditto.
Total -	25,665	tons during the fortnight, or a

daily importation of 1,833 tons of private grain into Behar. The greater part of this large quantity is consigned to Patna Station, where there was a considerable block of the traffic during the fortnight, the railway stations being insufficiently provided with the necessary facilities for so large a traffic. Active steps have been taken to remedy this difficulty, and it is hoped that it has been met.

The grain thus imported has hitherto found its way by various petty channels into many parts of Behar both north and south of the river.

Grain trade from the Punjab.

6. In last narrative it was stated that there was much grain waiting in the Punjab to come down into the famine districts. During the fortnight under report the railway officer deputed to inquire into the matter by the Government of India has furnished his report. He finds that 23,580 tons of grain are waiting on the station premises of the Punjab Railway for means of transport to Benares and Behar. The chief adviser of the Punjab Government in railway matters believes that four times as much more grain is stored in bazars and serais, waiting for waggons, to carry it down to the distressed tracts. The Consulting Engineer to the Government of India reports that, before the end of March, a fixed and uniform despatch of 1,250 tons of grain from the Punjab to the famine districts ought to be considered a certainty. The difference between the prices of grain in the Punjab and Behar is so great that the profits on the traffic are large; and the railway officer who conducted the enquiry reports that, under present circumstances, "it is absolutely certain that the supply of private grain to the railway "will continue fully equal to its carrying power;" while it is clear that no "room "can be found for Government grain transport without interfering with private "trade."

Export of grain by sea.

7. The usual note on the movement of food-grains will be found at Appendix A., Pages 25 & 26. in which will be found a statement furnished by the Collector of Customs putting—

the total export of food-grain from Bengal by sea for the five months from October to end of February (and this figure may be finally accepted as correct) } at 173,161 tons.

The authorised figures for the exports of the month of March have not yet been received. But it is certain that the exports from Calcutta and Chittagong have much diminished. From the Orissa ports the exports continue to be moderate. So far as advices have been received, the exports of food-grains from Bengal for the month of March amount in round numbers to about 16,500 tons; so that the total export of food from Bengal during the six months ending on the 31st March will be about 190,000 tons. The Lieutenant-Governor some time back expressed his belief that the exports up to April would be from 150,000 to 200,000 tons. A recent report states that a fresh demand for the Mauritius is shortly expected in Calcutta, while something more may go from Orissa, so that it is not unlikely that the total will not fall far short of the larger figure named by the Lieutenant-Governor.

Condition of the people.

8. The district narratives (enclosures Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8) show that, with the one exception of Tirhoot, to be noticed more fully below, the condition of the people is decidedly good and hopeful, indeed this feature is so prominent in the narratives that it may well be the subject of much thankfulness. The accounts of North Chumparun, where, next after North Tirhoot, the famine is worst, show that by relief works, by selling Government grain, by advancing grain, and by means of a thorough system of charitable and medical relief, distress is being arrested and relieved; and, for the present at any rate, the Lieutenant-Governor feels confident that the Government agency and means on the spot will suffice to meet the famine. In other districts where distress had threatened actual famine has not yet appeared, and the local officers seem quite confident that their preparations are sufficiently advanced to meet distress when it comes; and it seems also that the people, though they expect scarcity and very high prices, believe that with the help of Government they will get through their difficulties. From Dinagepore the Magistrate writes that "prices are rising," and "the supply of grain is " becoming exhausted;" but "there is wonderfully little distress among the " people," * * * "and it is beyond question that the commencement of " relief operations and consequent diffusion of money throughout the country, as " soon as there was any apprehension of scarcity, has enabled the people to " meet it with confidence and vigour." From Maldah and Bogra it is reported that the condition of the people has not changed for the worse. From all parts of Sarun it is reported that there is no general distress, as all the poorer classes are on the relief works, while professional beggars and persons unable to work are receiving charitable relief. From Monghyr it is reported "that the condition of the people has improved since the rubbee harvest commenced." No general distress has been reported from North Bhagulpore; and the latest telegraphic report from that tract is, "Condition of general population satisfactory." The Purneah Magistrate writes:—"I have not seen or heard of any cases of actual " starvation, but the number of cases of distress is increasing, and would have " been much larger but for the relief afforded by the Government road and by " relief committees." In South Behar there is at present no distress. The latest report from the Sonthal Pergunnahs is that "the people look well everywhere," though in parts the supply of grain is expected soon to fall short. Some days back alarming reports were received about a small tract in Hazareebagh; but subsequent reports written after the District Officer had visited the spot are reassuring, and it is stated that the local distress which had appeared has been met. In West Bengal, regarding which densely-peopled and to some extent poverty-stricken tract the Lieutenant-Governor has all along been anxious, there are no present signs of probable general distress.

Tirhoot.

9. There is one large exception to the general condition of affairs described in the next foregoing paragraph, and that is the north-eastern portion of the Tirhoot district, where the poorer classes have, in the last month, come upon the relief works in enormous numbers, now, it is believed, approaching to half a million in all, who are receiving relief in some shape.

At the time when the last narrative was despatched, the Lieutenant-Governor was in Tirhoot personally superintending the organization of relief measures there. He subsequently visited some more of the distressed circles, and saw the circle officers posted and at work personally instructing them. He then crossed to Patna, where he again consulted with the Commissioner and settled some points with Sir Richard Temple, whom he had asked to meet him there. He saw and instructed some more of the officers sent down from the North-Western Provinces, and completed the arrangements for officering the distressed circles of North Behar, after which he returned to Calcutta.

Position of affairs when the Lieutenant-Governor left Tirhoot.

10. The result of the Lieutenant-Governor's further inquiries in Tirhoot do not materially differ from those stated in the last narrative. As there stated, it is feared that some cases of starvation to a greater or less degree have occurred among a few old people who did not come to relief works or relief centres in time, and perhaps in greater numbers among young children who have suffered from bad and deficient nourishment, while the parents were living on scanty food though not starving. But all accounts agree that nowhere has distress been so great as in the Bahera thana of Durbhunga, to which allusion has already been made—there only have the symptoms of severe distress been prominent, elsewhere the cases have been very rare and isolated. The Lieutenant-Governor repeats his hope and belief that the progress of distress has now been stayed. Very few deaths have been reported as directly due to starvation, not more than ten or twelve in all. The Government of India having asked the Lieutenant-Governor's personal opinion on this point, it was given as follows :—

Deaths from starvation.

"In times of scarcity and the early stages of famine it is totally impossible to distinguish deaths accelerated by scarcity and bad food from natural deaths. He has not the least doubt that among a very poor and helpless population, such as exists in North Tirhoot, many people die when food is dear, who would not die, or would not die so soon, if it were cheap. He believes that there have not been deaths from direct starvation among healthy adults; but, from what he saw of the people about Bahera and some of those on the works near Durbhunga, he fears that among such a population a good many old, weakly, and sick people must have succumbed to insufficient nourishment. Similarly, as before mentioned, many young children are much emaciated, even when their parents are not so. The Lieutenant-Governor does not believe that the parents starve the children to feed themselves, but only that the children are first affected by scanty and bad fare. This result is much aggravated by the native habit of nursing children for two or three years. A child so nursed suffers much when the mother fares indifferently, and the food for the child fails. The Lieutenant-Governor has already explained the extreme difficulty of saving such children, owing to the unwillingness of the parents to bring them to our hospitals and poor-houses. He himself saw the emaciated children carefully fed with milk at the temporary hospital which he arranged at Bahera, but the mothers strongly resisted staying there in spite of every concession and arrangement that could be made. Under such circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor cannot but fear that many children of a weak and sickly character die. Similarly, he believes that some old and infirm people die on account of scanty food. He is happy, however, to say that, so far as he saw and can learn, it is only in the part near Bahera that want has reached the point that many people are emaciated and the weakly must in some numbers die. Every attention is now being given to improve matters there."

Recent reports of deaths.

11. The view expressed in the foregoing extract is much borne out by the narratives received since his expression of opinion was submitted. In the Tirhoot narrative (enclosure No. 3)* will be found mention of reported cases of starvation, into which inquiry was made by European officers, *e.g.*, the body of an old man in the Hatti relief circle of Durbhunga, who was said to have died from starvation, "was in a state of extreme emaciation;" yet "the son of the deceased did not show any signs of suffering from want of food." In a village of Mudhoobunnee three males were reported to have died from starvation, but inquiry on the spot showed that two of the deceased "were children of a widower who was himself in a state of rude and well-nourished health." In the Rungpore narrative (enclosure No. 5) the Magistrate writes :—"There was a report received of a death from starvation "in one part of this thannah, and I went to the spot two days ago, but the case "was that of an old woman of 80 years of age who died from disease." It is, the Lieutenant-Governor fears, a fact that occasionally poor creatures come on to the relief works in Tirhoot in a very reduced state; but on all the works except perhaps in Bahera the great majority of the people are in tolerably good condition; and when deaths occur it is not possible always to say whether they are due, in whole or in part, to starvation. It may be confidently stated as a fact that up to this time the mortality from any causes among the great number of

* Page 89.

people collected on the roads, &c. in Tirhoot is singularly small. Indeed, seeing the great numbers and the wretched physical character of many of the old and weakly collected together, the wonder is that there are not more deaths. Among such a population in the best of times there must be deaths of old and reduced people. The district narratives (enclosures Nos. 3–8) sufficiently show that all Government officers in the distressed districts are very keenly alive to the obligation which lies upon them to save life and to arrest famine however and whenever they can.

Measures taken in North Tirhoot.

12. While it is hoped that actual starvation has been stayed (unless it be in rare instances which escape all our care), our difficulties in regard to the employment of the people have been much increased in Tirhoot since the last narrative, that is to say, there has been a rush of people to the works in the Mudhoobunnee sub-division in enormous numbers, still greater than that which the Lieutenant-Governor found in Durbhunga; so much so, that the total numbers have approached a quarter of a million in the Mudhoobunnee sub-division according to the last statements received. It is feared, however, that there has been a good deal of peculation and misstatement in regard to the numbers, which are certainly so large that, coming so suddenly, it is most difficult to deal with them. Mr. Metcalfe has energetically undertaken this task, and it is believed succesfully. A large addition has been made to the Public Works staff of the locality,—the very best officers being selected and taken from other duties. While the people who come to the works in Mudhoobunnee are so numerous, they are not at all so reduced as some of those who come to Durbhunga from the neighbourhood of Bahera, but are generally still strong and healthy, cases of great want and emaciation being very exceptional indeed. It appears that while the population now in the northern tracts of the sub-division are comparatively well off, the whole of the poorer population of those tracts have left their homes and flocked, together with those of the southern portion, to the network of roads near Mudhoobunnee, so that some 130,000 are collected in a small circumference. Mr. Metcalfe found some of them who were in perfectly good condition, but who had tasted of the lax state of things, inevitable when a few among them were in great want, were somewhat inclined to resist any strict counting and due apportionment of work. But he has brought them to order, and done all that can be done meantime. When the Public Works staff is complete, as it will be immediately, and the able-bodied are put on great works under proper discipline, while the weaker are provided for in their own villages, it is hoped that things will settle down into good shape.

Latest intelligence from the spot.

13. Having made immediate arrangements for Mudhoobunnee, Mr. Metcalfe has returned to the Durbhunga sub-division, where he reports that the southern relief circles are now working well and in good order, while the other circles are also being put in good order. Mr. Metcalfe telegraphs on the 31st March thus:—"In a ride " from Bahera through the worst parts, and in a circuit of twenty miles, I did not " find a person without a ticket for relief or uncared for." In a letter just received, Mr. Metcalfe says:—" Lists of all persons on charity have been made out, and as " far as I can judge most honestly, by the village Putwarries. Grain has been " placed in the hands of the Jeyt ryots, and in the scores of villages where I went, " the most wretched are being fed at their homes by their headmen. We have also " hit off a solution of the labour difficulty, *viz.*, that the weak and incapable have " been formed into small gangs, and each gang is required to do the same amount " as one able-bodied man. The villagers have taken to this piece-work arrange- " ment, and it will save Government much loss from cheating. I am working " almost entirely through local men, with here and there an exception. The " Bahera road is still the difficulty. Many of the villagers have returned to their " homes, of the others some are going; others adhere to the earth-work on the " roads. The gangs have been organised into numbers of 1,200, and several gangs " placed under a Jemadar of one of the Cavalry Regiments, and this arrangement " enables us to count the men with little or no difficulty. There is a great " improvement in the appearance of the classes, and I can see nowhere famished " persons who are not in some way receiving charitable relief. As regards food " the villagers now have no fear; water is their chief anxiety. I see but little " water in the wells. The tanks are dry save the very largest, and unless we have

" rain there will be a great scarcity of water. Your instructions regarding relief " in the town through native residents have been carried out."

The Lieutenant-Governor trusts he may believe that the difficulties in Durbhunga and Mudhoobunnee have been met, and that we are now well ahead of the famine there as elsewhere. Already upwards of 12,000 persons are returned as receiving charitable relief in the Durbhunga sub-division.

Mrs. Metcalfe has taken charge of the poor people and orphans in a large enclosure fitted up for them at Durbhunga, and most of these poor people are said to be getting quite fat.

In Seetamurhee things continue to be more favourably situated, and the numbers on our hands are not excessive, about 40,000 in all.

In the three northern sub-divisions, Mr. Metcalfe states that the whole number on the works, or otherwise receiving relief, is about 400,000, and he hopes that we have reached nearly the maximum that we may expect on our hands in that part of the country. It seems hardly possible that the number in Mudhoobunnee can be very greatly increased (one-third of the population are already on the roads), but it is impossible to be confident that in other sub-divisions the number may not much increase. In tracts where the spring harvest now occupies the people, we must expect, not improbably, a large addition to the number on the works between the completion of the harvest and the commencement of the rains.

The Tirhoot narrative (enclosure No. 3)* speaks as if general distress might be imminent in parts of the head-quarter sub-division of Tirhoot. A subsequent letter, however, from the Magistrate of the district, written after visiting the villages named in the narrative, says that the description there given was "exaggerated, and no extreme distress is apparent or expected."

* Page 86.

Orders issued by the Lieutenant-Governor on Tirhoot affairs.

14. The Lieutenant-Governor issued various orders in brief form during his visit to Tirhoot. Since his return to Calcutta he has embodied these in a Note, setting forth the order which he gave and the views which he formed during his visit. This Note is attached (Appendix C.),† and to it the Lieutenant-Governor begs to refer for an explanation of his proceedings and the measures which he has adopted.

† Page 27.

Sir Richard Temple's tour.

15. At paragraph 17 of the last narrative it was mentioned that Sir Richard Temple had visited the Purneah and Dinagepore districts, and his report on Purneah was then submitted, as also his estimate of the grain requirements of Dinagepore. His final Minute No. 50 regarding Dinagepore was not received till after the despatch of the last narrative. It is now appended (Appendix D.).‡ The Lieutenant-Governor is happy to find that Sir Richard Temple's report, after inspecting the local arrangements, is altogether favourable, and justifies the belief that the arrangements, both to transport the grain and to give relief wherever it may appear, are very good and satisfactory. Sir Richard Temple has done all that was necessary to complete and systematise these arrangements, both for the Dinagepore district and for the Rajshahye Division generally. In company with the Relief Commissioner and the local officers, he marched through the districts of Rungpore and Bogra; he again visited Dinagepore; he has been to Maldah; and, before concluding his review of affairs in the Rajshahye Division, he conferred with the Commissioner, Mr. Molony, at Rajmehal. His minutes regarding Rungpore, Bogra, and Maldah, and the Rajshahye Division generally, Nos. 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, and 52,* with his second letter on the subject, and the Government orders issued thereupon, will be found in Appendix E.§ Sir Richard recommended some additions to the grain allotments of these districts, but it may be said that in regard to the Rajshahye Division as a whole, his reports are very favourable and creditable to the Commissioner and Additional Commissioner, to Mr. Lowis, Magistrate of Dinagepore, and to the local officers generally. It is matter for congratulation that Sir Richard was able to express himself as thoroughly satisfied with the conduct of the Rajshahye officers and with the forwardness of their preparations.

‡ Page 41.

* See Part III., p. 185.

§ Pages 43 to 49.

Sir Richard Temple, after meeting the Lieutenant-Governor at Patna and visiting Allahabad to arrange further about reserve carriage, conferred with the Commissioner and the Magistrates of Shahabad and Gya, and settled the allotment of grain for those districts. On his way down he again visited Bhagulpore and settled the grain allotment for the Sonthal Pergunnahs and Monghyr. Sir Richard Temple's Minutes on these subjects, and also those regarding the organization of a reserve transport train, will be found in Appendices F. and G.*

* Pages 58 to 65.

It will have been seen from previous narratives that the Lieutenant-Governor has warmly acknowledged the good service which Sir R. Temple has done for the Government of Bengal by visiting the distressed districts, by conferring with local officers of all grades, by ascertaining what was required, by informing the Local Government, by giving the necessary orders, and by seeing that both his orders and those of Government were obeyed. Sir George Campbell would again repeat his most cordial acknowledgments of Sir Richard Temple's services.

Transport arrangements.

16. Sir Richard Temple has now submitted minutes clearly summarising the present transport and relief arrangements in the three distressed divisions, Patna, Bhagulpore, and Rajshahye. These will be separately submitted to the Government of India, with a note showing the whole of the allotments of grain, and giving a general review of the transport arrangements and their working. Here it will suffice to say that the total allotment of grain to the distressed districts amount up to date to 381,819 tons. It only remains to consider whether any further allotments must be made to the western districts of the Burdwan and Chota Nagpore Divisions, but it is not expected that the demands for these districts will be very large. The distressed parts of Chota Nagpore are those which are most accessible, and Burdwan is very accessible. Seeing how favourably the season promises so far, the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that with these large allotments, and a certain reserve in case of surprise in any quarter, a very ample provision has been made.

The carriage arrangements are now, as a whole, working very well indeed, and there is every prospect that the full quantities allotted will be conveyed to and stored in the distressed districts in very good time. It was at one time feared that the local carriage would scarcely keep pace with the supply sent up by the railway. Now the difficulty is the other way, *i.e.*, we can hardly send by railway enough to supply the local carriage. It is hoped, however, that arrangements now made will suffice to get up the whole supply in time. The only serious difficulty is in regard to the supply of North-Eastern Tirhoot, to which so much as 32 lakhs of maunds, or 117,000 tons, have been allotted, and where the carriage has, so far, fallen short of our expectations. But the Durbungah Railway is progressing admirably, and most opportunely comes to aid us in carrying grain to Durbungah, to which a temporary line of rail will be open this month. The Government is now sanguine that if the traffic lines are not interrupted before 15th June the supply for Tirhoot will be completed by that time. If the rains come in prematurely the distress will, it may be hoped, be so much curtailed, and the water routes will be opened. The latest figures and facts regarding grain transport seem to make it certain that if no very unforseen mischance occur the allotments to all the other districts will be stored some time before the dates mentioned for the completion of the Tirhoot allotment, many of them long before. Only a portion of the additional allotment lately made to the Rajshahye Division may be stored in the waterside depôts for distribution when the rains clear the channels.

† Pages 72 and 73.

At Appendix I.† will be found copies of the Lieutenant-Governor's instructions to Commissioners regarding the distribution of grain during the rains, and his orders, deputing a special officer, Mr. Wickes, C.E., to enquire into the best means of utilising the water-ways of the distressed districts from the 1st July.

‡ Page 68.

The transport arrangements of Purneah and North Bhagulpore have been organised by Mr. Hankey with remarkable ability and success, and are working exceedingly well. In Appendix H.‡ will be found two reports showing what Mr. Hankey has done.

Despatches of Government grain.

17. The despatches of Government grain from Calcutta to the famine districts amounted (see Appendix B.) during the fortnight under review to 10,80,936 maunds (38,705 tons). The total despatches of Government grain to and receipts in the distressed districts up to the 31st March amount to 209,913 tons, out of which 131,765 tons

had reached their final destination up to the date of the latest returns. The daily despatches by the East Indian Railway fell, owing to the insufficiency of railway waggons, as low as 1,437 tons and 1,185 tons during the beginning of the fortnight. In consequence of these short despatches inconvenience was caused at the Purneah and North Bhagulpore river-side depôts, where a powerful stream of carts had been arranged, and where the reserves of grain were very soon exhausted. Since the 26th March, however, the average rate of despatches has been kept as high as 2,479 tons per day, a quantity very little below the maximum which the Government of India desires should be sent daily. The Railway Company have allotted a sufficient number of waggons to work the Government grain traffic only; these waggons, if unloaded promptly at the Behar stations, will come back empty, and thus maintain a constant steady traffic of Government grain. The East Indian Railway have also promised to give the Government grain at Howrah priority of despatch over ordinary goods; the ground for such a concession is that a regular stream of Government grain to Behar is necessary to enable the Government to transport its full allotment into the interior before the rainy season, and to be in a position to save the lives of the people who may be expected to be on its hands. The Lieutenant-Governor only trusts that these arrangements will not interfere with the despatch of private grain, remembering as he does that after all that Government has done for the worst districts there still remain many districts where there has been much failure of crops which must greatly rely on private importation.

The Eastern Bengal Railway has been able to send away daily to Kooshtea and Goalundo all the grain which the Government required to send; the average despatches by that line during the fortnight have been somewhat over 1,000 tons per day.

Relief works.

18. The fortnightly returns of persons employed on relief works under officers of the Public Works Department will be found at enclosure No. 10. But this return does not always show the numbers employed on works under the Court of Wards or on works under local agency of many kinds. As has been already said, the number of people employed, or perhaps, more strictly, relieved, on the works in North Tirhoot has increased enormously. Compared with the figures given in last narrative (paragraph 28) the figures stand thus, and even the figures given had been somewhat exceeded by the last accounts:—

	Last fortnight.	Fortnight under report.
Patna Division - - -	234,249	539,353
Soane Canal works - -	29,589	31,289
Gunduk embankments - -	25,615	28,834
Bhagulpore Division (inclusive of Kurruckpore works) - -	22,800	51,430
Rajshahye Division - -	54,832	82,586
Burdwan Division, Nuddea, Chota Nagpore, and Cooch Behar -	19,219	22,000
Northern Bengal Railway - -	7,000	12,000
Total - -	393,304	767,492

It will be seen that the numbers employed have increased considerably in other parts of the country besides Tirhoot. In regard to the management of these enormous numbers of workpeople, the utilization of their labour, and in regard to their punctual payment, the Lieutenant-Governor would invite attention to paragraphs 11–24 of his Note on Tirhoot affairs (Appendix C.). Effort has been made, and will still be made, to disperse them to their homes as soon as possible, and to relieve them there. Meanwhile, every nerve is strained to supply professional supervision of all grades, to send up competent clerks of works, to educe local agency for supervision, and to manage the pay-disbursement business to the best interests both of the Government and of the workpeople. Since the last narrative was submitted four additional Engineer Officers, and as many as forty additional subordinates, have been ordered to, or have arrived in, the famine districts. Major Trevor, R.E., has been deputed as Additional Chief Engineer to inspect, direct, and advise upon relief works, in concert with local engineers and civil officers, with instructions, for which see Appendix K.*

* Page 74.

19. In the Mudhoobunnee Division, where nearly a quarter of a million were on the works by last accounts, the present relief works can hardly last more than four weeks, for the people seem to dislike tank work and to rush upon the road works. In this direction the Railway Engineers were already prospecting for the best alignment for a North Behar Railway, to run from Durbhunga eastwards; and the Government of India, in view of the enormous quantity of available labour, has been pleased to sanction the Engineers' beginning the railway on the best line which they can, in communication with the local civil officers, finally agree upon. If the survey or reconnoisance is far enough advanced to make such beginning practicable, very excellent and useful work will have been provided for the famine-stricken labourers of Mudhoobunnee. Happily, Mr. Stevens, the Superintending Engineer of the Durbhunga Raj property, knows the country well, and has surveyed most of it for the roads now under construction. The selection of a line for a railway in a hurry will therefore be less hazardous than it might otherwise be in a country where the maps are nearly thirty years old.

North Behar Railway works.

20. The average daily number of labourers on the Soane Canal works has risen during the fortnight to 31,282, as compared with 29,589, as shown in last narrative. The Executive Engineers report that, at the present season, they cannot procure as many local labourers as they require, inasmuch as people can earn from 3½ to 4 annas day in harvesting. People on the works consume, for the most, the cheaper grains, which they buy locally. Coarse rice can be had from local dealers on the works at 12 seers per rupee. At one place only was there a demand for Government grain, and there one bag of Burmah rice was issued and was taken readily. The number of workpeople on the Gunduk Embankments has risen to 28,834, as against 25,615 shown in the last narrative. Most of the people are doing petty task-work; they draw their supplies of maize mainly from the local markets. The people are strong and able to work; only a few come to the works in a reduced state, and receive gratuitous relief for a time from the Engineers.

Irrigation Department relief works.

21. The numbers of workpeople on the Northern Bengal Railway are increasing; about the 15th March there were 9,000 labourers on the railway bank, besides about 3,000 on the feeder roads. The earth-work completed was equal to a bank 24 miles long and 4 feet high. On the southern section, where the bank is heaviest, but few labourers had yet applied for work, but they were beginning to come in larger numbers. The Engineer-in-Chief is very anxious to complete the railway bank from Julpigoree down to the Ganges this season, and he is arranging to import labourers from other distressed districts. The Magistrate of Bogra also has been instructed to send over for work upon the railway any distressed people of his district who may be willing to take work away from their homes.

Northern Bengal Railway.

22. The railway from Chumpta Ghat, on the Ganges, to Durbhunga is not exactly a relief work, but it was undertaken, and is being rapidly pressed through, in order to carry grain into the most distressed tracts of North Tirhoot. The length of the line at present sanctioned from the Ganges to Durbhunga is 44 miles; on 28½ miles of this length the rails had been laid, and the principal bridge was expected to be completed at once. The Engineer-in-Chief expected to lay two miles of rails a day, to complete the remaining bridges, and to be able to run an engine into Durbhunga by the middle of April. From the 1st of the present month the railway was to carry a certain amount of grain daily as far as Nagurbustee, two-thirds of the distance from the Ganges to Durbhunga, and soon after the 15th the railway will, it is expected, carry 800 tons of grain daily into Durbhunga. The Government of India has provided that rolling stock shall be ready on the new line in sufficient quantity to carry 800 tons a day, and arrangements are in train for unloading the wagons at stations and starting it off to the depôts on carts.

Durbhunga Railway.

23. It has been explained in previous narratives that, in order to carry out the relief system contemplated by the "instructions" issued by the Government of India, the larger sub-divisions have been subdivided, and each relief sub-division is parcelled out into circles. Over each circle is

Charitable relief.

placed a competent officer who has to direct and control charitable relief at each village of his circle. The circle officer is aided by one, two, or more assistants. Attached to each circle is a famine hospital and a native doctor; and it is the duty of the circle officer and his assistant to visit every village in the circle at least once a week, to prepare lists of the people who require relief in every village, and to see that relief is given in one form or another to every person who requires it. The worst districts, Tirhoot, Chumparun, Dinagepore, Maldah, and Rungpore; and parts of Bhagulpore, Purneah, and Monghyr, have been thus parcelled out into circles; and every circle in each of these districts is manned, and the relief system has been thoroughly and systematically begun. Below the circle officers are employed the indigenous village agency of village headmen, village accountants, and village police, as explained in the Lieutenant-Governor's Note (Appendix C., paragraphs 2–7.*) As has been stated in a previous paragraph (13), the Additional Commissioner of North Behar, writing from the worst part of Durbhunga, says that in a circuit of twenty miles he did not find a person unrelieved or uncared for. Mr. Howe's account (see the last paper in enclosure No. 3†) of the relief arrangements in North Chumparun shows that throughout Ramnuggur the administration of charitable relief in the relief circles is now in good working order, and the people are kept from starving.

* Page 27.

Numbers in receipt of charitable relief.

24. The numbers of people in receipt of daily charitable relief in one form or another are, according to the latest information,—

Name of District.	Name of Sub-division.	Numbers receiving Relief.
Chumparun	Bettiah	4,350
	Ramnuggur	1,400
	Head-quarters	333
Tirhoot	Durbhunga	12,082
	Seetamurhee	5,221
	Mudhoobunnee	570
	Head-quarters	265
Sarun	-	36
Gya	-	192
Shahabad	-	13
Bhagulpore	Soopool	1,300
	Muddehpoora	-
Monghyr	-	1,603
Purneah	-	2,554 (besides 1,500 privately relieved).
Maldah	-	240
Bogra	-	660
Rungpore	-	4,000
Dinagepore	-	458
	Total	35,345

Sales of Government grain.

25. In North Chumparun, Dinagepore, and parts of Purneah only has Government grain been sold to the public to any considerable extent. To the people on the works the grain has been sold in Tirhoot and also in parts of Bhagulpore. From Ramnuggur, in North Chumparun, only have full accounts of these sales and their results been received. Mr. Howe, the Sub-Divisional Officer, writes thus:—"Since the 12th March " sales of Government grain to the public have commenced, and by " the 21st, the date up to which this report extends, 365 maunds, 25 seers, " 12 chittacks had been disposed of, and Rs. 1,269-10 realized. The precautions " taken to prevent its getting into the hands of monopolists were these: 1st, the " rice was sold in small quantities, the smallest that could be considered whole- " sale, generally 3 bags, and to as many petty traders as possible. A few of the " more substantial dealers, four in number, received 7 bags (about 14 maunds " each). A proclamation was issued several times (especially on market days) " informing the public that Government rice would be retailed by certain dealers " at 11½ seers per rupee, and every opportunity of making this widely known was " taken. I also took an agreement from each dealer in writing to the effect that " he should only sell retail in the town of and at the bazars round Ramnuggur at " 11½ seers per rupee, and in not larger quantities than 5 seers to any one person.

"A few also agreed to retail on our roads around Ramnuggur to our coolies. "Finally, I took the greatest care, through my establishment and in person, to "watch the working of the measure and prevent abuses. I feel convinced that "the grain thus sold has circulated freely among the people in the manner "intended by Government. Every shop where Government rice is sold is sur-"rounded by eager purchasers, and no measure we have taken (not even the "advances to ryots, which was very popular) has tended so completely to restore "the confidence of the people. Villagers from 8 to 10 miles come in on bazar "days and the rice is rapidly sold."' Sales conducted after this fashion through the local dealers will, it is hoped, not restrain trade or prevent such private importations as may be coming in. In the Lieutenant-Governor's Note (Appendix C.*) it is sufficiently explained that private trade was active and private supplies were tolerably abundant even in the worst parts of Tirhoot.

* Page 39.

Advances to ryots.

26. In the Chumparun and Purneah districts advances of money and grain to substantial ryots have been begun. In Sarun, Tirhoot, Rungpore, Maldah, Bhagulpore, and Monghyr very considerable sums have been advanced to zemindars in order that they may help their ryots. The advances of grain made direct to ryots have been made by the relief circle officers on the security of the ryot's holding or other security. At paragraphs 41–46 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Note on Tirhoot affairs (Appendix C.†) the subject of advances to ryots is discussed, and it is pointed out that there are considerable classes of ryots who will not work on roads, and who yet will require advances of grain to carry them through the coming season. Sir George Campbell has desired all officers to make advances to ryots as far as possible on the security of zemindars, middlemen, or head ryots; and, looking to the very great importance of this advance question, he has suggested that villages in the worst tracts be classified according to the manner in which it will be necessary to make advances to ryots. Now that the Relief Circle Agency is getting into full working order, the Lieutenant-Governor has good hope that this business of advancing grain to ryots on the best available security will be properly dealt with during the next two months.

† Page 36.

Medical staff for the famine districts.

27. During his recent tour Sir Richard Temple had recommended that application be made to the Madras and Bombay Governments for twenty additional native doctors to help in the medical relief required in the famine districts. The orders of the Bengal Government on that Minute show that, up to the present date, 102 native doctors have been indented for on behalf of the famine districts; and the Surgeon-General has made available 105 native doctors for the duty from the Bengal Presidency. Out of this number from 50 to 70 native doctors had reached the famine districts before the end of March, and the rest were on their way. Sufficient stocks of medicines and other necessaries packed in small boxes have been sent to each famine district, so that the Relief Circle hospitals may be found with all fitting drugs and appliances. In case further indents should be made for medical aid, the offer of the Government of India to send for additional native doctors from Madras and Bombay has been accepted. For the supervision of the relief hospitals an additional European medical officer has been sent to each of the sub-divisions in North Tirhoot, and another for North Chumparun. Preparations are thus being made to meet and relieve disease among the famine-stricken people. Up to the present date there has most providentially been no epidemic among the people on the relief works, or at the chief grain routes, or at the great depôts. There was a little cholera at one time on the grain route to Ghoraghat in Dinagepore through Bogra; but it lasted only for a few days and has disappeared. Diarrhœa is said to be prevalent among the people on one length of the Chumparun embankment. If immunity from epidemic continues among the enormous crowds on the relief works till they are dispersed it will be a very great blessing.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 2nd April 1874.

APPENDIX A. to FOURTEENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE of the DROUGHT of 1873-74 in BENGAL from 20th March to 2nd April 1874.

APPENDIX A.

MOVEMENT OF FOOD-GRAINS.

IN Schedule A. below is the return drawn up by the Collector of Customs, Calcutta, in the form recently laid down by the Government of India, showing the export of food-grains to places beyond Bengal from all ports in the Bengal Presidency from 1st October up to the end of February. The total export is shown to have been—

173,161 tons, and of this
117,860 tons were exported from Calcutta,
43,473 „ „ Chittagong, and
11,828 „ „ Orissa.

The returns for March are not yet to hand, but a statement in the same form has been received for the first fifteen days of March, which shows the export for all Bengal for that period to be 8,561 tons:—

i.e. From Calcutta - - - - - - -	2,538
„ Chittagong - - - - - -	2,354
„ Orissa - - - - - - - -	3,669

According to the returns and telegrams submitted to this Government by the Collectors of Customs the export for the whole month of March has been as follows:—

From Calcutta - - - - - -	7,757 tons.
„ Chittagong - - - - - - -	4,285 „
„ Orissa - - - - - -	4,466 „
Total - -	16,508 „

According to this the total export of food-grains beyond Bengal for the six months ending 31st March was 189,669 tons, and from 1st November to 31st March 172,156 tons.

The imports of food-grains to Calcutta from the 1st October to the end of February were returned at 27,01,781 maunds, or 99,330 tons, of which 1,00,521 maunds, or 3,695 tons, were on private account. The imports during March were 99,540 tons, of which 1,339 tons were on private account. The total imports to the end of March is therefore shown to be 198,870 tons, of which 5,034 tons only were on private account.

2. From the 8th to 28th March 49,421 tons of food-grains have been sent into Behar from stations below Rajmehal and Jamui, making 233,148 tons since the 1st October that have gone up, including Government grain. From the 8th to 28th March 25,610 tons have entered Behar from the North-Western Provinces, making 117,468 tons since 1st November.

3. The importation of food-grains to Calcutta by the Eastern Canals has been from 18th to 31st March 10,014 tons, making 171,833 tons since the 1st October.

4. The private traffic registered at the river stations during the fortnight ending 28th March has been:—

Station.	Direction.	Quantity in Tons.
Sahebgunge - -	Up the Ganges - -	3,540
Ditto - - -	Down „ „ - - -	438
Goalundo - -	Up „ „ - -	1,049
Kooshtea - -	Down „ Gorai - - -	1,380

A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 1st April 1874.

SCHEDULE A.

Statement showing the quantity of Rice (distinguishing table and other kinds), Paddy, Wheat, Gram, and other Food-grains exported from the Presidency of Bengal in the five months from 1st October to 28th February in each of the official years 1872–73 and 1873–74.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1872–73.									1873–74.								
WHITHER EXPORTED.	RICE.		Paddy.	Total of Rice and Paddy.	OTHER FOOD-GRAINS.				Grand Total of all Food-grains, Columns 5 and 9.	RICE.		Paddy.	Total of Rice and Paddy.	OTHER FOOD-GRAINS.				Grand Total of all Food-grains, Columns 5 and 9.
	Table.	Other kinds.			Wheat.	Gram.	Other kinds.	Total.		Table.	Other kinds.			Wheat.	Gram.	Other kinds.	Total.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1. To Ceylon - - - - -	38	42,983	1,246	44,267	16	669	179	864	45,131	22	31,028	1,538	32,588	—	507	941	1,448	34,036
2. Mauritius, Bourbon, and West India Islands.	1,040	56,692	—	57,732	141	1,077	1,691	2,909	60,641	1,236	42,045	—	43,281	1,419	1,948	2,931	6,298	49,579
3. To other Foreign Countries - -	12,685	64,105	24	76,814	823	142	83	1,048	77,862	22,964	27,982	1	50,947	9,116	241	111	9,468	60,415
4. Total to Foreign Countries - - -	13,763	163,780	1,270	178,813	980	1,888	1,953	4,821	183,634	24,222	101,055	1,539	126,816	10,535	2,696	3,983	17,214	144,030
5. To other Presidencies (beyond Bengal)	11,419	44,612	6,774	62,805	566	1,128	1,767	3,461	66,266	1,048	16,876	5,656	23,580	638	929	3,984	5,551	29,131
Grand Total -	25,182	208,392	8,044	241,618	1,546	3,016	3,720	8,282	249,900	25,270	117,931	7,195	150,396	11,173	3,625	7,967	22,765	173,161

NOTE.—The figures for table rice represent those for the Port of Calcutta only, as those for the minor ports cannot be distinguished.

Calcutta Custom House,
The 21st March 1874.

J. A. CRAWFORD,
Collector of Customs.

APPENDIX C. to FOURTEENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE of the DROUGHT of 1873–74 in BENGAL from 20th March to 2nd April 1874.

No. 1988—S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

Calcutta, dated 1st April 1874.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 998, dated the 21st March 1874, conveying the observations and orders of the Government of India on the thirteenth Special Narrative of the drought and scarcity in Behar and parts of Bengal.

2. In reply, I am to convey an expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's satisfaction that the Government of India should think His Honour's active measures in Tirhoot useful.

3. I am to submit a copy of a Note, in which the Lieutenant-Governor gives a summary of the views which he formed and the orders which he issued during that visit.

4. This Note, I am to observe, will explain some of the causes to which are due the difficulty which was experienced in keeping pace with the approach of famine in Tirhoot, the enormous size and population of that district, and the extreme deficiency of its executive machinery as compared with the population, the character of that population, the want of an educated native middle class, the nature of the holdings, and the difficulty experienced by officers unaccustomed to such a crisis in obtaining adequate aid from the native proprietors and others whose duty it is to assist the people.

5. The Government of India is also aware of some inevitable circumstances which contributed to render the arrangements of the Tirhoot district more backward in proportion than those of some other districts of the Patna Division, while the strain upon it has been much greater.

6. This is, the Lieutenant-Governor at least thinks he may say, matter of congratulation, that in all the other districts of the Patna Division, and of these provinces generally without exception, the preparations have kept pace with the famine, and although in limited parts of Tirhoot famine has to some extent gained on the preparations to meet it, the Lieutenant-Governor is still sanguine that it has been stayed; and he believes that if we have succeeded in meeting the great wave of necessity that is now rising so high in that part of the country the result will be very creditable to the Tirhoot officers.

7. With reference to your 5th paragraph, I am directed to refer to paragraphs 40 to 47 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Note, which deals with the phase of the subject to which you refer. The local officers are also asked carefully to consider the question of employing or disposing of the people who may remain on their hands during the rains. I am desired to append copy of a letter No. 33 T., dated the 16th March 1874, issued by the Lieutenant-Governor during his visit to Tirhoot, and to refer to paragraph 56 of the enclosed Note, also to the annexed copy of instructions given to Mr. Wickes, C.E., an officer who has had much experience of Bengal rivers.

No. 1800 A., dated 30th March 1874; copy annexed.

8. With reference to your paragraph 7, I am to refer to the letter noted on the margin, applying for the services of Major Trevor, and to paragraph 23 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Note, and to enclose a copy of the instructions dated 31st March 1874, given to Major Trevor, who left Calcutta for Tirhoot yesterday evening.

9. With reference to your 8th paragraph, I am to solicit a reference to paragraph 47 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Note; and regarding your 9th paragraph, I am to refer to paragraphs 38 and 39 of the same Note.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

NOTE of the RESULT of the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S VISIT to TIRHOOT.

SINCE I have visited the country about Durbhunga where distress has first assumed a severe type, have discussed matters thoroughly with the local officers, and have instructed them both verbally and by rough notes, I think it well to summarise the views which I have formed and the instructions which I have given on this occasion. In case, unhappily, distress should at any time gain on us in other quarters we must profit by the experience of the places where it has first appeared.

Distress cannot be met without using indigenous and voluntary agency.

2. It is unnecessary to repeat the advantage of being prepared in time, and meeting the influx of distress in such a way as to avoid confusion and abuse when it comes on us with a rush. I trust that this is everywhere felt, and that, whether serious distress already exists or not, no officers of districts where it may be reasonably apprehended are wanting in zealous preparations. But I am farther much impressed, by what I have seen in Durbhunga, with this, that distress on a large scale may, and often or generally does, come at last somewhat suddenly, and that the Government organization which we can supply will not suffice to meet it in this state unless we also avail ourselves to the utmost of all the indigenous and voluntary agency which the country affords. Our executive machinery is still very deficient in these provinces, the beginning of such machinery which has been recently made being quite unequal

to bear in its very infancy the strain of a great crisis such as this which has arrived. The assistance which we obtain from other provinces is not in a moment adapted to a country and a system entirely different. Our anxieties have been spread over so wide a surface that it has not been possible to concentrate all our power on the points where the worst distress has actually occurred till the facts have solved all doubt. Moreover, there is this special difficulty, that we have the smallest machinery in the tracts inhabited by a quiet, poor, long-suffering race who give little trouble in ordinary times. North Behar is probably the most under-governed country in India; one young man as sub-divisional officer has there ruled and judged a population which would elsewhere have been provided with a full district machinery. (Of the Durbhunga Sub-division, for instance, the population is 867,409.) Yet here is the very population which comes on us in a body in the most helpless state. I am not surprised, then, that in such a sub-division as Durbhunga, notwithstanding the official aid which we have sent, there should have been some failure to meet the rush of the famine when reliance was placed too exclusivsly on official agency, and there was delay in attempting to work roughly with indigenous agency till the Government agency should be complete. I must strongly impress on all officers that whenever and however distress may come upon them, and to whatever extent they may and do properly apply for Government aid, they must not omit to do the very utmost that is possible by the means which their districts afford.

3. It has been already arranged to portion each sub-division into relief circles under competent Government officers; what is most wanting is inferior machinery reaching down to each village.

Village agency required.

It is certainly true that indigenous agency of one kind is very much wanting in North Behar. The active and intelligent middle class found in many districts of Bengal is scarce. Many zemindars have been too much in the habit of letting their villages to mere rent-farmers, and there is often difficulty in getting efficient aid from either zemindars or farmers. But on the other hand, when we go lower down, there is more of the old village machinery than in Bengal. Almost every village has its headman or jeyt ryot, and putwari, and there are a good many—Brahmins, Mahomedans, and others—who have a certain amount of native education. The census of Behar was almost entirely taken, and well taken, by the putwaris and headmen, and it seems to me that the machinery which could take the general census may well be used to census the poverty-stricken in each village, make lists of them, keep relief accounts, and work the village system of relief which the Government desires to adopt.

Headmen and putwaris.

Zemindars and their agents, and European planters.

4. The utmost use must be made of the zemindars and their agents and dependents. Every possible pressure must be put on those who are at all backward to induce and compel them to do their duty. In North Behar we have the very great advantage of the assistance of a very active and energetic body of European indigo planters. The aid which they have most willingly given has been almost everywhere fully used, and should be so everywhere.

Local committees and individual members of such should undertake specific duties.

5. The orders for local committees must be carried out in good faith. It may be true, as some officers assert, that committees are sometimes a sham; but either acting in committee or, still more, acting separately as individuals, every good resident should be utilised. The best way of beginning is to bring them together in committees, to portion off duties, and let it be settled in the presence of the body of the committee that each man capable of aiding is to undertake some specific function in a specific place or in a specific area.

Superintendents of groups of villages.

6. A very good plan had been formed of appointing to the charge of groups of villages paid superintendents, selected from the people of the country; the only drawback was the delay in effecting this, pending the completion of a large superior establishment for which European officers were thought to be indispensable. In Mudhubunnee and Hattee about Rs. 15 per mensem or less was allowed to these group superintendents. The Durbhunga plan which was circulated contemplated a uniform rate of Rs. 30 per mensem. I do not know that paying high and uniformly secures efficiency, and sometimes volunteers will do the work better than paid men. I would allow a discretion in regard to pay according to the circumstances and the class of people obtainable in each locality; but, subject to this caution, I entirely approve of carrying out the system of group superintendents. I trust it has now been nearly completed in North Tirhoot.

Village organization.

7. But beyond this, the point on which I have most dwelt is that we must not stop short with the group superintendents, paid or unpaid. We must have a proper organization in each village. The moment we go beyond the stage of great public works it is totally impossible to deal with the people in detail unless we have them localised and individualised, village by village and name by name. We cannot send them away from the roads till the village machinery is ready to receive them; we cannot distinguish people receiving relief by labour, charitable relief, and relief by advances, or prevent the same persons from receiving relief in different shapes till we have all those receiving relief registered, name by name, according to their villages, by some person who knows them, and who can be made responsible for their coming and going. Above all, it will be totally impossible to deal with the people on our hands and wean them eventually from dependence on Government unless we have an individual knowledge of them in their villages. I have occupied myself then in impressing on the local officers the necessity of carrying out a village organization. This should be done as much as possible through the zemindars. No man in the position of a landholder should be absolved from his duties and responsibilities if it be possible to obtain assistance from him. Finally, the headmen and putwari must be utilised in each village. They will keep a nominal roll of all persons in the village receiving relief either on works or gratuitously. Through them the village management may be conducted, and they will be responsible to check abuses. Small rewards according to work done may be promised and given to such headmen and putwaris. I authorise the Commissioner to arrange details of their remuneration.

Sirdars and mates of labourers.

8. It is generally desirable to allow the labourers to choose their own headmen, through whom they are paid, and through whom they deal with Government officers.

The circle officers may, however, both make use of and give relief to a certain number of persons unaccustomed to manual labour by appointing them to be petty overseers of charitable relief, watchmen over the grain stores, and so on.

Utilization of local police.

9. All the local police are to be subordinate to the circle officers for relief purposes, and may be utilized freely.

Famine of money and famine of food. Effect of the former.

10. The above arrangements are best carried out before severe distress has actually come on us; but in Durbhunga (partly on account of insufficient action in the direction above indicated) and in Madhubunnee we have experience of another and farther phase of the subject, viz., that in which very large numbers of people come on our hands for relief in great masses congregated together. I myself saw vast assemblages of this kind near Durbhunga, and by the last accounts still greater numbers were on relief works in the Madhubunnee sub-division, though not so much reduced in condition as the Durbhunga people. It may be said that famines are of two kinds, or at least there are two stages of famine—famine of money or labour famine, and famine of food-supply. It may, in rare cases of isolated districts, happen, as it did in Orissa, that the two stages become one, or that the famine is from the beginning an absolute deficiency of food-supply, the case being, as was stated in regard to Orissa, like that of a ship at sea which is suddenly found to be short of provisions. But with rare exceptions a money or labour famine precedes a food-famine, that is, food is to be had for money but it is dear, and the poorer classes, being thrown out of work, have no money to buy it. Very often the famine never goes beyond this stage; it has almost always been so in the North-Western Provinces, where there are abundant means of communication. Some of our stricken districts being very isolated we have feared and guarded against a food famine. But so far this has not come upon us. I have seen that even in North Tirhoot the bazars are still supplied; an active private import (by driblets in bullock-loads) is still going on, and food though dear has not reached what can be called extreme famine prices. Notwithstanding, however, the existence of supplies in the bazars[*] up to date, there is certainly what we must consider wide-spread famine; in some limited tracts some people have suffered from want of food before coming to our relief works, and in very considerable tracts the people have come to the relief works with a rush in very large numbers. Although these simple people very much follow one another like a flock of sheep, they are at first slow to move; and, even when they have not actually starved, I do think that when they very suddenly come to us in this unusual way in very large numbers it is a sure indication that what must be called famine is on them, that is, that they have reached the point when they would starve if not relieved.

Provision of work.

11. The first mode of relief for the Government to undertake is clearly (and this has always been recognised) giving work to the poorer classes who are without work and without means. The better classes who do not work on the roads generally do not starve till a later stage; they have some credit if not some property. While the producing and wages-earning classes maintain themselves, most of those dependent on them, even the beggars, are for the most part in some sort maintained also. Rich natives do a good deal in this way, and I saw two or three faqueers living on a gang of relief labourers in Tirhoot. At any rate, the beggars and helpless people who come on mere charity, and are not supported by private liberality, may well be provided for in the early stages of scarcity by the relief committees without a very large Government organisation.

In the present stage then the public works have been our most active care. Under previous instructions a good deal had been done in most districts to prepare plans of such works for emergencies, and more has been done since the present famine threatened. In those districts where the numbers seeking relief are not very excessive, I believe that our preparations have been sufficient; but in some districts where no very large special works are available, and enormous numbers have suddenly come on us, it cannot be said that either the plans of our works or our establishments are sufficient to enable us to obtain full money's worth from the labour of a needy multitude, among whom little organisation is, in the first instance, possible. In fact, there is no denying that in some of these cases our organisation has not been such as to prevent the occurrence of what must be called great abuses, judged by the standard of ordinary times.

Mode of dealing with a sudden rush of population to works.

12. In Behar, at any rate, women and children come on the works quite as readily as men; and it is because the whole family works, or pretends to work, that somewhat low wages with dear food are not incompatible with an almost liberal measure of relief, measured by the fare to which these poor people are accustomed—a very low one. Wherever some of the people have begun to starve, or nearly to starve, it is impossible to refuse work to all applicants, whether really capable of real work or not. The result of the suddenness of the rush upon us in some places, and the necessity of being on the safe side where famine has threatened, has been that we certainly have, and to some extent must still have, great multitudes on our works doing very little real work and very imperfectly supervised. But I have felt that this is better than letting the people starve, and that it must continue till we can sift them out and deal with them in detail: we cannot send them away till this is done. At the same time, I am clear that this cannot continue, and the first work which I have set Mr. Metcalfe (the Additional Commissioner) and the local officers to do is to make arrangements for dispersing these multitudes. Fortunately, the climate at this season is favourable; the people seem not to dislike the assemblages in which they are gathered, and I hope no great harm beyond a somewhat prodigal expenditure of money

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[*] From what I saw of the activity of petty private trade, my impression is that for some time to come the bazars would be supplied in this way if it were not that the pressure on carriage for the transport of Government grain is beginning to interfere very seriously with the means of private traffic. Much complaint is now made that private people cannot obtain carriage, and that the bullocks and donkeys which hitherto supplied the bazars are taken up by the contractors. This is no doubt a great evil, and the local officers should do all that is possible to avoid it.

will result for a short time. But beyond this it must not go. To begin with, although, as I have said, I believe that these sudden rushes indicate real want and rapidly-approaching famine, still, when under pressure of such necessity a lax system is established, and everyone, down to the smallest child, gets paid for the merest pretence of work (with probably a good many abuses besides), the thing becomes too attractive, the whole country tends to come on the works, the numbers threaten to be *absolutely* overwhelming. The people, too, become demoralised; works where real work is exacted are deserted, and many evils follow. If disease or climate do not disperse such multitudes with possible calamitous results, the case might be still more impossible to deal with when the rains and cultivating season approach. It would be very difficult to get back to their homes and to regular labour people accustomed to such a system, while it would be impossible to continue it in the rainy season.

Arrangements for distributing labouring masses.

13. A vast multitude, treated in the gross, through mates and other headmen, cannot be individualised and dealt with according to their position and needs: we cannot deal with them till we know who they are. In all such cases of unmanageable multitudes on the roads the first thing to do is what I have ordered to be done in Durbhunga and Madhubunnee, viz., to sift them out according to their families, villages, and tracts of country; to separate those who wish to do and are capable of doing real work on the large works from those who wish to go home or are not fit for work; to put the former on regular works on a regular system, where good wages are paid but a reasonable tale of work is exacted (less than in ordinary times, but still a fair quantity), and to put the latter either on light work or on charitable relief.

Division of works into two classes.

14. The better to carry out this system I have directed that the works should be divided into two classes; thus—

(1.) Works under Public Works or other competent officers, on which real labour shall be exacted and full wages paid.

(2.) Works under circle officers, on which the labour given is less effective, and for which superior professional supervision is not required. The rates of wages on these would be mere subsistence rates, unless easy piece-work is given for liberal terms.

The large roads now going on under Public Works officers, and other large works, irrigation works and the like, should be put under the first head.

Even on the regular works it is right that, besides the hard work for the able-bodied men, work of a lighter character, but still real, should be provided, so that the families of the labourers and others who wish for regular work should be provided for. This is generally done, and I rely on the Public Works and other officers to arrange it discreetly.

Proper registry of labourers on large works.

15. Although on the regular works we cannot prevent a considerable fluctuation and coming and going, it will be desirable, as much as possible, to note the names and residences of the labourers, and to classify them under fixed and recognised headmen as persons regularly employed and paid. Besides making it much more easy to deal with them and prevent abuses in the present, this will greatly facilitate our operations when we come to send home at the proper season, with a sufficient store, those who have well worked on the roads at the season when there is nothing else to be done.

Mode of payment on large works.

16. The mode of payment to be adopted is a matter of extreme difficulty, regarding which much local latitude must be allowed. Various modes have been tried with varying success. *Primâ facie*, in the case of very poor people, it seems most desirable to pay daily; but when the multitude is very large it is physically impossible to pay, by trustworthy agency, each individual daily—either the labourers are grouped in gangs, and payment made to each gang, or payment is really made to the headmen of large numbers of mates, who distribute to the mates, and the mates to the labourers, in a way which admits of little check. As soon as the people are regularly classified and put into permanen gangs it will not be so difficult to pay each gang daily; and when they have worked some time and are not living quite from hand-to-mouth, it will much facilitate matters if they are found to be well content with payment every two or three days. One great and increasing difficulty about daily payments to each individual labourer is the enormous number of copper pice required. Where these run short it may be permitted to pay in grain; but from all I have seen, I have no doubt that, as long as money can be had, it is far best for all parties to pay in money, and let the labourers buy either from the Government shops or privately as they prefer.

Care should be taken that payment is not made in such a manner as to make it the interest of mates and headmen to tout for and bring together an unnecessary multitude. I fear that when we are oppressed by too great numbers the tendency of such a system is to increase the numbers and bring the whole population on our hands. When we are not able to reject people or to exact real work, every creature that can be mustered passes for so much profit to the mate and headmen, and if they can pass muster two or three times over so much the better for these men. Effort should be made to pay if not individually at least in small squads, and not to distribute money in a wholesale way.

Responsibility of civil officers in connexion with large works.

17. It is to be thoroughly understood that not only are the officers of the Public Works Department (employed in districts where scarcity prevails) wholly and absolutely under the Commissioners and superior civil officers of districts on all points in which they may think it desirable to interfere, but that everywhere the local sub-divisional officers and their assistants are directly responsible to see that payments are properly made and work given in the manner most conducive to relief. It is expected that in this respect they and the Public Works officers will work in thorough accord. The Commissioner or Additional Commissioner on the spot will lay down general rules on which the Public Works officers will act subject to the orders of the Magistrate of the district. The Public Works officers will ordinarily arrange for payment of the men employed under them; but the local civil officers will inspect the works, test the payments of the Public Works subordinates, and see that all is right. If not right they will at once com-

municate with the Public Works officers, and, if necessary, with their own official superiors. I have given full authority to the Commissioners to authorise the entertainment of any local establishments for the proper management and payment of the labourers that may be necessary to supplement the Public Works establishments.

Sanitary arrangements.

18. It is most necessary that efficient sanitary arrangements should be made on all large works; and particular attention should be given to this.

Village and minor works under circle officers.

19. The village works under circle officers must necessarily be conducted, for the most part, by non-professional people; but I have arranged that in each relief circle an officer should be specially charged to look after the works in the circle. There has been much correspondence regarding these village works. The result is that, by aiding zemindars and otherwise, we must promote the employment of the people to the very utmost, but that in the last resort in very distressed tracts, where the people are likely to starve and no one can be induced to undertake works for his own benefit or from public spirit, the Government must employ the people by undertaking such works (excavating tanks and the like) as are most beneficial to the general community. I rely much on the tact and energy of the local officers to make these arrangements for the best. Even when Government pays for the works they may advantageously be placed under village headmen and others locally interested; we want to give the people work near their homes, and, if the headmen are interested, they will carry the work out all the more readily.

Strangers coming to village works are to be registered in the village where they labour and live for the time.

Limitations on task-work system.

20. To the distressed poor of both sexes the task-work system cannot be generally applied. As much work must be obtained for them as they can fairly do, and no more. Any stringent enforcement of a labour test may repel these people and cause ultimate danger to life. But it is better to obtain a little, even the smallest amount of work from those who can work, than to give gratuitous relief. The offering of piece-work is very good whenever the people will accept it, the terms offered being, as has been said, liberal.

Returns of labourers.

21. Returns of labourers on works in each circle are to be made by the circle officer; the number on each class of work being distinguished. This is to be separate from the Public Works Department returns. The Public Works officers are to return the number of their labourers to sub-divisional officers, who will combine the whole in one return.

Public Works establishments.

22. With respect to Public Works establishments, it is evident that, with the enormous number of people now coming on the roads and other works, even after a large proportion of them have been sifted out and put to the village works under the civil officers, the labour and responsibilities of the Public Works officers must be very great, and the staff of officers must be increased as much as possible. I have arranged that a separate Executive Engineer is to be provided for each of the sub-divisions in Tirhoot in which distress is very great, especially that Durbhunga and Madhubunnee should each have an officer of the rank and powers of Executive Engineer, the very best available. As many Assistant Engineers as possible have been, and are being, supplied; also a number of subordinate officers; but I agree with an opinion which I have seen expressed that the famine country is hardly the place for a European overseer with a large family and imperfect acquaintance with the language. We are sending all the fit men we can, and they should be sent as unincumbered as possible, but for the rest I continue to repeat what I have all along said, that much inferior agency must be extemporised in the country itself, and made the best of by the utmost tact and discretion in selecting and using it. There is one kind of subordinate agency which is much wanted, clerks of the works, that is, intelligent men acquainted with accounts, who can make up and check the returns. For this purpose Bengallees are very well suited. I have instructed the Chief Engineer to do his utmost to send up good men of this class. I fear that there must be much laxness and peculation in many places, and as we get things into order and establish some system, it is of the first importance that the executive officer should be assisted by competent men capable of keeping their offices and testing statements of numbers, payments, &c.

Deputation of Major Trevor.

23. Superintending Engineers have been appointed to the several districts in which large relief work is going on, but they are comparatively new to the duty, and in order to advise and assist them, to see that the utmost that is possible is done to render the great amount of labour now in our hands as beneficial as possible by selecting the best large works, and to introduce on the works the best system possible under the circumstances, it has been arranged, in communication with the Government of India, that (since the Chief Engineer of this Government, Colonel Nicolls, has his hands more than full) an Engineer Officer of experience and tact, Major W. B. Trevor, should be deputed for the general inspection and regulation of the various relief works. He will proceed to the different distressed divisions with the powers of a Chief Engineer, to be exercised in communication with Colonel Nicolls, will confer with the Commissioners and Superintending Engineers, will give them the best advice and assistance he can, and will direct operations in concurrence with the Commissioners.

The difficulty of finding sufficient work for the enormous number of labourers in Tirhoot and some other districts is much pressing on us. It turns out that in many places the labourers dislike tank-work and insist on flocking to the roads. We must reduce them to order and discipline, and make them do the work most fitting for them to do; but still it is a great object to maintain large works sufficient for the employment of all the labourers who legitimately seek regular work and submit to regular discipline, while at the same time the opportunity of permanently benefiting the country should not be neglected. A chief duty of Major Trevor will be to inquire whether any additional great works can be undertaken with advantage in the districts where we have hundreds of thousands of labourers.

Railway extension.

24. It has been suggested that as a continuation of the railway from Champta Ghât to Durbhunga will certainly be much wanted to the north-east through the great rice-countries where famine is now so severe, and to the north-west through North-western Tirhoot into Chumparun, it would be most desirable if these lines could be settled and the earth-work executed now. This is under consideration, and immediate steps are being taken to lay out the line, if it be possible, in time to employ the famine labourers upon it.

Irrigation works.

25. The best attention is also given to irrigation works, those connected with the Gunduk embankments and others. One canal behind the embankment has been begun, and the Government of India has determined to begin the line of the proposed large Gunduk canal through the Chumparun district as far as the Bagmattee river. Further inquiries are being made to ascertain whether some further local irrigation channels can be undertaken in Western Tirhoot, Sarun, and Chumparun.

Individualisation essential to management of charitable relief and advances to ryots.

26. While I believe that our employment of the people on works of various kinds, to the extent that they are now coming upon us, will lead to embarrassing results in the end unless we individualise them, I am sure that the two other main forms of relief—charitable allowances and advances to enable cultivators to maintain themselves—are impossible to carry out as it is intended without a good system of dealing with individuals through responsible village heads.

The only form of gratuitous relief which can be given somewhat indiscriminately, without leading to great abuse and future difficulty, is cooked-food. It is clear that the people of Behar will not accept this form of relief in any numbers till they are very much straitened. It is not that the lower orders have much caste—many of them will eat almost anything; but they are curiously timid, afraid that we will ship them off beyond seas and what not, and very averse to altering their habits. At any rate, the Government has resolved that the cooked-food test shall not be very largely applied; that assistance shall be given in other shapes, for which a great organization is necessary. Before going further then, I revert to the arrangements made for organizing relief down to the village and the individual.

Agency available.

Covenanted Civil Servants	39
Military officers	44
Uncovenanted officers	59
Officers locally engaged	39
Total	181

27. Sir Richard Temple, when he visited Behar, arranged the circles into which the sub-divisions were to be divided, and the Behar officers have been since engaged in manning these circles. But it seems to me that there is among some of the local officers in Behar a somewhat unreasoning prejudice in favour of European, and against native, agency; and that the harm which has resulted from delay in Durbhunga, and perhaps some other places, has been caused by too much keeping everything waiting for European officers, both as regards general relief arrangements and public works. It is really quite impossible that a properly efficient European Superintendent can be supplied for each circle and each work—I mean efficient at all points; combining sufficient experience, knowledge of the country, tact, and judgment. So many of our Bengal districts are more or less pressed or threatened that we cannot supply very large numbers of competent European officers. We sent to the famine districts all we could, and I believe as many as the local officers asked for. We have denuded all our districts not threatened to I may almost say the last man. The note in the margin shows the number of officers of different classes sent to Behar for relief work. The Government of India most readily acceded to all that we asked in the way of assistance. A large number of military officers was placed at our disposal for both transport and relief work; and, in addition to some competent civil officers previously obtained from the North-Western Provinces, some civil officers were ordered from the Punjab, the Central Provinces, and Bombay. Authority was also given to the local officers to engage all the competent Europeans to be obtained among the resident European community of planters and others, and several gentlemen who offered themselves in Calcutta were engaged and sent up. The total number of superior officers specially employed on relief is as follows:—

Covenanted Civil Servants	54
Military officers	60
Uncovenanted officers	92
Officers specially engaged	54
Total	260

Necessity of revenue and other experience among relief officers.

Many of the officers assigned had, however, a long way to come; and when they arrived it cannot be said that all the circles were efficiently filled. The fact is that, for such a system as is proposed, we want not only energetic and painstaking officers, but also an intimate knowledge of the people and of agrarian affairs, land tenures, rent, and revenue. It is only exceptional military officers and experienced civil officers who are well fitted to deal with such matters. In Behar the grain transport operations are of enormous magnitude and importance. These operations, including the putting and maintaining in order the roads used for the grain traffic, are in charge of a staff of officers under Colonel MacGregor, a most excellent and energetic officer; and to complete his arrangements about all the most effective military officers who arrived were required and absorbed. Some of these officers are rendering extraordinary service, Major de Kantzow for instance. Some of the unemployed officers of superior rank proved to be hardly well fitted for duties of a civil character, and have charge of the less important ghats and changing stations. Altogether, it happened that though this Government had, in its distribution list, assigned a good many military officers for relief work, I found not one so employed in Tirhoot, and I believe only one in the whole Patna Division; while only one more seemed to be available. Of the gentlemen casually entertained, some proved well qualified in their degree, others not so well. The civil officers from the Punjab, Central Provinces, and Bombay, proved to be generally very young men, and they had much to learn of a new country and language. In fact, I may almost say that the only officers of sufficient experience and knowledge available in Behar were the civil servants belonging to Bengal and the North-Western Provinces, and a few uncovenanted sub-divisional officers. I have placed in charge of circles all civil servants who are more than a few months' standing; but I very soon felt strongly that a good and efficient native officer would be far more fitted for our purposes than a very inexperienced European, and that both to fill circles not provided for and to assist the European officers, we must get as many good natives as possible. I am sure the Commissioner of Patna does not share the prejudice I have alluded to regarding the exclusive employment of European agency in places of trust; but all the districts of his division having suffered, few of the existing officials could be spared for extra and special work; and the tehsildaree system not being in vogue, it is very difficult to extemporise an efficient native agency. The Bengallees are very different in language and habits from the Hindustanees of Behar.

Aid given by Sir W. Muir.

28. In the dilemma in which I was placed, besides ordering up a few selected Bengallee Deputy Collectors and authorising the Commissioners of the Presidency and Burdwan divisions to entertain and send up a few temporary men for famine service, I appealed to Sir William Muir for the loan of some native officers fitted for the work. Sir William responded most promptly and handsomely. Sixteen selected men were at once placed at my disposal, more than half of whom arrived and were posted by myself while I was on the spot.

Assistants to circle officers.

29. I was thus enabled to complete or nearly to complete the circle officers required for Northern Behar. Under them assistance was necessary, especially under the less experienced European officers. Some of the native officers from the North-Western Provinces, some temporary Bengallee assistants, and others, were posted for this purpose, and Sir Richard Temple, who was going to Allahabad about the reserve carriage, promised to try to get a few more men from thence. A selection is being made from the ranks of candidates for the Native Civil Service at Hooghly and Calcutta. A number of native officers of the army had been promised by the Commander-in-Chief, and their despatch arranged in communication with Sir Richard Temple. Though not ordinarily fitted for independent civil duties, these officers may be most useful assistants, and they are being distributed accordingly.

Above all, full authority has been given to entertain every man capable of rendering good service whom the country itself affords. Without a good proportion of men possessed of local knowledge, foreigners must be at a great disadvantage.

Agency in each circle.

30. By means of these arrangements it is my desire that in each important circle the officer in charge should have (1) a capable assistant, generally a good native or occasionally a junior European officer; (2) an officer specially charged with those local works which are not put under the Public Works Department, and whose duty it will be to see that the jeyt ryots and others in charge of these carry them out honestly; that people are paid regularly; that they do not get relief twice over, and generally to see that the system works; and (3) an inferior native assistant.

Deputy Collectors and full tehsildars from the North-Western Provinces should generally be put at the head of circles. Where experienced officers become available, they may be placed over junior officers hitherto in charge without any disparagement to the latter.

Group Superintendents.

31. Under the circle officers come the Superintendents of village groups already alluded to, that is to say, over each group of villages there will be some one in charge to look after the relief operations generally in the group, to manage the operations at the grain stores, and to keep the circle officer informed of what goes on. Where a local man, a zemindar, or planter, or zemindar's tehsildar, will undertake this personally, or through his agents, such may be employed, but it must be clearly understood what each undertakes to do.

Village organisation.

32. Finally, each village will have its own organisation. Lists of zemindars, headmen, and patwarees of each village are to be prepared; it is to be ascertained whether each will do something, and each is to be pressed to do so either personally or through agents. I cannot too much impress on all officers, as I have impressed on those at Durbhunga, the necessity of attending to this, of not acting as if they were in a strange or hostile country, but of utilising those whose duty it is to assist the people, and finally through them, or in the last resort without them, to get at the headmen and representatives of the people themselves.

I am very glad to see that Mr. Howe, a very efficient North-Western Provinces' officer, in charge of the worst part of Chumparun, has already organised this system without waiting for the completion of a large paid establishment. He says: "The sub-divisional committee of " Ramnuggur, with the two sub-committees at Bulthur under Colonel Boulderson and at Bagaha, " are now in full working order. The tuppah (Bulthur) has been divided into halkas (circles), " and each member is to take charge of one. Lists of all the poor requiring relief are prepared " by the putwarees (village accountants) and tested by the member-in-charge of the halkas, who is " also responsible for the distribution of food to those in the lists, whom he, after examining, " finds unfit for work. I think it is better at first to do what is absolutely necessary, viz. to " support those who otherwise must starve, and gradually to perfect the system in introducing " the various rules laid down for committees. An organized village-to-village relief system has " been formed, which will effectually relieve those who most require it. I am much assisted in “this tuppah by Sheik Salamut Ally, an influential and public-spirited zemindar. In this tuppah the headmen of each village and the putwarees receive a certain amount of food sufficient to last the poor of his village of whom he receives a list (an extract from my register), and whom he is bound to supply twice a week. The greatest safeguard against abuse is the fact that the poor themselves know how much they are entitled to; and secondly, there is constant inspection both by Sheik Salamut Ally, who is a member of the Committee, and myself. In this way this important tuppah is provided for, and similar steps for the others are also being taken.” Mr. Howe seems really to be meeting the famine under very difficult circumstances. In Seetamurhee also, the sub-divisional officer, Mr. O'Reilly, by availing himself of the help of indigo planters, zemindars, and others, seems to have done very much, and to have kept pace with famine. But in Durbhunga, under a very energetic and meritorious sub-divisional officer—but where committees and committeemen and indigenous agency were practically not used—while European officers were expected in order to start a system admirable in theory, the famine got ahead of us. I am sure that voluntary and indigenous agency may and should be drawn out. The efficiency of an officer in a difficult position, especially under such circumstances as those which now surround us, depends quite as much on tact in drawing out assistance as on individual effort.

Aid given to Patna Commissioner.

33. No one could and would more efficiently superintend the relief operations than Mr. Bayley, the Commissioner of the Patna Division; but his charge is an enormous one. He has upwards of 13 millions of people under him, some suffering from famine and all from scarcity. He is responsible for all the enormous transport and other operations. Clearly he requires assistance. The Tirhoot district, too, is quite unmanageably large, and the mass of office detail thrown on the Magistrate-Collector makes it impossible to look to him for a sufficient active superintendence all over his district in times like these. I have then appointed Mr. C. Metcalfe, an officer in whose great energy and executive efficiency I have much confidence, to be Additional Commissioner of the Patna Division under Mr. Bayley, who will delegate to him any portion of the Commissioner's duties from time to time. It is arranged that Mr. Metcalfe is for the present to devote all his energies to getting into order the northern sub-divisions of Tirhoot, where wide famine most threatens us and hundreds of thousands of people are already on our hands. Mr. Bayley met me and thoroughly discussed with me the state of affairs. I entirely rely on his judgment and knowledge. Mr. Metcalfe went with me to Durbhunga and through the worst circles. I have explained to him my views and wishes, and left him to carry them out. While the circle establishments are being completed and getting into order, he is dealing with the multitudes collected on the roads. As soon as they are sifted and classed, and the circle establishments are ready to receive them, all, except the able-bodied fit to earn good wages on the roads, will be drafted to their villages, and there the scheme of relief, prescribed by the Government of India and this Government, will be worked out. For all famine and executive matters the sub-divisional officers of the distressed sub-divisions of North Tirhoot will be directly under Mr. Metcalfe. Their formal reports and returns will be sent to the Magistrate of Tirhoot for embodiment in the district returns (so long as Durbhunga remains a part of Tirhoot,) but the whole active control will rest with Mr. Metcalfe, exercising the full powers of a Commissioner, but subject to the general control of the Commissioner of the division, who will be fully informed of his proceedings. Mr. Metcalfe will ordinarily report to the Commissioner;—to Government direct on emergencies only.

Mr. Metcalfe's duties.

Aim of the organisation as a whole.

34. When the arrangements we are now making in the most distressed districts are complete, I trust that we shall be able to lay our hand on each person requiring relief according to his residence and circumstances. We shall be able to say in each village—here are so many persons found to be fit objects for relief; so many are doing work of some sort; so many are receiving a charitable allowance of food; so many have received or will received advances to enable them to continue their cultivation; so many residents of this village are absent working on such a public work. On the public works again, I hope we shall be able to say—here is a gang from such a pergunnah and a gang from such another pergunnah; so many (name by name) from such a village, and so many from such another. It is only when things are so arranged that we shall be able to deal with the needs of the people in detail, and to supply their wants without the great abuses which must attend indiscriminate liberality to great multitudes whom we cannot distinguish.

Mode of working charitable relief.

35. Supposing then the system to be fully carried out, the various forms of charitable relief are indicated in the relief rules published by the Government of India. Employment on works I have already dealt with. Employment in the way of spinning, weaving, &c., is as before arranged to be given as much as possible to those who cannot go on the roads. If we have sufficient information and sufficient machinery, charitable relief is only a question of discretion and honesty. Cooked food being reserved for special cases, it remains to give a fair allowance of food gratuitously or at a reduced price, and so much money as may be necessary to supplement it, to those really in need of such assistance. This will be done through the local committees as much as possible, every possible use being made of individual knowledge and public spirit. As I said to the Durbhunga Committee, “The Lieutenant-Governor wished to urge on them the propriety of their taking an active share in the relief measures now in operation. He did not want them to give money merely, but to undertake, each according to his ability, the specific duty of looking after a certain defined portion of the town, and managing the distribution of the Government relief, so that no poor person should perish for want. He wished this not only for the direct good, but as an example to others. Those who could not themselves personally supervise could appoint responsible relatives or subordinates to work for them, and could see that these did the work efficiently. If each member undertook the charge of a muhulla of the town

Uses of committee men.

it would be a great relief to the Government officers, and would, he felt sure, secure an efficient and adequate administration of the funds and stores. Those of the committee who had lands in the interior would, he hoped, also heartily assist the circle officers by themselves acting and giving instructions to their gomastahs, patwarees, head ryots, &c., so that they might help by every means in their power. The committee should be made really and practically operative—the town divided among working members, and the distribution of town relief undertaken by them, with any necessary subordinate agency working under their supervision."

Cooked food and special diet.

36. Although the use of cooked food is no longer prescribed as a general test of necessity, it is still an important thing to have food in this shape ready for those who are actually starving, especially on their first arrival at the depôts.

And it is especially necessary to nurse and feed on careful and nutritious diet people who are already reduced by scanty food. Many children have so suffered, and every inducement should be offered to their parents to bring them to be tended in comfortable poor-houses, where every concession is made to them. With respect to the food, I gave the following directions at Durbhunga:

(*a.*) Cooked food is always to be given *at once* to all starving people who desire to have it, till at least other arrangements can be made for them. This to be done without waiting for inquiries.

(*b.*) Special food is to be given, under superintendence of the native doctor, to starved infants and other persons in a very reduced stage. Milk and other luxuries to be provided for such cases.

(*c.*) In case of people much reduced, it is not enough to keep body and soul together. For the next two months arrangements must be made to issue to the more feeble once a week, or occasionally, a little ghee, or, failing that, oil and such like strengthening luxuries.

(*d.*) One pice per diem for salt, &c., is to be given with the allowance of grain to very poor people who receive uncooked food to take home.

Proportion of Nitrogenous grain essential.

37. I may add that the cooked food given should not be rice only; a fair proportion of dhal or similar nitrogenous food should be given, and salt of course.

To the very poor, who depend solely on public charity, a proportion of nitrogenous grain, *i.e.*, pulses, &c., should as much as possible be given with three parts of rice. But as regards the population not reduced to the lowest stage of pauperism, I found so comparative an abundance of the nitrogenous grains in the bazars, the famine is so much, as regards food, a rice famine (the little rice produced being probably reserved for seed), that I hope if Government supplies rice the people will find the rest for themselves.

Feeding Hospitals.

38. Reverting to the feeding hospitals for the reduced and weakly I was much impressed with the necessity of organising these efficiently wherever there is actual starvation, or something approaching to it; and quite as much for this purpose as for sanitary supervision I telegraphed emergently for a very efficient Civil Surgeon to be sent to Durbhunga. The Surgeon-General very promptly arranged to send Dr. Birch. That officer arrived without delay, took up his duties most zealously, and I believe that much will be effected by his active devotion to the subject. At every circle where the distress is severe, feeding hospitals should be established under a good native doctor, and his proceedings should be well watched. Dr. Birch quite understands my views, and I hope he will make arrangements which will serve as a model. He will also of course much look to sanitary arrangements.

Sanitary inspections.

39. The Government of India has suggested that a superior officer should be deputed for sanitary inspection of the various distressed districts. At this moment a change is taking place in the office of Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, but as soon as the new Sanitary Commissioner, Dr. Coates, arrives, he will be deputed on this duty.

Difficulties when the rains set in.

40. If our arrangements as above described are effective, we may hope to carry the people over the dry season. But in case they remain on our hands after the rains commence, it may be much more difficult to deal with them. In a moderate famine, when according to former practice, Government has given moderate relief hedged in by tolerably severe tests, it has usually happened that as soon as the active agricultural season commences, most of the able-bodied laborers disperse of their own accord, and only the helpless paupers are left on our hands. But I believe that on this occasion, in the pure rice countries north of the Ganges, the failure of the crops has been complete to a degree very seldom equalled. We are now undertaking relief on a much more liberal scale, and on much more indulgent principles, less hedged in by strict tests, than ever was attempted before. There seems much reason to expect that, in North Tirhoot at any rate, a very large proportion of the population will come (I may say have already come) on our hands, and the difficulty of returning them to self-support will no doubt be proportionately greater than on former occasions. It will certainly be quite impossible to continue in the rains large public works capable of employing vast numbers and it would be most inexpedient if it were possible. Above all things, we must not wean the people from self-supporting agricultural labour. In truth, for the labour we now employ we get a very insufficient money's worth; and from a financial point of view it would be no very overwhelming addition to our burdens if for a portion of the time that we must support the people who come to our works we get no return at all. It is the demoralisation of the people likely to result from supporting them without work that is to be feared. I still hope that very many will go off when the rain falls and they can cultivate, but it is impossible precisely to predict what will happen in a phase of things which is new. It is some consolation for any abuses (receipt of relief twice over and the like) which may occur that it is so much money thrown among the poorer

classes and may the better enable them to support themselves when the time for self-support comes.

Suggestions as to advances of money or food.

41. To establish a system of advances to ryots sufficient to ensure their both supporting themselves and employing the labouring population would be a work attended with very great difficulties. To some extent this must and will be attempted; but we are only at the beginning of our difficulties in that respect. I am inclined to think that a suggestion on this subject of Mr. Lowis of Dinagepore, adopted by Sir Richard Temple, contains the germ of a plan which may be applied not only to some ryots, but to all other labourers. Mr. Lowis says, in effect, "make advances to those ryots who, by "labouring on our roads show their necessity. When they have thus worked for us, advance "them wages for the time they must be absent carrying on their cultivation." I would not confine this to ryots. If the individualizing system is carried out fully, and if we know who our labourers are, where they reside, and where they work, we may be able to say to a poor man when the rains commence, we now know that you are no impostor, but a person willing to work for your bread; we can't employ you longer, it would ruin the country if we could; here is a couple of months' supply of food; we give you that, take it home, but now you must support yourself; we have done with you. Seeing the amount of grain we are storing, and the scale on which our establishments are now being formed, I think this might be done in some parts of the country. In fact, all our proceedings for the next few months would be not only to give immediate relief, but a sifting and sorting of the people with a view to a final distribution of assistance and concluding with them at the commencement of the rains. In the eastern districts, where cultivation commences early, the system of advancing wages to ryots who have been working for a time, to enable them to go home and start their cultivation, should be tried at once as Sir Richard Temple has authorised. In the case of substantial ryots so receiving advances, it may be stipulated, as Mr. Lowis proposes, that the advances are to be repaid when the recipients get a crop. From the poorer labourers repayment cannot be expected.

Advances to ryots who will not work on roads.

42. In North Behar, at any rate, it appears that there are many of the higher caste ryots too proud to work, and too poor to carry on efficiently the work of another season without assistance and to employ the laborers who ordinarily work for them and who can only be absorbed by such employment. The subject of advances to ryots of the higher class who are, it is hoped, likely to repay, has been very prominent in all our famine discussions. For these classes of ryots Mr. Lowis' labour-test will not suffice; and something more is required, not only for their own sake, but for that of the poor labouring population dependent on them. I am much inclined to agree with the officers of the Durbhunga Raj, who say that it is better not to call an advance what we are not likely to get back. A laxness in regard to promised repayments would have a most demoralising effect on the country, and would shake the whole credit system on which so much depends. I, therefore, strongly think that where there is not good and reasonable prospect of repayment, it is far better avowedly to give something than nominally to advance what will probably not be repaid. Government will be at a great disadvantage in such transactions, it will not have the many means of enforcing repayment, that private persons accustomed to such transactions, have, and borrowers will much more readily make excuses to a Government whose resources they think unlimited. People who can give really good security may get the advances they require from private sources, and will generally prefer so to get loans in this way, if they really mean to repay. In spite of all that is said of exorbitant interest, &c., I have found that natives generally prefer their own mahajuns to Government. If this be so, Government will have for the most part as applicants for advances only those who offer bad security or no security.

43. With the best and largest Government machinery a great system of advances by Government to the ryots would be difficult in the extreme; with our want of revenue machinery, I fear that on a large scale it would really be impossible to conduct such operations in any way that would not entail very serious evils.

Advances through Zemindars and Mahajuns.

I have, therefore, strongly urged on all officers that advances should by made by or through Zemindars and Mahajuns to the utmost possible extent, and only by Government direct in the very last resort. As I have said, I believe that, if the money is really to be repaid, the people themselves would rather get it in their own way than come to us, and so long as those who usually lend to them do not themselves run dry, it is better that it should be so. I have directed that every possible pressure should be put on the zemindars to induce them to do their duty. Their estates are good security, and we may well advance to them the money they require to keep their ryots afloat, care being taken, through the large establishments we are forming, that the money is really devoted to the purpose for which it is intended.

44. I am also inclined to think that there is much in a plan which Mr. Metcalfe greatly urges, viz., that Government should make advances to mahajuns whose capital may be unequal to all that falls on them in a year when no one repays and every one is ready to borrow, but who are trustworthy and reliable men and are willing, on receiving Government advances on reasonable terms, to engage to carry their clients, through this bad year. If this is discreetly and well done, I think it may be of very great advantage and involve little or no loss to Government, and I have authorized Mr. Metcalfe to try it. For the ryot it is sometimes better that he should owe money to his banker than be too much in the power of his zemindar. If the zemindar does his duty, nothing can be better, but it may not in all cases be desirable that a harsh landlord should have very large famine debts standing on his books when Government really gives the money.

It is when we go into the question of security, on which the Government has so much dwelt, that the real difficulty of dealing otherwise than through those whose business it is to conduct the money dealings of the country becomes apparent. There are few under-tenures in Behar; occupancy rights are ill-defined; the titles to trees and tanks and such like, and to rent-free lands which ryots proffer as security, are very liable to be called in question. On going into the matter narrowly I find it to be the general opinion that the real security most largely available consists chiefly of the silver ornaments, &c., in which natives so much indulge. Would it be possible for Government to open a vast pawnbroker's shop to lend on ornaments? I hardly think so. But if the mahajun's funds are maintained they will very readily do so.

45. The instructions which I issued at Durbhungah were then as follows:—

Classification of villages, for purpose of advances.

Every starving village or estate should be classed as one in which—

(1.) The zemindar has the means to assist his ryots, and must by every means be induced to do so; or

(2.) In which he has not the means, but has or can be induced to develop the will to do so, and in which he is to have tuccavee advances for the purpose, to the proper use of which our officers must see; or

(3.) In which it is found absolutely impossible to work through the zemindars, and to save the people alive, Government must undertake the work, trusting to recover the amount by legislation or otherwise.

But I trust that if our officers work with the natives—as I think they may—the villages of this last class will be comparatively few.

To this should be added, with reference to what has been said above, that when a village must come under class 3. it will be better that the work should be done through a good mahajun, to whom the people of the village have always looked, than directly by Government, and that advances may be made to the mahajun for the purpose.

To arrange all that is required with zemindars and mahajuns, and finally to deal direct with the residue, which may be left directly in our hands, very great skill and knowledge of the people and their affairs will be required. For this work the experienced native officers now lent us from the North-Western Provinces will be of infinite use, and I trust our officers will not be above learning from them. I have throughout had it much in view that as soon as we can disperse to village works the masses of people collected and still collecting on our roads, the knowledge of the native officers, should be specially utilised for the purpose of managing advances to ryots through zemindars or otherwise.

Joint security for advances.

46. As regards security for the advances, I am inclined to think, after much discussion, that in the absence of real material security a good deal may be done in the way of personal security by getting the people who know one another to stand security one for the other. Where the zemindar cannot or will not do his duty, perhaps a substantial jeyt ryot may stand security for those whom he represents, or a body of good ryots may take a loan going security for one another, which would be far better than dealing with each individual. The indigenous patwarees should be used to the utmost in these transactions.

Seed-grain.

47. A good deal of anxiety has lately been expressed regarding the supply of unhusked rice for seed. I did not press this matter prominently in the first instance, because I think historical experience shows that in no known Indian famine has seed ever run short. It is a fact shown by official records that the year after the great Bengal famine of 1769–70, the revenue rose higher than ever, showing that the fields had not been left uncultivated for want of seed. In Orissa, in the very height of the famine, the fields were fully sown. Cultivators keep their seed-grain with a tenacity which we cannot call superstitious; and for the principal rice-sowings, on account of the practice of planting out by hand from seed-beds, instead of sowing broadcast, I believe comparatively little seed is required. I am in hopes that in our worst districts it will prove that much seed has been retained.

I do not know if the unhusked grains scattered among the Burmah and Saigon rice would germinate when separated, and whether the cultivators would be satisfied to use a seed so different from their own. If they want this in the unhusked state, it will be available. But for Government to undertake to import a supply of seed, would involve a fresh operation in addition to the great burdens which we have undertaken. I am not prepared to recommend this. Of course, if seed is to be had for money, the advance of money to ryots includes the purchase of seed as a primary object.

Arrangements of Wards' Estates.

48. In regard to estates managed by the Court of Wards, it was necessary to decide the question what is to be done by Government at its own charge, and what charged to the estates, of which the great Durbhungah estate extending over so much of the famine country, is the most conspicuous instance. In the case of a very rich and solvent estate, such as that of Durbhungah, there can be no question that the manager should do all that we can fairly urge the best zemindars to do, and I am happy to say that this has been aranged throughout the Durbhungah Raj. I think it fair, however, that when Government does so much elsewhere, we should not throw absolutely the whole burden on the Raj. The following are the arrangements which I made at Durbhungah regarding the Durbhungah Raj Estate:—

"The Lieutenant-Governor pressed on the manager the importance of taking early steps to give effect to the orders regarding advances to ryots. It was admitted that in villages at present let in farm where the farms are shortly to expire, the question was involved in some difficulty, but the Raj officers were urged not to let minor difficulties stand in the way of making this species of aid really general and effective. Sanction has been given to expending a lakh of rupees in advances, but the Lieutenant-Governor, referring to the Viceroy's reiterated desire to assist good ryots as much as possible, said that Colonel Burn was not to consider himself tied down to that sum. Caution was of course to be exercised in a reasonable way, but a certain margin of ultimate loss must be accepted as probable, and the Raj agency was such as to make it quite feasible to institute inquiry in every village belonging to the estate. The Lieutenant-

Governor did not wish advances to be made to ryots who were absolutely insolvent; *they* must be treated as fit subjects for charitable relief; but it was better to err on the side of doing too much than too little.

"It was arranged that the Government circle officers should be relieved of all responsibility for making advances to ryots in Raj villages. That duty would be left entirely to the Raj officers.

"Colonel Burn and Mr. Llewhellin undertook to do their very utmost to give immediate effect to the above."

The relative position of the Raj and the Government agency was also discussed and settled as follows:—

"The Raj pays for and manages all works on the property, also all advances to ryots. The Government agency will relieve the Raj officers of the cost of charitable relief as soon as the agency is in sufficient working order, the Raj officers rendering all the assistance they can. Till the Government officers can take over the charitable relief, the Raj officers will continue it.

"When the charitable relief operations are amalgamated, any Raj grain not needed for Raj works will be made over to the Government, who will supply grain for the needy from the common stock.

"The Raj officers in their degree will, as much as possible, undertake the duties of group Superintendents in villages belonging to them, and arrange effectively for the village headmen and putwaries to make lists of the needy and carry out the details. Where of sufficient standing, they will be active members of committees and sub-committees.

"If the manager finds that the circle officer's calls leave no time to the Raj establishment for their regular work, they can either be seconded and taken over by Government, or some other arrangements can be made to suit the particular case. Care must be taken that no charitable relief now being given by the Raj is stopped until the circle officer orders it, after making other arrangements as above indicated.

"The *large Raj works* under the charge of the Executive Engineer will be dealt with in the same way as works under the Department of Public Works, where real labour is exacted and full wages paid.

"The village Raj works will be managed by the ordinary Raj establishment, as the minor relief works elsewhere are managed by the relief officers."

Case of insolvent Wards' Estates.

49. In regard to all other solvent Wards' Estates, similar principles should be followed as nearly as possible. In one district a question has been raised regarding Wards' Estates which are embarrassed and without ready money. The *primâ facie* view is, that the money necessary to do what is the duty of the estate should be advanced and charged as a debt against it; but one officer has urged that, as practically we cannot do this in all other estates, we should not charge advances against Wards' Estates, but do what is necessary at Government expense, and leave the Wards' Estates in the same position as others who fail to do their duty, subject to the question whether Government will, by legislation, recoup itself for expenditure which ought properly to have been borne by the landholders. I think that, for the present at any rate, necessary advances must be charged against the estates. The merits of the matter may be re-opened hereafter, if circumstances seem to give equitable grounds for re-opening the question.

Transport of Government grain.

50. All our arrangements depend on our possessing a sufficient supply of grain to feed the people where it is necessary to do so, and in case of what I have called a food-famine, as distinguished from a money-famine, we contemplate largely supplementing mere charitable relief by selling grain to those who have money to buy in the places which private trade does not reach. The quantity of grain to be provided for each district has been, for the most part, settled by the Government of India on the reports of Sir Richard Temple's local inquiries submitted by this Government. The supply thus provided is a very liberal one, and its transport is a great operation. The transport arrangements of the Patna Division were finally arranged by Sir Richard Temple (principally on a large contract system), and those made by the local officers under the instructions of this Government in the Bhagulpore and Rajshahye Divisions have since been seen and approved by him. The Patna carriage contracts having been so completely arranged, I have wished to interfere with them as little as possible, and have avoided all disturbance of existing arrangements. The only pressing difficulty was the failure of the contract for the supply of Eastern Tirhoot from Barh and Chumpta Ghat, where I found that the southern contractors had not carried half what they engaged to carry, while the northern contractors, who were to receive it and carry it on, had carts standing unsupplied. The consequence of this state of things was that almost everything that arrived was sent on to the Madhoobunnee sub-division, and hardly any addition was made to the small supply stored in the very populous and necessitous sub-division of Durbhunga. There is also this difficulty about the contract arrangements, that the carters are not wholly under the control of the contractors; they go very willingly to places where forage abounds, but very unwillingly to places where it is scarce; and while the despatches from the western side of Tirhoot were very large (even more, I believe, than was contracted for) there was a tendency to send too much to Seetamurhee, where it was least wanted, and none to Durbhunga, where it was much wanted. It has been arranged that for the Eastern Tirhoot contracts, two new lines of transport are opened out, where a fresh supply of carts will be available, by Mokameh and by Monghyr, while the changing stations have been shifted so as to give the southern carts a shorter lead and the northern carts a longer lead than before. Major de Kantzow has arranged that the promised despatches to Durbhunga from the western ghat are really carried out. I have directed that grain in excess of the proportional requirements of the western portion of the district (according to contract) shall not be despatched; the contractors must be restricted to the fair weekly allotment for that line, and the rest must be sent the other way in the proportion in which the contracts stipulated.

§ Orders given as to Eastern Tirhoot contracts.

The Durbhunga Railway.

51. The most important supplement to our carrying powers is the railway from Chumpta to Durbhunga, which is fortunately just in the transport line where the failure occurs, and where it is most wanted. It is progressing admirably without interfering in any way with the other traffic. It is carried at present across the fields as a temporary line, but in this way it gets on very rapidly, and there seems to be no doubt that it will be ready to carry much grain before the rainy season, after which it will be lifted and put on a more permanent line. But this latter, I fear, will hardly be maintained in working order through the rains. Under the circumstances, then, it is clear that all our efforts must be directed to use the rail as much as possible before the rains disturb it. All depends on a sufficient supply of rolling stock. I have represented this strongly to the Government of India, who have at once taken means to supply stock to the very utmost. It is expected that some 200 tons of grain may be carried daily half way to Durbhunga in April, and that from the middle or latter part of April, 800 tons a day will be carried into Durbhunga. Instructions have been issued to make the necessary arrangements for the receipt and despatch of this grain.

I believe that this line of railway from opposite Barh to Durbhunga is an admirable one, eminently suited for a permanent line,—that it will not be expensive, and that it should pay well.

Definition of Col. Macgregor's functions.

52. It seemed to me that it was not sufficiently understood who was to direct all the various despatches and deliveries of grain, to arrange with the various contractors the questions in which one depends on the other, and so on. I therefore arranged clearly what I understood to be intended from the first, that Colonel Macgregor and his staff should undertake all these functions. Mr. Metcalfe should (subject to the Commissioner's general direction) keep Colonel Macgregor informed in what parts of the stricken sub-divisions grain is most wanted, and should be in constant communication and understanding with Colonel Macgregor. Colonel Macgregor, understanding what is wanted, will arrange with the contractors and others accordingly; that will be in his hands, and there will not be risk of contradictory orders by various local officers, each acting for himself. Mr. Metcalfe should see that this is thoroughly understood. He should come to a clear understanding with his sub-divisional officers as to the relative urgency of their requirements. Seeing that the Durbhunga Sub-division is nearer to the base, and that it will be supplied by the railway and by North-West Provinces reserved carriage, it is settled that for the present, only enough to secure us against a sudden surprise is to be kept in Durbhunga, all the rest will be allowed to go into the Madhubani sub-division till that is quite secured. Colonel Macgregor is to arrange a good system, by which full information of the despatches from one end of a line is punctually and promptly conveyed to those who are to take up or receive the grain at the other end.

The reserve carriage as it arrives will also be put under Colonel Macgregor's directions.

53. It is proposed to prepare a note showing the whole of our transport arrangements as now matured, and I do not here touch on more than those partial re-arrangements made during my visit to Tirhoot.

Sale of Government grain.

54. I have remarked that, up to the time of my visit, the bazars seemed to be generally well supplied with grain, principally pulses, &c., rice being comparatively scarce and dear. The time for general sales to the public had evidently not come, though I was satisfied that it would be a great convenience and aid to our labourers to sell rice on the works to those who wanted rice. I directed that this should be generally done; these instructions should be carefully carried out. With respect to price, it had been proposed to sell at 12 seers per rupee, but I found that while the price of rice is not cheaper than 12 seers in the great marts on the line of rail, and in the Tirhoot bazars is from 9 to 10 seers or less, to sell at 12 would have an embarrassing effect. The instructions which I issued on this subject for North Tirhoot were, then, as follows:—

"I am satisfied that good rice cannot at present be sold at 12 seers, as was at one time proposed, without greatly deranging a still active private trade. We must, in the present circumstances, continue to encourage that trade to the utmost, and I trust I shall not hear again of the seizure by the police of the bullocks engaged in it, as I have to-day found to have been done. It is remarkable that, while other grains are still very plentiful in the bazar, selling at 11 to 13 seers of 88 tolahs, say, 12 to 14¼ Government seers, rice is extremely scarce and very little to be seen. In ordinary times, rice is the main food of the people in this part of the country, and the coolies now much run upon our rice stocks. I therefore think that rice should be offered on all our works at 10 Government seers per rupee for ordinary cleaned rice, other rice being sold cheaper in proportion. If at any time, in any of the bazars, rice is selling cheaper than the above, the Government rice may also be sold on the works as cheap as private rice in the bazars.

"As regards the price of inferior or uncleaned rice, the qualities vary so much, that it is impossible to lay-down a rule, I must leave this to the discretion of the local officers. They are to sell all kinds of rice at the rate which they find in practice makes each kind as popular with the people as cleaned country rice at 10 seers. I believe there is no objection on the part of the people to clean Burmah rice; if so, it should be sold at the same rate as country rice. If it is found that the people avoid it by comparison, it may be made a little cheaper. I have found here that the people crowded very much to get uncleaned Burmah or Saigon rice (good of its kind) at 13 seers.

"As rice is sold retail by pice per seer, and not by seers per rupee, I authorise officers to adopt for sale on the works, the nearest rate in pice to the seer rates above ordered, although there may be some fractional differences.

"When our rice is stored in large quantities, I shall be glad to sell it on our works at a somewhat cheaper rate, say 12 seers for ordinary rice if this can be done without inconvenience and disturbance.

"To the general public, rice must only be sold at present where there really an absence of the article in the bazars. The sales to the people will much depend on the quantity of rice we have in store. While we have little and private trade is active, we must not interfere; when we have abundance, and private trade ceases to operate, we may sell freely, using the bunneahs, and village traders, and giving them a small margin of profit.

"Seeing the abundance of other grains in the bazars and scarcity of rice, I think it better that all the mixed grains, wheat, &c., should be kept till later, so long as they are sound and good to keep. Even Indian-corn, properly kept, shows no tendency to spoil so far. But whenever weevils appear, or other injury is commencing, the grain should be used.

"Much of the grain has come up unclassed, and spare labour might be used at the granaries to sift it, mark it, and place it where it can be most conveniently got out as it is wanted. This should certainly be done as far as possible. Sufficient doors and other arrangements should be provided in the golahs: great care must be taken to provide against fire; and people who have reasonable objection to hard road-work may be employed to guard and look after the granaries."

When the time comes for selling rice to the public, the price will, as directed in Government orders, be regulated by the price in the nearest large marts where food is abundant; but I hope that we shall be able to sell at not less than 10 seers per rupee. Eventually, if it proves that we have larger stocks than we require for relief purposes and for necessary sales, at a season when private trade is almost stopped, it may be both a great relief to the people and a legitimate mode of disposing of our stocks to sell at a cheaper rate; but this must depend on subsequent orders.

In any case when we come to sell to the public, I am sure that we shall do so most conveniently and effect the minor distribution throughout the country far better than we could do it ourselves by selling in a small wholesale way, at a somewhat profitable rate, to the petty traders who abound and carry grain about the country in bullock-loads in every direction. Even in the rains, I hope that a good deal may be done by these petty traders in this way, whether they use pack-bullocks, small boats, or head-loads.

Distribution of food in the rains.

55. This question of distribution in the rains is one to which the Government of India have recently drawn our special attention. I had already attended to the matter in Tirhoot, and issued instructions to the Commissioner to do all that is possible towards clearing and opening out the internal water channels and securing both regular boats for the rivers and canoes for the watery tracts where land carriage becomes almost impossible during the rains. I trust that full attention will be paid to these points.

Arrangements have also been made for a comprehensive inquiry into the whole subject of the means of communication during the rains to be made beforehand, so as to secure us against doubt and difficulty when the time comes. I had previously for other purposes obtained full reports of the water communications of the two parts of the country most affected, North Bengal and Tirhoot; these will be collated by a selected officer who has special knowledge of the subject, and any additional information necessary will be locally obtained. Major Trevor may well give attention to this among other subjects.

56. The following orders on matters of secondary importance were issued during my visit to Tirhoot, and are generally applicable to distressed districts—

Miscellaneous subsidiary orders.

"All circle officers should have magisterial powers if they are fit for it. It will be desirable that all fit for summary powers should have such. It will be understood that relief officers need not devote themselves to investigating difficult cases, but it will be convenient that petty and clear cases, or cases connected with their work, should be disposed of promptly on the spot. A large supply of the forms used for record of summary trial should be sent up at once to all the districts.

"While bungalows have been built for European officers, nothing has been done for native officers; arrangements should be made to protect them as well as possible. The Lieutenant-Governor has promised Sir W. Muir to take care of those sent down from the North-Western Provinces, and wishes to have this done. If good native buildings can be had on hire or made, they may be hired or put up. If not, proper allowances must be given to enable these officers to house themselves with the least possible delay."

And the following, which, though specially issued for one line only, is in principle applicable to all cases in which land is taken up for roads or other purposes, as is so often the case in connection with our relief works:—

"The Lieutenant-Governor has observed with regret that where the Durbhunga State Railway runs through standing crops, compensation has not yet been given to the ryots. This must be done at once. The Commissioners of Patna and Bhagulpore are desired to issue immediate orders that the sub-divisional officers, through whose jurisdiction the line passes, shall at once, without any very formal proceedings, assess on the spot the value of crops destroyed, giving the cultivators the benefit of any doubt. As the lands are at present only temporarily occupied, no question of compensation for the land need be taken up. Only payment for crops to the ryots concerned must be settled, and paid forthwith by a summary and rule-of-thumb enquiry."

57. Whether the land is occupied permanently or temporarily, compensation for loss of crop should be given summarily and liberally on the spot without any delay, leaving the value of the land permanently taken to be settled separately. But this also should be done as soon as possible, unless, as has happened in many cases, the zemindars give the land for relief purposes free of cost, an example which it is hoped many others will follow.

58. While things are in so critical a position it seems most necessary that Government should have more speedy information than that which it obtains by the roundabout official channels. Orders have been issued for a brief weekly return to Government direct from every distressed sub-division, showing numbers of persons on works and otherwise receiving relief, and grain stored, with an explanation of any remarkable changes. And such information is to be tele-

graphed from the most important sub-divisions both weekly and whenever there is anything specially remarkable to report.

Calcutta, the 28th March 1874. G. CAMPBELL.

APPENDIX D. to FOURTEENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE of the DROUGHT of 1873-74 in BENGAL, from 20th March to 2nd April 1874.

No. 108, dated Maldà, the 18th March 1874.

From G. H. R. HART, Esq., on Special Duty with Sir R. TEMPLE, to the Honourable C. E. BERNARD, C.S., OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

I AM directed to forward, for submission to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of a minute by Sir Richard Temple, No. 50, dated 17th instant, which supplements Sir Richard's minutes Nos. 45 and 46, dated 11th idem, relating to the Dinagepore district.

MINUTE No. 50, by the Honourable Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Dowlutpore, the 17th March 1874.

1. BEFORE quitting the Dinagepore district, I deem it proper to record some observations in addition to those already recorded in my minutes Nos. 45 and 46 of the 11th of March.

2. The situation of the district, in respect of inland carriage, is more isolated perhaps than that of any of the distressed districts in all Bengal: as it is separated from the Ganges, the base of operations, by the districts of Pubna, Rajshahye, and Malda.

3. The furthest grain depôts of Dinagepore are distant 120 miles from the Ganges: the average distance of the depôts from the great river is about 70 miles: two depôts only, Churamun and Raigunj, are within 80 miles of the river. This circumstance has, from the first, *i.e.*, from December last, caused anxiety regarding the inland transport.

4. The carts of the district are numerous (though not nearly so numerous as in the Behar districts). They are kept by the people for the purposes of the export trade of rice and of jute. But the jute cultivation exists not at all in the central or southern parts of the district where the distress exists, but in the northern or portion near Cooch Behar. Consequently, the district carts, if employed to bring in Government rice from the south, would have to go down to the Ganges, a distance of 150 miles from their homes, which rendered the cartmen unwilling to undertake the service.

5. It therefore became important to make use of the several rivers, affluents of the Ganges, which traverse the district in a general direction from north to south. These rivers are the Koolik, the Tangun, the Poorna-Bhaba, the Attrai, the Juboona, and the Koroteea. These are navigable through all parts of the Dinagepore district during the rainy season, and afford abundant water communication. But during the other months they are navigable as far only as the southern parts of the district. The local authorities then determined to make use of these rivers so far as the navigation might be practicable during the dry months in connection with the navigation of the Ganges.

6. Another subject of consideration was this, that the distress was not confined to certain main tracts, but was scattered over widely-distant parts of the district. For example, there is distress north of Nekmurd, the western corner of the district, and at Ghoraghaut, the south-eastern corner, a distance of 110 miles. There was distress in Bhadureea on the east side to Churamun on the south-west corner, 95 miles. It therefore was impossible to confine the transport to a few main lines, and the selection of many and divers routes became necessary.

7. At the time of my visit I found that the local authorities, under the general direction of the local Government, had organised the following lines of transport by land and water, the greater part of which lines I have seen, being thus able to bear witness to their efficiency. The lines or routes are eleven in number.

I. Railway, Eastern Bengal. Terminus *Goalundo*.

By country boats across the Ganges to junction of its affluent the Oorasagur; then through the Chullun Bheel Lake into the Attrai; passing through the Pubna and Rajshahye districts to Nowgong, a depôt on the Dinagepore frontier; thence through southern part of the Dinagepore district to Putneetola on the Attrai, a distressed locality; distance entirely by water 70 miles.

II. By steamer up the Brahmapootra to Noakeela opposite Bogra, thence by carts through Bogra district to Ghoraghaut and Bhadureea, distressed localities in south-eastern corner of the Dinagepore district; distance by water 120 miles, by land 50 miles.

III. Eastern Bengal Railway. Terminus *Kooshtea*.

By steamer and country boats up the Ganges to Rampore Beauleah, on north bank; thence by carts through Rajshahye district to Putneetola, already mentioned; distance by water 40 miles, by land 50 miles.

IV. By steamer and country boats up the Ganges to Godagaree, at junction of the Mahanuddee; thence by carts through parts of the Rajshahye and Malda districts straight on to Dinagepore. This is the first of the two main routes for the centre of the Dinagepore district; distance by water 60 miles, by land 90 miles.

V. By steamer and boats to Godagaree; thence entirely by boats up the Mahanuddee to Rohimpore, junction of the Poorna-Bhaba in the Malda district; thence up the Poorna-Bhaha past Neetpore to Gungarampore, distressed localities in the Dinagepore district; distance entirely by water 140 miles.

VI. By steamer and country boats to Godagaree; thence entirely by boats up the Mahanuddee to Malda; thence by carts through Malda district to Tumboolee, distressed portion of Dinagepore district, and on to Dinagepore. This is the second of the two main routes to Dinagepore; distance by water 110 miles, by land 60 miles.

VII. By steamer and boats to Godagaree, to Malda, where transhipped into smaller boats and carried up the Mahanuddee to Churamun (Dinagepore district), junction of the Koolik; thence up the Koolik to Raigunj; thence by carts to Hemtabad and its neighbourhood; distance by water 150 miles; by land 20 miles.

VIII. By steamer up the Ganges to Manick Chuck, opposite Rajmehal, on north bank; thence by cart to Neema Serai on the Mahanuddee in district of Rajmehal; thence by boats up the Mahanuddee to Churamun (Dinagepore district), and Raigunj; distance by water 150 miles, by land 20 miles.

IX. Station East Indian Railway, *Rajmehal.* Cross Ganges by boats to Manick Chuck; thence by carts to Neema Serai; thence by boats to Churamun. Also by carts past Neema Serai to Dinagepore; distance by water 40 miles, by land 20 miles in the first case and 60 in the second.

X. Station East Indian Railway, *Sahebgunj.* Down Ganges by boats to Hyatpore, north bank; thence by carts through Malda district to Churamun and Raigunj; distance by water 20 miles, by land 25.

XI. *Sahebgunj.*—Across river by steamer to Caragolah; thence by carts through Purneah district to Dengra Ghaut; thence to Hemtabad (Dinagepore district) and to Kishengunj (Purneah); thence to Nekmurd (Dinagepore); distance by water   miles, and by land 90 miles, in the first case and 120 miles in the second case.

8. In other districts the transport routes are intricate; but in no district are they so unavoidably complicated as in the Dinagepore district, and the management of all these routes, each one supporting and aiding the other, shews a degree of skill and combination which is creditable to the officers concerned. The credit is mainly due to Mr. E Molony, the Divisional Commissioner, and Mr. W. LeF. Robinson the Relief Commissioner.

9. The number of boats, large and small, employed in the Dinagepore transport service is not less than 500, and of carts not less than 5,000.

10. It may perhaps be said that the better plan would be to concentrate the transport on fewer routes. But on consideration I do not think that any such plan would be preferable.

11. By the selection of so many divers routes the following advantages have been secured:—

First.—The several rivers have been made use of, whereby the sending of the carts to great distances from their homes has been avoided.

Second.—The carts have been sent to only one distant point, namely, Godagaree on the Ganges, and that by a well-known trade route.

Third.—The difficulty of collecting fodder for all the cattle on one or two main routes has been avoided.

Fourth.—There is less chance of failure and disaster when many alternative routes are available.

12. I have thought over the matter carefully together with the Relief Commissioner, and I believe that in regard to the contour of the country, to the course of the rivers, to the lines of road, and to the position of the depôts, the routes, as above explained, have been well chosen by the authorities concerned.

13. I have requested the Relief Commissioner to obtain a reserve of at least 500 carts (each with a pair of bullocks), as the number of carts now employed is not more than sufficient for the service.

14. There appears, however, to be considerable difficulty in largely augmenting the number of carts, and the question suggests itself as to what large reserve of carriage is there in event of requirement increasing? In such event the reserve consists of pack-bullocks, which are obtainable in some thousands in the district itself, and upon which the Commissioner assures me that he could lay his hand at any moment. Further pack-bullocks could be obtained in Cooch Behar in still greater numbers.

15. It is always to be remembered that during the rainy mouths there is abundant water carriage available.

16. Passing from the subject of transport, I have still a few points to touch upon.

17. Though much more is yet to be expected from the zemindars before the present trouble is over, still several of them in this district have already distinguished themselves by assisting their tenantry with advances, or by importing grain. I may now mention:—

Khetter Mohun Singh, manager of the Rajbaree estates in Dinagepore.
Radha Gobind Rai of Dinagepore.
Jankea Geer Gosahaon of Raigunj.
Shama Soondrea Dibya of Neetpore.
Luchmeeput and Dhunput.
Seetal Chund Lahary of Bochagunj.

The Churamun zemindar has begun to do well, and I trust that his name may soon be added to the above list.

18. I have explained to the Relief Commissioner that there can be no difficulty in granting advances to ryots who may be in distress at present but may yet have some sort of property to pledge. Those ryots who can offer nothing to pledge are generally able to attend the relief works; and I have proposed by a separate minute (No. 49) that they shall receive subsistence allowance, to be recovered hereafter, for the period during which they are obliged to absent themselves from the works.

19. Regarding seed-grain, a subject which attracts much attention, I have not been able, after much deliberation with the best authorities, European and native, to propose that anything be

done at present by Government. The bhadai, or early rice crop, is now being sown over a full average area, so nothing need be done as regards that. The hemuntee or winter rice will not be sown for some little time yet. According to the best-informed opinions the mahajuns hold this seed-grain in sufficient quantities in the expectation of high prices, and it is believed that they must and will sell it to the ryots as soon as they see that the people are sustained by the importation of rice by Government. If any thing should have to be done by Government it may be in the shape of exchanging food-rice for seed-grain to be retailed by the ryots.

20. I will conclude my remarks on this very important district by stating that the Collector, Mr. E. E. Lowis, is in all matters relating to the scarcity and distress a thoughtful and well-informed officer, fully capable of suggesting whatever may be required, and of executing thoroughly the instructions which he may receive.

APPENDIX E. to FOURTEENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE of the DROUGHT of 1873–74 in BENGAL, from 20th March to 2nd April 1874.

No. 105, dated Dinagepore, the 16th March 1874.

From G. H. R. HART, Esq., on Special Duty with Sir R. TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., to the Honourable C. BERNARD, C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I AM directed to forward, for submission to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of a minute by Sir Richard Temple, No. 47, dated 14th instant, reporting on the prospect and progress of affairs in the Rungpore district, and detailing the instructions issued and the recommendations made by Sir Richard with respect to famine relieve operations there.

2. With reference to paragraphs 21 and 22 of the minute, I am to express Sir Richard's that the required number of overseers and native doctors may be sanctioned as soon as possible.

MINUTE No. 47 by the Honourable Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Bogra, the 14th March 1874.

HAVING visited Rungpore, marched through the most distressed parts of the district, and conferred with the local authorities, I have to record the following observations.

2. The cause of the scarcity is as follows: The rice crop is the food-staple of the district, occupying full three-fourths of the cultivated area. The remaining one-fourth is principally occupied by other products, such as jute (fibre), tobacco, mustard, sugarcane, betelnuts, and indigo (native industry); a small fraction only is occupied by spring crops, wheat, and potatos. The rains of 1873 were fairly good towards the northern part of the district adjoining Cooch Behar, and towards the eastern part in the basin of the Brahmapootra near the confluence of the Teesta. In these parts the rice crop was moderately fair, with a yield of 8 to 10 annas. Elsewhere, in the central, the western, and the southern parts of the district, the rains were scanty and partial: consequently the rice crop failed to a large extent, affording a yield of from 2 to 3 annas.

3. Taking the district as a whole, the Collector (Mr. Glazier) informed me that the yield of the rice crop hardly exceeded 4 annas. The Relief Commissioner (Mr. Robinson) thinks that the yield must have been from 5 to 6 annas. In other words, full two-thirds, or at least more than one-half, of the principal food-staple has failed.

4. It is difficult to obtain a statistical calculation from native authority for the whole district. But all the native gentlemen whom I met declared that a very extensive failure of rice had occurred. Numbers of the cultivator class reported local failure in various directions.

5. The prices of rice are very high—10 seers to the rupee at Rungpore, and in the central and western parts; 12 to 13 seers in the eastern parts; and 11 seers in the northern parts.

6. Though Rungpore is not a great rice-exporting district, still there is some exportation of this product in ordinary years, amounting perhaps, to one-third of the whole crop. As is well known, the wealth of the district arises from the exportation of the jute fibre and also of tobacco. It is stated by European officers, and admitted by natives, that most of the ryots are comparatively well off. Indeed, there is a certain sort of wealth diffused among them—they can bear up for some time against high prices. Still the lower classes of the ryots are poor. These and the lowest classes below them are already suffering from the effects of the scarcity. Gratuitous relief is already being afforded in several places by native gentlemen, and in Maheegunge (or Rungpore city) by Government.

7. It is to be borne in mind that the jute, perhaps the greatest source of wealth to the cultivating classes, is grown in the northern and the eastern parts of the district, where the rice crop was fair, and not at all in the central and western parts, where the rice crop was bad. Consequently, the ryots of the distressed tracts do not participate in the profits of the jute cultivation.

8. There has been of late a considerable importation of rice into the district on the east side from the districts beyond the Brahmapootra, Mymemsingh and Dacca; by the Brahmapootra itself and then by its affluents, the Teesta and the Durla; also on the north-west side from the adjacent tracts of the Dinagepore district. I have not been able to obtain from the Collector the statistics of this importation, but I have instructed him to arrange for registering the statistics of this trade from the present time. The importance of this information for determining the supplies to be provided by Government is manifest. I understand, however, that the amount received from the Dinagepore district is about six lakhs of maunds; and that the imports by river may be from 30,000 to 50,000 maunds a week. The Collector seems to place much reliance on this trade. It is probable, however, that the imports from Dinagepore will cease, and it is

certain that the river imports do not reach the distressed tracts on the south-west. On the whole those distressed tracts near Rungpore will be benefited by trade, while the other distressed tracts will probably not.

9. The recent rains (end of January and beginning of February), amounting to at least 3 or 4 inches in most parts of the district, and in some parts to more, afforded but very little relief as regards the scarcity of food. The rice crop had already gone, and there was no growing crop in the ground to be benefited, save wheat and potatos.

10. But the prospective benefit of this most seasonable rainfall was very great, for the fresh moisture enabled the people to prepare the land and sow the seed for the "aoos," or early rice crop, which will be repeated at various dates from the middle of June to the middle of August. An unusually large area has been thus sown, and so propitious is the moisture that the crop is regarded as nearly secure. If its present promise shall be fulfilled, then its yield is expected to amount to one quarter of the average total rice yield of the district. In that case it would cause a diminution of the distress to begin after the 15th June, and a cessation for the most part after the 15th August. Entire cessation is hardly to be hoped for until the next winter rice crop shall be reaped in December.

11. The distress already setting in will go on increasing till perhaps the middle of April. In that case it will continue at its height till the middle of June; it would become moderate till the middle of August, from which time it would be further diminished and would go on decreasing. Such in brief is the opinion of the local officers concurred in by the Commissioner.

12. I should therefore estimate the maximum number of persons likely to need assistance from Government for two months, half that number for two months more, and one quarter of the number for three months.

13. After conferring with the Collector I requested him to render his estimate of the rice required from Government for this district according to information up to date (12th March). He gives the following estimate in which the Relief Commissioner concurs:—

Name of Thannah.	Population.	Proportion expected to need assistance from Government.	Persons to be provided for.
Maheegunj - - - - -	123,000	20 per cent. - - -	24,600
Molung - - - - - - Peergunj - - - - - Chilmaree - - - - - -	255,000	15 „ - -	38,250
Sudoollapore - - - -	120,000	10 „ - - - -	12,000
Gobindgunj - - - - -	163,000	50 per cent. of 18,000 : 5 per cent. the remainder.	9,000 8,150
Borobaree - - - - - Nisbetgunj - - - - - Koourgunj - - - - - Durwanee - - - - - -	508,000	5 per cent. - - -	25,400
Ooleepore - - - - - Nagaseree - - - - -	425,000	No percentage calculated, as only a small number are likely to be affected.	10,000
Total -	1,594,000		127,400

This gives a total number of 127,400 persons expected to need assistance from Government; and, calculating that it will be necessary to supply the whole number for two months, half the number for two months, and a quarter of the number for three months (taking ¾ of a seer per head per diem), the total amount of grain required will amount to 2,68,664 maunds. To this must be added 5 per cent. for wastage and 5 per cent. for safety, which will bring the total amount required up to 3,00,000 maunds.

14. This quantity is, I think, the least that ought to be provided. I am not without misgiving that it may be less than enough. But looking to the chances of private importation being maintained, and to the facilities for communication by river, and the comparatively short distance for conveyance by carts from the landing places to the distressed tracts, I would accept the estimate for the present.

15. Two lakhs of maunds have been already ordered (of which 1,20,000 maunds have already arrived) leaving one lakh more to be ordered to make up the three lakhs. The grain is brought by the Eastern Bengal Railway to Goalundo and thence by steamer to Kaleegunge, just below the junction of the Teesta with the Brahmapootra. That part which is destined for Rungpore itself is carried from Kaleegunge up the Teesta; that which is destined for the other parts of the district is sent by carts. There are about five hundred carts employed in the service. I have instructed the Collector to make the numbers up to one thousand as soon as possible.

16. On the recommendation of the Relief Commissioner and the Collector I have determined the following relief circles, of which the areas have been arranged in order to admit of the various villages being inspected once a week according to the rules:—

West.

1. { Nisbetgunj.
   Koourgunj.
2. Molung.

South-West.

3. Peergunj.

South and South-East.

4. Sadoollapore.
5. Gobindgunj.

Centre.

6. Maheegunj.
7. Soondergunj.

North-East.

8. Borobaree.

North-West.

9. Durwanee.

Nine officers, who are already on the spot, have been nominated to fill these circles, and the assistants necessary for them will be immediately obtained in the districts by the Collector.

17. On the recommendation of the Collector, I have sanctioned the withdrawal from the district police force of three selected officers for relief work. To these men extra pay will be given during the time they are so employed, the pay to be fixed by the Relief Commissioner to cover all travelling expenses. The District Superintendent of Police has stated himself to be able to fill up their places temporarily from among the men of his force.

18. I have arranged therefore that there shall be nine sub-committees constituted under the rules; and that three of these, Sadoollapore, Soondergunj and Govindgunj, shall be placed under Mr. Damant, C.S., who will have the powers of a sub-divisional committee.

19. On the urgent representation of the Relief Commissioner, I have authorized the sale of Government grain under Clause G., Rule III., Part II. of the rules, at 12 seers to the rupee at the depôts of Peergunj, Sadoollapore and Soondergunj. There is reason to apprehend a serious deficiency of food at these places, which the trade is not supplying, and occasional symptoms of distress are apparent.

20. The total length of the relief roads projected amounts to 723 miles. The number of labourers is under 7,000. The rate of wages allowed is high, 3 annas per diem for men; no women have yet come to the works. Looking to the circumstances of the district, I should expect a much larger number. The Commissioner seems to think that the local management may be improved. The labourers will now be paid in grain.

21. Not more than one, or perhaps two, overseers are available for the supervision of these works. At least four more are required.

22. For the circles as above explained, seven native doctors are required, two only being now available.

23. Large numbers of ryots assembled to complain to me of distress, and I understand that for many days equally large numbers have been daily at the head quarters of the district with the same complaint. The statements made by many of them seemed to be exaggerated. Many of them on the other hand appeared to be really in need and distress. Some large zemindars of the district, such as the Ranee Surnomoyee, the zemindar of Kakina, Luchmeeput, Dhunput, Baboo Anunda Prashad, and others have set a good example in assisting their tenantry. Others have taken advances from Government for this purpose, some forty in number, the total of the advances being nearly one lakh of rupees. Again, there are many substantial ryots, more perhaps than in any of the neighbouring districts, though it is to be remembered that most of these live *out* of the distressed tracts. After making all allowances I cannot doubt that there is a fast increasing distress among large classes of the ryots in this district. Their request is for advances of cash or of grain to enable them to live until the next harvest comes in. I will endeavour to deal with this somewhat difficult subject in a separate paper.

No. 106, dated Dinagepore, the 16th March 1874.

From L. C. Abbott, Esq., on Special Duty with the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, to the Honourable C. E. Bernard, C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I am directed to forward copy of Minute No. 48, dated 16th March, regarding the condition of the Bogra district, recorded by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple.

I am to request that the suggestions contained in paragraphs 28 and 29 may receive the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Minute No. 48, by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., dated Dinagepore, the 16th March 1874.

Having visited the Bogra district, and marched through some of the worst parts of it, I have to record the following observations:—

2. The soil of the district is divided (like the district of Dinagepore or Rungpore) into two main categories—*polee*, light or sandy, and *khiar*, or clay. The district is divided into two parts by the River Korateya (an affluent of the Brahmapooter).

3. The *khiar* soil prevails on the western side of the Korateya River, and the *polee* on the eastern side.

The crops on the *polee* soil are, rice chiefly, and other products—sugarcane, wheat, and pulses.

4. The crops on the *khiar* soil are almost entirely rice; there is also the well-known mulberry cultivation, but that is limited to the vicinity of the town of Bogra.

5. The deficiency of rain affected the *khiar* much more than the *polee* soil.

6. The rice failed more completely on the *khiar*, and that having failed hardly anything else remained; whereas on the *polee* soil the rice failed to a much less extent, and there were other crops which have turned out well.

7. In the *khiar* the yield of rice was from 2 to 4 annas; in the *polee* some 6 to 8.

8. The consequence is, that about half the district is distressed while the other half is fairly well off.

9. The distressed parts consist mainly of the thannahs of Bogra and Khetlal, with portions of thannahs Panchbeebee, Seebgunge, Sherepore and Adumdigi.

10. I have had the advantage of consulting Baboo Madhub Chunder Mitra, the Deputy Magistrate-Collector, who has long experience of the district, and is highly recommended to me by the Relief Commissioner and the Collector as a valuable witness. He thinks that there will be much distress until the middle of August next. As it is important to record the views of a well-informed native gentleman, who maintains his opinion on cross-examination, I will give the substance of the Baboo's opinion. He would estimate the number of persons who would need assistance from Government in some shape or another as follows:—

Thannah.	Proportion of Population needing Relief.	Number of People.
Khetlal	75 per cent.	28,974
Bogra	75 „	164,619
Seebgunge	30 „	17,714
Panchbeebee	30 „	20,142
Badalgachee	25 „	9,185
Sherepore	25 „	18,509
	Total	259,143

11. He thinks that the full number should be taken from 15th April to 15th July, half the number from 15th March to 15th April and from 15th July to 15th August, whilst a quarter should be taken for the four months from 15th August to 15th December.

12. If the assistance of Government were given in the shape of rice, then at the rate of ¾ seer per head per diem, the total would come to 7,28,790 maunds. But he considers that for the most part the assistance need not be given in rice but rather in money, either as wages on public works or as advances. The reason is, that though there is a serious deficiency of grain in the district, still supplies are drawn from the districts of Pubna and Rajshahye on the south, and Mymensingh (across the Brahmapooter) on the east.

13. The large traders are not importing from distant districts because the high prices prevailing elsewhere preclude the hope of profit; but petty dealers and other persons are continually obtaining supplies in small quantities.

14. The stocks of the district itself, known as white rice, are probably approaching exhaustion; but the rice of neighbouring districts, known as red rice, is seen in the market. Such is the Baboo's opinion; he was not at all shaken on cross-examination.

15. Looking to all these considerations, the Baboo thinks that 1,50,000 maunds, to be imported by Government, will suffice, but that nothing short of this will be adequate.

16. The Collector, Mr. Kelly, would admit the value of the Baboo's opinion; but looking to all the circumstances of the district,—to its facilities for communication, to its prosperity in ordinary years, and to its probable means of bearing up against scarcity, he seemed to be strongly of opinion that the 50,000 maunds already provided by Government would suffice.

17. The Relief Commissioner, Mr. Robinson, thinks that the percentages of persons who may need assistance, as taken in the Baboo's estimate, are too high. He would make the following estimate as regards the number:—

Thannah.	Population.	Proportion to be relieved at worst.
Khetlal	258,123	77,500
Bogra		
Seebgunge	175,243	35,000
Badalgachee		
Panchbeebee		
Sherepore		

or a total population of 112,500 to be relieved at the worst.

Of these he calculates that—

	Maunds.
¼th, *i.e.*, 28,125 persons, will require food for 3 months, which, at ½ a seer per head per diem, amounts to	31,590
½, *i.e.*, 56,250 persons, for 2 months, at above rate	42,240
Whole for 2 months, at the same rate	84,360
Total	1,58,190
Or round numbers	1,60,000
Or taking ¾ seer	2,40,000

18. His recommendation is, that Government should provide 1,60,000 maunds.

19. He considers that the circumstances of the district have grown worse since his last visit; that due allowance has been made for facilities of communication and other favourable circumstances in his determination of the percentage of persons who may need help; and that the quantity as shown in his estimate ought to be supplied.

20. He considers that money aid, on a very large scale, would cause an excessive rise of prices, and so cause fresh complications, therefore he is for affording aid largely in the shape of food.

21. I consider, having regard to all the circumstances, that 2,40,000 maunds ought to be provided for this district, of which 50,000 maunds have been already ordered, leaving 1,90,000 maunds remaining to be ordered. Out of the 50,000 maunds ordered 20,000 maunds have arrived; no time should be lost in bringing up fresh supplies, as the amount in hand is small as compared with the extent of possible distress.

The grain is brought by steamer on the Brahmapooter to a point near Nokeele, east of Bogra; it is thence conveyed by carts into the interior of the district.

22. The carts now employed are few—under 300. I have asked the Relief Commissioner to instruct the Collector to collect additional carriage, inasmuch as carts are available in numbers in the Bogra district.

23. The prices in the district are not dear comparatively—12 and 13 seers for the rupee. The people seem to complain very much of the range of prices; the reason assigned is that they are accustomed to very cheap prices in ordinary years.

24. During my visit the following seven relief circles were determined to be administered by sub-committees:—

Bogra.
Khetlal.
Seebgunge.
Doopchanchea.
Booreegunge.
Gohail.
Hillee.

For these circles the following officers are available:—Mr. Nugent and Baboo Oomesh Chunder Ghose joined; and not joined but on their way, Messrs. Atkinson, Collier, P. C. Gupta; leaving two more to be sent. Of assistants two are already appointed, and the Relief Commissioner meditates appointing the remaining five, and putting them in their places within a week.

25. I found a large relief road under construction through the heart of the distressed tracts. Several branch roads have been projected.

26. The number of relief labourers is upwards of 5,000, the rate of wages 8 annas per diem. These people are at present paid in cash. I have requested the Relief Commissioner to have them paid in grain wherever he may think fit.

27. The Collector was in doubt whether the construction of tanks could be regarded as a relief work. I told him that it certainly could; that he should raise as much of subscription as possible, but that in every case of urgency he should commence the work at once. There are many places suitable for the commencement of such useful works.

28. There is besides an Executive Engineer a Superintendent of Roads, and two Overseers. I recommend that three more Overseers be sent.

29. Besides the Civil Surgeon, there are two Native Doctors appointed for relief purposes. These have not yet joined. I recommend that four more be sent.

30. I have not thought it necessary as yet to authorize the sale of Government grain (under the rules) at any of the depôts of this district.

31. A large multitude of ryots came into the station of Bogra on the day of my visit and clamoured for relief or advances. I was informed that this agitation had been going on for some days. Some of the complaints were doubtless exaggerated, but many of the men seemed to be really in need. I will try to deal with the subject of advances to ryots in a separate paper.

32. The grain merchants of the district have not applied for advances from Government for the purpose of obtaining rice from a distance; nor was I able to hear of any zemindars who had done anything noteworthy for the assistance of their tenantry.

MINUTE No. 51, by the Honourable Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Malda, the 18th March 1874.

HAVING marched through the Malda district and conferred with the Relief Commissioner, Mr. Robinson, and the Collector, Mr. Alexander, regarding the relief operations, I have to record the following observations.

2. As regards the crops, the district may be divided into three parts—

First, the part between the Mahanuddee, with its affluent the Kalindree and the Ganges, generally excellent, growing wheat, barley, indigo, mulberry and mangos;

Second, the part between the Mahanuddee and the borders of the districts of Dinagepore and of Rajshahye (locally called "the Borind") generally indifferent, growing rice as a staple, and sparsely populated;

Third, the part between the Mahanuddee and the Kalindree, partly good but mostly bad; thickly populated.

3. In general terms it may be said that those parts of the district which are within the "spill" of the Ganges, and have spring crops, wheat, &c., are in good condition; while those parts of the district which have rice crops dependent on rains, or on inundations which failed, are in bad condition.

4. The yield of the rice crop (little or no *bhadoi* and chiefly *amun*) in the Borind did not exceed four annas; in the part between the Kalindree and Mahanuddee, the bhadoi was a six-anna crop, and the amun, the principal crop, did not exceed four annas.

5. The worst period of the distress will be from 15th June to 15th August, after which time the bhadai rice crop will come in: but even then there will be some distress till the winter rice crop is reaped in December. The boro rice crop will afford an intermediate and supplementary supply to some extent during May and June.

6. I asked the Relief Commissioner and the Collector to give me their estimate of the grain requirements of the districts according to the latest data. They give me the following calculation:—

Population of thannah Kurbah	92,011	
of which 30 per cent. =		27,603
Population of thannah Gajole	55,316	
of which 25 per cent. =		13,829
Population of thannah Gomasthapore	48,999	
of which 15 per cent. =		7,349
Population of thannahs Malda and Nawabgunj	103,758	
of which 10 per cent. =		10,375
Population of thannah Gorgoriba	65,548	
of which 5 per cent. =		3,277
Total population to be considered =		62,433
		3
Whose daily consumption at		4)187,299
¾ seer per head per diem		40)46,825 seers.
		1,170 maunds,
		30
and their monthly consumption		35,100

Then the requirement will be—

For full number	for 2 months	70,200 maunds
„ half „	for 2 „	35,100 „
„ quarter „	for 4 „	35,100 „
		1,40,400 „
Add allowance for wastage, 5 per cent.		7,020 „
Total requirement		1,47,420 „

Or say 1,50,000 maunds.

7. After going through with Mr. Robinson and Mr. Alexander all the points, I would accept their estimate in the main, and would propose 1,50,000 maunds. I think that this amount will suffice for safety, considering the position of the district in regard to the rivers Ganges and Mahanuddee.

8. One lakh, or 1,00,000 maunds, have been already ordered by the local Government (of which 29,000 have arrived), leaving 50,000 maunds to be ordered.

9. If the quantity already arrived shall seem small, then it is to be remembered that a large part of the grain for the Dinagepore district passes through Malda, and that the authorities have been anxious that all the grain should be pushed on to the more distant localities.

10. The grain for the Malda district will come by three routes:—

First, to the Rajmehal Station, East Indian Railway; thence across the Ganges by boats to Manickchuk; thence by carts to Neema Serai on the Mahanuddee opposite Malda city, and across the river to the Borind tracts.

Second, to Sahebgunge station, East Indian Railway; thence down the Ganges to Hyatpore; and thence by cart to the tracts between the Kalindree and the Mahanuddee.

Third, to Kooshtea station, Eastern Bengal Railway; thence by steamer up the Ganges to Godagaree, junction of the Mahanuddee; thence by boats up the Mahanuddee to Malda, and by carts into the Borind tract.

11. The number of carts at present employed amounts to 2,000; but of these the greater part is engaged in the service of the Dinagepore district. It should not be difficult to procure additional carts in the district for the increased allotment of grain which I now propose; and I have drawn the Collector's attention to the subject. Pack-bullocks could, if required, be procured in large numbers in the district. On the whole there ought to be no difficulty, as the distance for carting is comparatively short.

12. In consultation with the Relief Commissioner and the Collector, I have fixed the following relief circles, in each of which there will be a sub-committee under the rules:

Chanchal, for the tract between the Kalindree and the Mahanuddee.

Malda City, for the tract on the left, or north bank of the Mahanuddee up to the Poorwa belt of jungle.

Gajole, for the tract north of the jungle to the Dinagepore frontier.

The circles have been so arranged as to admit of every village being inspected once a week under the rules. For these circles officers have been appointed and have joined, all save one. In the Chanchal circle it has been found necessary to appoint two officers. Of the native assistants required, the Collector has appointed one and undertakes to appoint three more.

13. In order to complete the complement of subordinate establishments, I have to ask that two native doctors and one overseer may be despatched to this district.

14. Various relief roads have been projected, the total length of which amounts to 187 miles. It is somewhat unfortunate in this district that in those parts where road-work is most wanted, there are comparatively few labourers to seek relief, and that in those parts where relief labourers are most numerous, there is the least scope for road-making.

15. On the east side of the district there are very many tanks to be excavated or repaired, but very few on the west side.

16. The wages for an adult male on the relief works amounts to 2½ annas per diem, with a proportionably less amount for women and children. At the present time there are 2,250 persons employed on the various relief works.

17. I have authorised the Collector to sell rice to these labourers at the rate of 12 seers to the rupee; but it is not thought necessary as yet to sell Government grain to the public anywhere except in the Chanchal circle.

18. There is some activity of private trade by the water route of the Mahanuddee. The Malda city on left or north bank of that river is fairly well supplied, and rice sells at 12 to 13 seers the rupee. But the principal mahajuns of the place distinctly told me that people would not import rice largely, because it would not pay them to do so while prices remained so high in the southern and the eastern districts. But in the tracts to the north, near the Dinagepore border, the rate is 10 seers the rupee.

MINUTE No. 54—by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Bankipore, the 20th March 1874.

IN reference to the accompanying copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Rajshahye, Mr. Molony, I have to state that I am prepared to concur in his view that one lakh of maunds of grain, out of the two lakhs allotted, will suffice for the Nerthern Bengal State Railway, and that the other lakh may be made over by Major Lindsay to the Relief Department at such places as Mr. Molony may direct.

2. The lakh thus made over may be considered as a set-off *pro tanto* against the additional provision which I have recommended for the relief division under Mr. Robinson.

No. 1 Ct.—S.R., dated Camp Rajmehal, the 19th March 1874.

From E. W. MOLONY, Esq., Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division, to L. C. ABBOTT, Esq., on special duty with SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I.

I HAVE the honour to note, with reference to the increased allotment made on the estimates of the requirements of the Dinagepore, Rungpore, and Bogra districts, that the amount of grain allotted to the Northern Bengal State Railway, viz., 2,00,000 maunds, has been excluded from the calculation. My opinion is that the railway officials will not be able to distribute more than 1,00,000, and that the second lakh may safely be held as a portion of the several district allotments to be indented for if required by the district officers. I would, at the same time, recommend that the whole of the 2,00,000 maunds for the railway be stored along the line as arranged for by Major Lindsay in a recent memorandum sent to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1665—S.R.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL in the Statistical Department, to the COMMISSIONER of RAJSHAHYE.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, the 21st March 1874.

I AM directed to forward copies of Sir Richard Temple's minutes, Nos. 47, 48, 49, 50, and 52, on the districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, and Bogra. The minute on Malda has not yet been received; but the Malda requirements are summarised in minute No. 52, and copies of the Malda orders will be forwarded to you as soon as they are received.

2. Copies of these minutes have been given by Sir Richard Temple to the Relief Commissioner and to the Magistrate-Collectors of the districts concerned; and they are no doubt acting upon the orders conveyed. A sufficient number of copies will now be sent with this letter to each district officer, so that the minutes may be in the hands of each district and sub-divisional officer. To the orders regarding advances to ryots, regarding the sale of Government grain, and regarding the collection of a reserve of carts, immediate attention must be very carefully given.

3. There remain for disposal the additional requirements decided upon by Sir Richard Temple in respect of—

(*a*.) Allotments of Government grain;
(*b*.) Public Works Department subordinates;
(*c*.) Native doctors, &c.;
(*d*.) Civil subordinate officers for circles.

4. In regard to the additional allotments of grain, the Government orders conveyed under endorsement No. 1472, dated 14th March, referred the question how and where the extra Dinagepore allotment should be carried and stored. Your letter No. 580, dated 16th March, reports that no additional storage room will be required at Kooshtea; that you will arrange to store the extra 2,00,000 maunds of the Dinagepore allotment at old Malda, Godagaree and Saktigachia on the Atrai.

It appears also from your letter that, with the steamers* now at his disposal, and with the help of native boats, Mr. Dawson can keep up a sufficient supply of grain at Godagaree, Rampore Bauleah, Dhaparee, Manick Chuck and Hyatpore, provided he receives sufficient Government rice from Calcutta. The extra 50,000 maunds for Malda will have to be supplied from Kooshtea in the same way as the Dinagepore supplies.

There is one point on which revised orders are required. Sir Richard Temple, in his minute No. 45 (paragraphs 16-17), contemplated 1,50,000 maunds of the Dinagepore supply being obtained *viâ* Purneah, and 1,50,000 maunds of the Purneah supply being obtained *viâ* the Mahanuddee. Paragraph 1 of Government order of the 14th March, contemplates 75,000 maunds only being sent to Dinagepore *viâ* Purneah, and the same amount being got from Purneah *viâ* the Mahanuddee. On further consideration of the matter, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it will be better to adhere to Sir Richard Temple's sketch of the original plan, and to have 1½ lakhs of the Dinagepore supply carried through Purneah; a corresponding quantity of the Purneah supply being procured if necessary *viâ* the Mahanuddee. The orders of the 14th March will therefore be so far modified, and the Commissioner of Bhagulpore will be informed accordingly.

5. There remain the extra allotments to Rungpore and Bogra to be provided. The Lieutenant-Governor leaves it to you to instruct Mr Toynbee, Mr. Dawson, and the district officers as to the places to which, and the quantities in which, the grain should be sent. So far as information is available here in Calcutta, the case stands thus:—

RUNGPORE—	Mds.
The Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple's allotment - - - - -	3,00,000
Already gone to or received in the district - - -	1,20,000
Remaining to be sent - - - - - - -	1,80,000

Under present arrangements, the Eastern Bengal Railway steamer *Prince of Wales*, with flats, takes 2½ trips a month from Goalundo to Kaligunge, and lands 25,000 maunds each trip, Mr. Davies is also sending a certain quantity away in native boats. This would give us 1,25,000 maunds landed at Kaligunge from now to the 20th May. For the remaining 80,000 maunds, we must take the steamer which is offered in Mr. Prestage's letter No. 1085, dated 20th March; she will be ready with one flat by the 28th March; another flat will be ready for her by the 8th April; and a third flat by the 18th April. Mr. Prestage offers to carry Government grain from Goalundo at six annas per maund; and the remaining 80,000 maunds for Rungpore must be carried up as promptly as possible by that route. If you find that some part of the Rungpore supply had better be landed elsewhere than Kaligunge, you can report and advise Messrs. Toynbee and Davies accordingly.

BOGRA—	Mds.
Allotment by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple - - -	2,40,000
Already received in the district - - -	20,000
Remaining to be sent - - - - - -	2,20,000

Under present arrangements, the regular steamer of the India Steam Navigation Company carries 30,000 maunds a month to Shahajeepara; and the steamer recently hired from the New River Steamer Company will carry 60,000 maunds a month from Goalundo to the same station This would give us from now to the 15th May 1,60,000 or 1,70,000 landed at Shahajeepara. The remaining 60,000 or 70,000 for Bogra, plus as much as may be required for South-East Dinagepore by that route, must be arranged for by additional steamers. Mr. Toynbee will be instructed to ascertain whether the India General Steam Navigation Company can give another steamer; and if not, in communication with Captain Baker, to take the *Sultan* and her flats which have been offered to Government. The *Sultan* should not be engaged for more than a month in the first instance, until it is seen whether she can stem the Berhampooter, and whether a steamer cannot be spared from the Patna Division complement.

If you require any of the Bogra supply to be landed at any other place than Shahajeepara, you should advise Mr. Toynbee and Mr. Davies accordingly.

6. Colonel Nicolls has already ordered sixteen (on the 20th March) Pubic Works Department subordinates to the districts of Rajshahye Division; the Government of India have been good enough to order down 25 additional subordinates from other provinces, and the full number required by Sir Richard Temple's minutes (28 in all) will shortly be made up.

With reference to paragraph 17 of Sir Richard Temple's minute No. 45, I am to explain that Mr. McKenna and his staff are to be wholly under the Relief Commissioner, as regards the mode of of employing the people, as regards rate of wages, as regards the works to be done, and as regards everything but professional details. The circle overseers also will be wholly subordinate to the circle officers.

7. The Surgeon-General of the Indian Medical Department is collecting medical subordinates as fast as he can; he has already been informed of Sir Richard Temple's indent (paragraph 20 of minute No. 45) for eleven more native doctors for Dinagepore. He will now be asked to supply—

To Malda -	3 Native Doctors in all.
To Bogra -	4 Additional Native Doctors, besides the two already joined (paragraph 29 of minute No. 48).
To Rungpore	7 Additional Native Doctors, besides the two already available (paragraph 23 of minute No. 47).

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* *Peel* and two flats.
Bombay and two flats.
Lucknow and two flats.
Koladyne and one flat and a cargo boat.
Star of Dacca and a hired flat.

Each of these native doctors will be supplied with a compounder and with a store of medicines, &c., sufficient for a circle dispensary and hospital.

8. In regard to the civil officers and subordinates for circles, it would appear (paragraph 6 of minute No. 52) that you and the Relief Commissioner already have sufficient officers, and that you can appoint subordinates locally. It therefore remains for this Government only to send you the six native assistants promised for Dinagepore in paragraph 3 of the orders of the 14th March. The officers of the Native Army are on their way to Rajmehal, where orders should await them under the care of Lieutenant Eliot.

9. You are requested to convey the thanks of Government for their exertions in the present crisis to—

Ranee Surnomoyee, whose charity and liberality is so well-known;
Rai Luchmiput Sing Bahadoor;
Rai Dhunput Sing, Bahadoor;
Baboo Anuda Persad;
„ Khetter Mohun Sing of Dinagepore;
Radha Govind Rai of Dinagepore;
Jankea Geer Gosain of Raigunge;
Shama Soondree Debya of Neetpore;
Seetal Chand Lahary of Bochagunge;

also to the Deputy Collector, Baboo Madhub Chunder Mitter, of Bogra.

10. I am to ask you to be so good as to consider and report at once whether any further orders are required in regard to the grain-supply and transport questions. Copies of all the endorsements on this letter are shown on the copies forwarded to yourself and to your officers, that you may see what Government has done, and may issue your supplementary orders accordingly.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1671.

Copy, with copy of minute No. 52, forwarded to Messrs. Toynbee, Dawson and Davies, whose special attention is drawn to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Government orders. Mr. Toynbee is requested to notice that the Rajshahye Divisional allotment now stands thus:—

	Mds.
Dinagepore	12,00,000
Rungpore	3,00,000
Bogra	2,40,000
Malda	1,00,000
Rajshahye	1,00,000
Northern Bengal Railway Works	2,00,000
Total	21,40,000

The whole of this has to go by the Eastern Bengal Railway, excepting the small quantities already sent *vià* Rajmehal and Hyatpore and the local purchases; the total of these excepted items comes to—

	Mds.
Commissioner's local purchases	80,000
Sent to Rajmehal and Hyatpore up to 17th March	1,24,000
Total	2,04,000
Up to the 17th March there had been sent *vià* the Eastern Bengal Railway	8,90,000
Total	10,94,000
Balance to be sent by the Eastern Bengal Railway	10,46,000
Total	21,40,000

There are thus, in round numbers, 10½ lakhs of maunds to be sent by the Eastern Bengal Railway, of which, unless Mr. Molony sends instructions to the contrary, there must go—

		Mds.
Vià Goalundo	For the Burrul route 10,000 maunds a week for 8 weeks	80,000
	Rungpore balance as steamers are ready	1,80,000
	Bogra balance as steamers are ready	2,20,000
	Total	4,80,000
Vià Kooshtea		5,66,000

This gives for eight weeks a weekly despatch of—

	Mds.	Tons.
To Kooshtea	70,000	2,500
To Goalundo	60,000	2,143
Total	1,30,000	4,643

Mr. Toynbee will be good enough to warn the Eastern Bengal Railway accordingly; he will take care that grain is always ready at Goalundo and Kooshtea for the hired steamers; and until the whole supply is worked off. If Mr. Dawson can work the grain off faster from Kooshtea, and if stocks are available in Calcutta, the weekly despatches to Kooshtea may exceed the total of 2,500 tons; but they must on no account fall below that total. Messrs. Toynbee, Davies, and Dawson will be careful not to let the reserve in the Kooshtea store-house fall below 25,000 maunds, and the reserve at Goalundo fall below 15,000 maunds.

No. 1735.—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir, Calcutta, the 24th March 1874.

In continuation of my letter No. 1,665, dated 21st March, I am directed to forward copies of Sir Richard Temple's minutes Nos. 51, 53, and 54, together with Mr. Hart's letter No. 110, dated 20th March, all of which papers relate to the districts of your division and the grain-supply therefore.

2. Minute No. 51 raises the Malda district grain allotment to 1,50,000 maunds; but minute No. 54 decides that 1,00,000 maunds out of the Northern Bengal Railway allotment may be taken as part of the allotment for the districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, Malda and Bogra. Major Lindsay and his officers will arrange for receiving, carting, and storing the extra lakh of maunds; but you will have to instruct him and the several district officers as to the places at which and the quantities in which the share of this surplus lakh of railway rice is to be made over to the relief department of each district. A copy of your instructions on this point should be forwarded to Government. In fact the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it probable that Major Lindsay will not use 1,00,000 maunds, and that he will have more to spare than the amount above stated.

3. The total allotment to your division will now stand thus:—*

	Mds.
Dinagepore	12,00,000
Rungpore	3,00,000
Bogra	2,40,000
Malda	1,50,000
Rajshahye	1,00,000
Northern Bengal Railway works	1,00,000
Total	20,90,000

It will be for you to instruct Messrs. Toynbee, Dawson, and Davies, informing Government at the same time whether the excess of 50,000 maunds, shown in endorsement No. 1671, should be deducted from the amount to be sent by the Burral route (80,000 maunds), or from the amount to go by Kooshtea and Godagaree, or from both.

4. The necessary orders for the additional Public Works Department and Medical Subordinates for the Malda district have already been given in paragraphs 6 and 7 of my letter No. 1665, dated 21st March. The complement of civil and circle officers in Malda appears (paragraph 12 of minute No. 51) to be either complete, or to be in process of being made complete by locally-made appointments.

5. Copies of all the endorsements issued on this letter are shown on the copies sent to you, in order that you may be able to issue supplementary orders accordingly.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

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* *N.B.*—These figures must be adopted in place of those given in the endorsement No. 1671 on Bengal Government letter of the 21st March.

APPENDIX F. to FOURTEENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE of the DROUGHT of 1873–74 in BENGAL, from 20th March to 2nd April 1874.

MINUTE by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 60, dated Bankipore, the 25th March 1874.

DOUBTS having been expressed by the Bengal Government as to the safety of the Gya district in respect to the scarcity, I sent, about the middle of February last, for the Collector, Mr. Palmer, and carefully considered with him the records of the outturn of the winter crop, and the prospects of the spring crop: also the particular parts of the district where distress might be expected to first occur: and the position of the various grain depôts. I also had the advantage of conferring with several native gentlemen, zemindars and others, who possess lands in that district.

2. The result was that I considered that the grain then stored, under orders of the local Government at the various depôts of the district, was sufficient to enable the district authorities to deal effectively with any distress that could reasonably be expected; and that nothing more need be done until the spring harvest should be secured, and the final estimate for the requirements of grain for the district could be framed.

3. The time has now come when, the spring harvest having been either reaped or assured, the final estimate can be no longer delayed. I have therefore, together with the Commissioner (Mr. Bayley) and the Collector, reconsidered the position of the district, and I beg to record the following observations:—

4. The tracts which produce the winter crops (rice) and those which produce the spring crops (wheat, &c.) are interspersed all over the district. The Indian-corn autumn crop, is not of considerable importance. The rice crop was indifferent in the upper portion of the district, having a four-annas yield; worst towards the centre, 2 to 3-annas yield; better towards the south-east and south-west with a yield of 12 annas. The spring crop has turned out well, especially towards the western boundary of the district on the banks of the Sone, having derived much benefit from the late rains, and will afford a full average yield. But, then, owing to the area sown having been less than usual (from want of autumnal rains) the yield of what may be called the total rubbee area is from 8 to 10 annas. Some of the works on the Sone Canal are being carried out in this district along the right bank of the Sone, but the principal works are on the left bank in the Shahabad district.

5. The district adjoins that of Patna where the crops are good. On its western boundary is the Sone, the canals from which water considerable tracts. The facilities for trade are fairly good, and the district is permeated by two trunk roads. The worst part of the district in respect to crops has facilities for supervision, being situated close to the civil station of Gya itself.

6. The Commissioner and the Collector consider that the distress will begin in April and will reach its maximum between the beginning of May and the end of June. It will be mitigated in July, and gradually diminish from the end of September till the end of November when it will cease.

7. The Collector having been requested by me to offer a final estimate of the requirements of grain according to the same principle as that adopted for the other districts, offers the following estimate of the number which may be expected to need Government assistance at the worst season:—

Thana.	Persons who may need assistance from Government.
Urwal	5,000
Daoodnuggur	3,000
Aurungabad	10,000
Nubeenuggur	5,000
Shergotty	7,000
Gya	11,000
Barahchutty	4,300
Uttrie	7,000
Tikaree	8,000
Jehanabad	12,000
Nowada	17,000
Rajowlee	4,000
Total	93,300

which number represents between 4 and 5 per cent. of the total population of the district.

8. In this estimate the Commissioner concurs, except that he considers it somewhat high. The numbers are obtained by calculating the percentages of persons who will need assistance on the population of each thana division of the district; the percentage varying according to the circumstances of each thana.

9. I calculate that the whole of this number (say 93,000) will have to be assisted for two months, half the number for three months, one-quarter for one month, and one-eighth for two

months. Thus we should have, at three-quarter seer per head per diem, the requirement of the district in maunds of grain as follows:—

	Maunds.
Two months, at full rates	1,04,624
Three months, at half rates	78,468
One month, at one-fourth rates	13,078
Two months, at one-eighth rates	13,078
	2,09,248
Add—5 per cent. for wastage	10,462
Total	2,19,710

or, roundly, a total of 2,20,000 maunds for the whole district.

10. Upon the estimate as above set forth I recommend that the amount of 2,20,000 maunds be provided by Government for the Gya district. There are 1,50,000 maunds already ordered by the Local Government (of which 1,40,000 maunds have been stored) leaving 70,000 maunds yet to be ordered.

11. It is desired that, of the additional quantity of 70,000 maunds, one-third should consist of mixed grains and two-thirds of rice. I have accordingly to ask that 45,000 maunds of rice (in addition to previous orders) be despatched to the Bukhtearpore and Bankipore Stations for the service of the Gya District. The remainder, or 25,000 maunds mixed grains, will be purchased through the Government of the North-Western Provinces, and I have directed the Commissioner accordingly.

12. The Collector reports that there will be no difficulty in obtaining carts for the conveyance of the additional 70,000 maunds.

13. The are four main depôts for grain in the district, and 17 subordinate depôts.

14. Though there will be distress in some slight degree scattered over the district, still the Collector and the Commissioner consider that there is not any tract in any part of the district which could be marked down as uniformly or generally distressed. I, therefore, do not see the necessity for marking off relief circles such as those fixed for the distressed districts.

15. But every part of the district will need to be frequently visited by responsible native officials, to bring forward incidental cases of distress, and to see that relief works are placed within reach of all those who may be seeking employment, and to take the necessary measures in any emergent cases which may come before them. For this important purpose the Commissioner and the Collector consider that four supervisors (one for each main sub-division of the district) should be appointed, and four deputies. As the Commissioner and Collector report that they cannot obtain locally the men required, I have asked the Government of the North-Western Provinces for the services of four tehsildars, leaving the Collector to appoint the four deputies on salaries not exceeding Rs. 50 per mensem.

16. I find that various relief roads have been projected, the total length of which amounts to 185 miles. Our main reliance must be placed on these, inasmuch as some of the district is not suited for the excavation of tanks.

17. The relief labourers are as yet few, less than 1,000. Some of them accept piece work at the somewhat favourable rate of Rs. 1-12 for 1,000 cubic feet. The rest are regarded as an invalid gang which can do but little work, and receive one anna per diem for a man and three-quarters of an anna for a woman.

18. If able-bodied persons come to the work and do not piece work, the rate will be 2 annas a day for a man, 1¾ annas for a woman, and ½ anna for a child.

19. The Collector seems to be convinced that there is no symptom as yet of any distress. Still, considering the circumstances of the district, I am not without apprehension that the number of relief labourers may begin to increase rapidly as soon as the harvest work is over, and I have requested the special vigilance of the Commissioner to this subject.

20. The Collector requires the services of four overseers for his relief works. I have accordingly to ask that these officers may be supplied.

21. I do not find that any additional subordinate medical establishment is needed.

22. The figures given in this Minute are irrespective of the labourers from this district employed on the Sone Canal works. Those are included in the statement given for the canal works as a whole, in my Minute No. 61 of to-day's date, on the Shahabad district. It will be seen that the Gya District furnishes at least 8,000 men to these works.

23. The following are the prices now quoted in the district. They do not indicate severe scarcity as yet. They were at one time dearer at Gya itself, but that circumstance was locally attributed to special circumstances.

DISTRICT OF GYA.

Up to 21st March.

	S.	C.
Common rice	11	3
Wheat	12	7
Barley	17	3
Jowar	15	2
Cheena	15	8
Indian corn	14	3
Gram	15	13

R. TEMPLE.

MINUTE by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 61, dated Bankipore, the 26th March 1874.

I HAVE had the advantage of carefully discussing at Patna the affairs of the Shahabad district (in relation to scarcity) with the Commissioner, Mr. S. Bayley; the Collector, Mr. Alexander; and Mr. Levinge, the Superintending Engineer of the Soane Canal Works; and as there are certain points requiring immediate decision, I beg to record the following observations.

2. The district is described by the Collector to have an area interspersed with patches of rubbee (wheat, &c.) and rice crops, so that there is a difficulty in giving a brief and general description. It may be said, however, that the rubbee prevails on the banks of the Ganges and the Soane, which rivers enclose the triangle of the district on two sides. In the centre of the district there is partly rubbee and partly rice. Towards the base of the triangle forming the western parts of the district, there is more rice near the basin of the Kurumnasa, and some low hills spreading over a considerable tract. In this part the principal place is Sasseram.

3. There are three principal crops:—

The bhadoi (Indian-corn)	Autumn.
„ rice	Winter.
„ wheat, &c.	Spring.

The autumn crop had a yield of eight annas; the winter crop a yield of two; the spring crop a yield of ten.

4. The distressed parts of the district will consist mainly of a tract near the centre, south-west of Arrah, the tract around Sasseram, and the tract near the Kurumnasa. These tracts and some other tracts in detail, depending chiefly on rice, have lost nearly all of their year's harvest. But they are situated close to tracts which have good spring crops, and can obtain help from their neighbours. The majority of the people of the district have no reason to feel any distress save that which may rise from the high prices which prevail everywhere.

5. The worst period will be from the 15th April to 15th July, when the distress will become mitigated. After the 15th September the Indian-corn will come into market, when there will be further diminution to the end of November, about which time cessation may be hoped for.

6. As is well known the Soane Canal has its head works in this district. Its two main lines and their branches have already afforded much irrigation during the present year. Much has in this way been done to avert distress.

7. I requested the Collector to give me an estimate of the numbers who may be expected to need assistance from Government at the worst season. He gives the following numbers, which are obtained by calculating the percentage (of persons who may need assistance) on the population of each thana in the district, the percentages varying according to the circumstances in each thana—

Thana.	Number of Persons who may need Assistance.
Peeroo	7,000
Chowsa	8,000
Arrah	8,000
Sasseram	22,000
Bhubbooa	30,000
Total	75,000

Out of this total it is estimated that 30,000 persons will be employed on the canal, leaving 45,000 to be provided for the districts.

8. I calculate that the full number will be needing assistance for three months, half the number for two months, and a quarter for three months. This will give, at ¾ seers per head per diem, a total grain requirement for the district of 120,232 maunds, to which I add 5 per cent. for wastage, or 6,011 maunds, bringing up the total to 126,243 maunds.

9. I accordingly recommend that 127,000 maunds be provided. Already 65,000 maunds have been ordered by the local Government, leaving 62,000 maunds to be ordered.

10. Mr. Levinge considers that upwards of 60,000 persons will be employed on his canal works at the most active season, and he estimates that 190,000 maunds in all should be provided. He is of opinion that, as many of these people will be able-bodied and working hard, one seer a day should be allowed. Already 114,000 maunds have been ordered by the local Government, leaving 76,000 maunds to be ordered.

11. There would thus remain to be ordered—

	Mds.
District	62,000
Canal	76,000
Total	138,000

The total number of persons would be—

District	45,000
Canal	60,000
Total	105,000

This would bring up the total provision to—

	Mds.
District	127,000
Canal	190,000
Total	317,000

12. It is desired that out of the additional amount to be ordered, the following should consist of rice:—

	Mds.
District	35,000
Canal	40,000
Total	75,000

I have accordingly to ask that 75,000 maunds rice may be sent to the railway stations between Arrah and Mogulserai.

13. It is desired that the remainder, or 63,000 maunds, should consist of mixed grains, wheat, millet, &c., and I will request the Commissioner to cause this to be purchased through the Government of the North-Western Provinces.

14. It is to be borne in mind that the quantity above set forth for the canal includes some provision for labourers from other districts besides Shahabad. Mr. Levinge gives me the following approximate statement of labourers employed on the 380 miles of canal, 300 miles being in Shahabad and 80 in Patna and Gya:—

In what District.	Number of Persons.
Gya and Patna	8,000
Shahabad	24,000
Total	32,000

Of the 24,000 persons employed in the Shahabad district, about 14,000 are local and 10,000 have come from other districts.

15. A good scheme of roads for the employment of relief labour has been proposed. The total length of the roads ordered amounts to 415 miles, besides which 72 miles more have been proposed. There will be also some tanks to be excavated.

16. The number of persons employed on relief works at present may be stated at—

17. The rates of wages on relief works are—

Man	As. 2 a day.
Woman	„ 1-8 „
Child	„ 0-9 „

For these rates a fair amount of work is exacted. If the persons are unable to do more than a very light or nominal amount of work, they receive a less rate.

18. The Commissioner and Collector consider that the distress will be scattered over the district; that no particular tract or tracts will be distressed throughout, those villages which have lost some of their crops will generally be found either to have some other crops as a resource, or to be close to neighbours who possess stores or who have good crops; and that consequently there are no tracts which could properly be marked off as relief circles like those which have been established in other districts. And I concur in this view.

19. But we all consider that there should be a well-paid and trustworthy native official and a deputy employed in each of the four main sub-divisions of the district to go the round of all the villages, to see that relief works are opened within easy reach of all who need employment, to search out individual cases of peculiar distress, to take any measures that may be emergently necessary, and to report constantly to the district. For this very important purpose I have authorised the Collector to entertain at once four native officials on salaries from Rs. 80 to 100 per mensem, and four deputies on salaries of Rs. 40 to 50.

20. The Collector desires to have the services of two overseers in addition to his present small establishment. I have to ask that these officers may be supplied.

21. I find that additional subordinate medical establishments are not required in this district.

22. I would urge on the attention of Government the expediency of establishing telegraphic communication with Dehree, the head point of the Sone canal works.

23. The following are the prices in the district. They do not indicate any severe scarcity as yet:—

Up to 21*st March* 1874.

	S.	C.
Common rice	11	6
Wheat	14	1
Barley	18	10
Jowar	19	0
Cheena	—	—
Indian-corn	16	11
Gram	18	7

R. Temple.

RESOLUTION.

Scarcity and Relief Department.

Calcutta, the 30th March 1874.

Read—

Minutes Nos. 60 and 61, dated the 25th March 1874, recorded by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, on the requirements of grain and supervising establishments for the districts of Gya and Shahabad.

The grain allotted to the district of Gya by the Bengal Government is 150,000 maunds, of which 140,000 have already been stored. Sir Richard Temple recommends that the allotment be increased by 70,000 maunds, of which 45,000 maunds should be rice and 25,000 mixed grain from the North-Western Provinces. Sir Richard Temple has directed the Commissioner to procure the mixed grain from the North-Western Provinces, and orders will this day be issued to Mr. G. Toynbee, the grain officer at Calcutta, to despatch the increased allotment of 45,000 maunds of rice to the Gya district. It was remarked in the annexure of this office letter No. 1,451, dated the 13th instant, that the supplies for Gya were not very emergent, and were not to be attempted while the railway was working short; and this fact should be borne in mind now, especially as the Collector of Gya says that there will be no difficulty in obtaining carts for the conveyance of the additional assignment.

2. Sir Richard Temple has asked the Government of the North-Western Provinces for the services of four relief supervisors, has authorised the Collector to appoint four deputies on salaries not exceeding Rs. 50 per mensem, and asks that four overseers for relief works may be appointed to Gya. The Public Works Department of this Government will be requested to arrange for supplying these latter.

3. The grain allotted by the Bengal Government for the Shahabad district was—

	Mds.
District	65,000
Soane Canal	114,000

Sir Richard Temple recommends that these allotments may be increased by—

	Mds.
For the district	62,000
„ canal	76,000
Total	138,000

Of the total increased allotments, Sir Richard Temple has directed the Commissioner to buy 63,000 maunds of mixed grain, wheat, millet, &c., through the Government of the North-Western Provinces, leaving the balance of 75,000 maunds to be supplied from Calcutta. Mr. Toynbee will accordingly be requested to arrange for the supply of the additional allotments for the Shahabad district and Soane Canal.

4. Sir Richard Temple has authorised the Collector to entertain at once four native relief officers on salaries of Rs. 80 to 100 per mensem for the four main sub-divisions of the district, and asks for the services of two overseers in addition. The Secretary in the Public Works Department will be asked to make arrangements for sending up the two overseers.

5. Sir Richard Temple urges the expediency of establishing telegraphic communication with Dehree, the head point of the Soane Canal Works, and the Lieutenant-Governor will cause the Government of India to be moved to sanction the measure.

No. 1930—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Calcutta, dated 30th March / issued March 1874.

Sir,

I am directed to submit herewith copies of Minutes Nos. 60 and 61, recorded by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, on the requirements of the Gya and Shahabad districts, together with copy of the orders of the Bengal Government thereon.

2. In paragraph 22 of his Minute No. 61 on the Shahabad district, Sir Richard Temple urges the expediency of establishing telegraphic communication with Dehree, the head point of the Soane Canal Works, and the Lieutenant-Governor desires me to solicit that His Excellency the Viceroy in Council may be pleased to sanction the undertaking.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 119, dated Bhagulpore, the 28th March 1874.

From L. C. Abbott, Esq., on duty with Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I am directed to forward copy of a Minute No. 64, of 28th March, recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the requirements of the Monghyr district.

Minute by Honourable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., No. 64, dated Bhagulpore, the 28th March 1874.

Having visited the Monghyr district and discussed its affairs relating to scarcity with the Commissioner, Mr. Barlow, and the Collector, Mr. Lockwood, and the principal relief officer, Mr. Currie, I have to record the following observations.

2. The district is divided by the Ganges into two parts, northern and southern. On both banks of the river, especially the northern, there are spring crops which have turned out excellently well, and thus a large portion of the district is placed beyond the reach of apprehension.

3. But in the northern part of the district there is a tract named Bukhtearpore, included in the thannah of Gogree, which is separated from the basin of the Ganges by a belt of swamp, and in which the main staple, rice, has failed, having produced a one-anna to two-annas yield. In the southern part is also a broad tract comprising the thannahs of Sheikhpoora and Secundra, dependent mainly on the rice crop, which for the most part failed, having a yield of only 3 annas. There is also a hilly tract (around a branch of the Vindhyas jutting out against the Ganges) within which the rice crop has failed, especially near Khurruckpore, belonging to the Durbhungah raj. Throughout the district there are autumn crops, Indian-corn, and the like, which last proved indifferent, with a yield of only 6 annas.

4. The general situation may be summarised thus. Several tracts of the district have lost the greater part of its food-supply for nearly a year. But in juxtaposition with these there are tracts with excellent crops. These are as good facilities for trade and communication as could reasonably be expected in any district. At present the poorer classes in the distressed districts are engaged in cutting the harvest in the flourishing tracts, and when this employment ceases (in a few days more), they will probably come in great numbers suddenly on the hands of Government for relief. Thus the period of distress will be probably at its worst from the 15th April till the 15th June, when, if the rains fall favourably, there will be again employment obtainable. But the distress, though mitigated, will last till the produce of the autumn crop comes in by the beginning of September, after which time the distress will cease.

5. I requested the Collector to estimate the numbers of persons whom he expects will need assistance from Government, and he would take 40 per cent. on the population of the Bukhtearpore portion of the Gogree thannah, on the population of the Sheikhpoora and Sekundra thannahs, and on the population round Khurrukpore, which calculation gives this result:—

In what Thannah.	Persons who will need assistance from Government.
Gogree	42,000
Secundra	44,000
Sheikhpoora	79,000
Khurrukpore	7,000
Total	172,000

I would accept this part of the estimate.

6. It is further agreed that we must provide for the whole number for two months (from 15th April to 15th June).

7. The Collector thinks that from 15th June to 1st October we should provide for a quarter of the number. The Commissioner thinks that it would not be safe to take less than a half.

8. The result of the two calculations may be seen thus—

Estimate by Commissioner.

	Mds.
172,000 for 2 months, at ¾ seer per day	193,500
86,000 for 3½ months, at ¾ seer per day	169,312
Total	362,812

Estimate by Collector.

172,000 for 2 months, at ¾ seer per day	193,500
43,000 for 3½ months, at ¾ seer per day	84,656
Total	278,156

9. I concur in the Commissioner's estimate, and consider that 360,000 maunds, plus 5 per cent. for wastage (180,000 maunds), making 378,000 maunds in all, should be provided for the Monghyr district.

10. Already 300,000 maunds have been ordered by the local Government, of which 192,000 maunds have been stored. Besides this there are 20,000 maunds stored by the Court of Wards

(Durbhunga) at Khurrukpore, which, added to the 192,000, makes up 212,000 maunds, leaving 166,000 maunds yet to be sent. But as the grain sent as yet consists of rice, the remainder can conveniently be supplied, if the Government sees fit, by mixed grain obtained in the North-Western Provinces.

11. After communicating with me on the occasion of my visit to Soopole, the Commissioner has fixed the following relief circles, which appear to be quite appropriate:—

1. Bukhtearpore	North of Ganges.
2. Luckee Serai	South of Ganges.
3. Secundra	
4. Sheikhpoora	

The three last named circles form a group, and have been constituted a relief sub-division under Mr. Currie, C.S.

12. The local Government has already appointed European officers to each of these circles. I had previously authorised the Commissioner to appoint one native officer to each circle. I have now requested him to appoint a second native officer to each circle, which he will be able to do immediately. There is at least one overseer for public works in each circle; a native doctor has also been appointed to each.

13. I have the pleasure to state that the Commissioner and the Collector speak in high terms of the conduct of the zemindars in the distressed tracts, who are keeping their tenantry from their own resources, taking advances from Government for this purpose, and constructing tanks and such like works in the villages. The number of such tanks is reported to be at least 34. The Durbhunga Court of Wards also, through Mr. Roberts, the local manager, is setting the best example to neighbouring zemindars by storing grain, constructing works, and assisting ryots.

14. The amount of cash advances obtained from Government is shown in the subjoined table; the amount is creditable to the district authorities:—

Monghyr District.

	Rs.
Advances for purchases of grain, under paragraph 4 of Circular No. 80 of 17th November 1873	56,800
For land improvement, under paragraph 21 of Circular No. 80 of 17th November 1874	33,790
Generally for helping ryots, under Government orders No. 4004 of 18th December 1874	11,300
Total	101,890

15. The length of relief roads amounts to 254 miles.

16. The number of relief labourers, including those employed by zemindars on their tanks and those employed by the Court of Wards, may be stated for the present time at 12,000.

17. This is less than the numbers for some of the previous periods. But, as already explained, the people have gone off to the harvesting. It is to be feared that they will soon return to the relief works in much larger numbers than ever.

18. In this district, however, relief circles are in working order, and adequate quantities of grain are stored at all the points of probable requirement. And I have seen no district better prepared than Monghyr to meet an emergency of this kind. The Collector, Mr. Lockwood, and the principal relief officer, Mr. Currie, merit the confidence of Government.

R. Temple.

No. 2353—S.R., dated Bhagulpore, the 23rd March 1874.

From G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Bhagulpore Division, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

With reference to Government orders No. 1236—S.R., dated 4th instant, I have the honour to submit copy of Sir Richard Temple's Minute of the 20th instant, determining the arrangements to be made for the relief and security of Godda and Rajmehal sub-divisions of the Sonthal Pergunnahs. I append also copies of Mr. Baker's Report, No. 2, dated 3rd instant, and my Note of the 16th idem, which were laid before Sir Richard. The Government are already in possession of other reports upon the subject, referred to in the marginal entry at the head of my note.

2. Since Sir Richard's departure, I have again met the Officiating Deputy Commissioner and sub-divisional officers of Godda and Rajmehal, from whom I learn that the conditions of carriage are so far good for the transport of grain from all railway stations as to make it unnecessary to store immediately a two months' supply even in the golah sites on the Godda side, which are the furthest removed from the rail. We can begin with a provision for one month all round and watch the progress of events. Should the consumption of our stocks prove unexpectedly rapid, we must of course supplement them from time to time; but we calculate that working full strength from the beginning of May, we could, if need be, place a full four months' supply, calculated at the rates fixed upon by Sir Richard Temple, within the tracts before the setting in of the rains. Moreover, looking at the short distances of most of the store-houses from the railway, it seems probable that during the rains supplies could continue to be thrown in through the agency of a coolie corps. We thus have two strings to our bow, and can afford to act deliberately and await the turn of events. Upon the point as to the practicability of raising a coolie corps inquiry will at once be made.

3. I beg that orders may be given to despatch grain according to the arrangement proposed in the annexed table.

4. The present idea is that the necessities of the Sonthal Pergunnahs will be met by a free distribution of works to afford the people employment, and the sale of grain for food to the people on the works. The conditions of the case ascertained up to date encourage this view. Mr. Grant, the sub-divisional officer of Godda, told me yesterday that he had already nearly 10,000 people upon the new road in his charge, and that the Government grain was readily purchased by the labourers, nearly 1,000 maunds having been taken up to date. We have not seen as yet elsewhere in the division similar eagerness to work, or desire to purchase Government grain. Under the circumstances of the case, I have directed other roads running through Godda and Rajmehal, which were sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor as long ago as October last, but the commencement of which was kept back by me, to be proceeded with; and I have, as the Government are aware, authorised the local officers to execute bund and tank works in the Damin-i-koh wherever necessary to give employment.

5. Should the necessity for giving charitable relief arise, the local officers are instructed to do what is needful.

6. Under an arrangement approved by the Lieutenant-Governor and Sir Richard Temple, Colonel Moore takes charge of relief operations in Godda and Rajmehal, subject to the general supervision of the Deputy Commissioner, and joins his appointment to-morrow. I have furnished him with establishment noted in the margin, to which I solicit sanction. I have thought it well to supply Colonel Moore with a really good man who would assist him.

	Rs.	A.	P.
1 Clerk for general work, to give security, have charge of cash, and keep accounts	90	0	0
1 Mohurir - - -	20	0	0
Total -	110	0	0

Distribution of Grain Supplies for the Sub-divisions of Godda and Rajmehal in the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

Note.—The supply shown is for one month only.

Name of Sub-division.	Name of Golah and Distance from nearest Railway Station.	Quantity of Grain to be supplied.	Railway Station at which to be supplied.	Date of Dispatch (proposed) from Calcutta.	To whom to be consigned.
		Mds.			
Godda - -	Doe 10 miles -	5,000	All at Peerpointee Railway Station.	500 maunds on the 4th April and 12th respectively.	The Extra Assistant Commissioner of Godda, Peerpointee Station.
	Mahagaon 21 „ -	5,000			
	Mooraroe 10 „ -	3,000*			
	Barkop 30 „ -	3,000			
	Godda 40 „ -	4,000			
Rajmehal -	Burhait 12 „ -	4,500	Bahawa Railway Station.	5,500 on the 1st April.	The Deputy Magistrate of Rajmehal, Bahawa Station.
	Putna 1 „ -	1,000	Ditto - -		
	Burio 12 „ -	2,500	Teenpahar - -	2,500 on 1st April	Deputy Magistrate of Rajmehal, Teenpahar Railway Station.
	Sahebgunge - -	2,000	Sahebgunge -	30th March -	Deputy Magistrate, Rajmehal, Sahebgunge.
	Banjhee 10 miles -	1,000			
	Taljharee - -	3,000	Instructions will follow.		

* A consignment of 5,000 maunds was sent here under Lieutenant-Governor's orders No. 1344—S.R., dated 9th instant; a second consignment is said to be under dispatch, of which I have no intimation. Whatever may have been sent, the difference between such amount and 20,000 maunds should now be forwarded in two instalments.

G. N. Barlow,
Officiating Commissioner.

No. 2, dated Camp Sahebgunge, the 3rd March 1874.

From E. B. Baker, Esq., Officiating Deputy Inspector-General of Police on special duty, to G. N. Barlow, Esq., C.S.I., Commissioner of Bhagulpore.

On the 14th ultimo I had the honour to send you, under cover of a demi-official letter, a note on the state of the Rajmehal sub-division, in respect of its food-supplies, means of communication with the interior, and the general condition of its population.

2. The above note was written after personal communication with Mr. Stewart, the officer in charge of the Rajmehal sub-division, and inspection of the country lying at the eastern base of the hills about Taljharee, where there are a good many Sonthal villages, and of portions of pergunnahs Jumonee and Chetalea, in which distress was apprehended.

3. Subsequently I visited villages lying at the foot of the hills on the north, making myself acquainted with the condition of the people and with the best means of providing relief; then joining the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, who had arrived from Doomka, we went up together from Teenpahar to Burio, and thence northwards towards Banjhee, along the road now being made to Sahebgunge. Leaving Mr. Boxwell at Burio, I next went westward to Boarijore, and then turning to the north I met Mr. Grant (the officer in charge of the Godda sub-division) at Moraroe, and intended afterwards to visit the neighbourhood of Godda itself; but the

accounts furnished by Mr. Grant of the condition of the people in portions of his jurisdiction were so serious, and my own observations so convincing of the necessity for immediate action, that I thought it prudent to change my route, and to proceed to Bhagulpore to inform you personally of the state of things.

4. Having yesterday laid before you all the information I had gathered, and having with you gone through the latest reports from the district and sub-divisional officers, I believe it will be sufficient if I now repeat briefly in writing the results of my inquiries and the suggestions which present themselves to my mind as best suited to meet the necessities of the tracts threatened with famine.

5. The opinion expressed by me in my communication of the 14th ultimo, as to the certainty of distress arising from scarcity of food in the Rajmehal sub-division, has been confirmed by further observations, and I now believe that the distress will be greater than I was then prepared to admit. The Godda Damin-i-koh is in a similar condition to that of the Rajmehal sub-division, while portions of the open country at the foot of the hills is in a worse state in Godda than in Rajmehal.

6. The Sonthals are, up to the present, in good case, looking sleek and well-fed. Their villages swarm with children, there is no want of cattle, and poultry about the fields and homesteads, and the signs of the threatened famine are in the appearance of the rice fields, the almost total absence of green crops and straw stocks, the anxiety of the people regarding food for the next six months, and the high price of grain, where it is ordinarily cheap. A bad crop of rice in 1872, followed by a much worse in 1873, would cause distress among a comparatively well-to-do and thrifty race; the Sonthals, however, are the contrary, and few among them look much beyond the present day. Even now, though they declare they have only food for a very little while longer, they are quiet and resigned, and appear to rely with unbounded faith upon the Government and its officers.

Fortunately there was an excellent harvest of maize last August, which has mainly provided them with food up to date, and some may still be in store in the houses of the better sort.

The reported exportation of this grain seems to me a matter quite apart from the question of the existence of a sufficient stock of food in hand. Some grain, whatever it may chance to be, must be sold to provide clothing, implements, salt, and other necessaries of life, and some is the property of the merchant, who has made advances for it as soon as it is cut. Rice not being forthcoming this season, a part of the maize has perforce been sold and reported.

There is every promise of an abundant mango crop, which, with roots, wild sag, and mowa, will help the people through the hot season.

7. Hitherto I have referred only to the Sonthals, because the Pahareeas keep altogether aloof from us, and show no signs of distress, present or prospective. I have conversed with a few, who spoke rather coolly of their prospects, and I saw but one on road work; I suspect therefore that they have in store a sufficient supply of maize and are independent of our assistance.

8. Besides Sonthals and Pahareeas, there are only about 2,000 other people, Bengalees, Beharees, &c., in the Godda and Rajmehal Domin-i-koh, such as shopkeepers, money-lenders, and traders in general.

9. The tract of country which I believe to be threatened with famine is that between the Ganges on the north, the railway on the east, and line drawn a little south of Bohowa, to a little south of Godda on the south, and a line from Godda to Peerpointee on the west. The whole of the country between these lines will, I fear, be in distress from the beginning of April to middle of August, more or less; more in the north and west, less in the south and east.

In some parts, such as Muniharee and the villages along the foot and outside the hills, the distress is already commencing.

I have read Mr. Boxwell's reports to you, and I agree with him generally, but I believe he takes too sanguine a view of the condition of the Damin-i-koh; and my estimate coincides more closely with those of the sub-divisional officers, Messrs. Stewart, Bedford, and Grant.

10. The entire population of the above tract of country is, according to the census, 246,122, as shown in the margin; adding a few villages lying outside the Rajmehal Damin, and within pergunnahs Jumonee and Chetalea, we may accept 250,000 as representing the total population affected by the present scarcity.

Rajmehal	- - -	99,462
Godda in the Damin-i-koh	-	86,660
„ outside „	about -	60,000
Total	- -	246,122

11. In my first note I calculated on 15 per cent. as likely to require relief, but I am now satisfied that I was then much below the mark. It is very difficult to form a correct idea of the proportion likely to be on our hands—it may be 30 per cent. or it may be 60 per cent. Unlike the rural population of Bengal and Behar, where various degrees of wealth and poverty co-exist, the Sonthals are, I think, much more on a par generally, there being among them few men of superior possessions and few altogether indigent. The estimate of the actual numbers requiring help I would prefer to leave with the sub-divisional officers, who are better able to calculate them, but I cannot think it will fall much short of half the population, say, in round numbers, 100,000, after deducting the Pahareeas, who may amount to between 20,000 and 30,000. The census returns do not distinguish between them and the Sonthals, but they cannot be more than 10 or 15 per cent. of the latter people.

12. The number to be fed being then 100,000, the period, 150 days (from middle of March to middle of August), and the daily ration half a seer, we obtain 187,500 as the quantity of grain in maunds, for which there may be a demand between date and July; or, allowing for wastage and losses, say two lakhs of maunds, half of which may be rice and half mukai and janera.

13. The roads into the Damin-i-koh are (1) from Bahwa to Burhait, (2) from Teenpahar to Borio, (3) from Sahebgunge to Banjhee. The first is a good cart road, the second is nearly ready for carts, but the third I fear will be only open for pack-bullocks.

The Godda Damin and distressed tracts can be easily penetrated by the road now being made from Godda to Peerpointee. That portion of the road lying in the Bhagulpore district, viz., the last 3 or 4 miles to the railway station, is in a very backward state.

A good cart-tract lies between Burhait and Banjhee which may be converted into a good road all the year round.

14. Such being the condition of things, there need be no difficulty in feeding the distressed population if grain be put down at the railway stations above indicated. The sub-divisional officers state that there will be sufficiency of carriage at all those points.

15. I need not enter now upon the relief works to be undertaken, as they have been already decided upon and some are in progress; but I strongly advocate the construction of water reservoirs and digging out of old and new tanks as likely to be of the most permanent benefit to the people, and in fact to the Government in future.

16. The first supply of grain should be forwarded to Peerpointee, say 5,000 maunds immediately, to be followed by 5,000 more very soon; also 5,000 maunds to each of the other stations at Sahebgunge, Teenpahar, and Bahawa, in all 25,000 maunds, before the middle of this month. Perhaps it will be best to send up only 1,000 maunds at a time to the last three railway stations.

17. I think it will be desirable to divide the distressed tract into four divisions, and to appoint an active European officer to each to superintend both food-supply and relief works, the latter under the general direction of the Executive Engineer. The centres of these divisions might be (1) Doee or Mahgama on the Godda road, (2) Sahebgunge, (3) Boris, and (4) Barhait.

18. Golahs will be needed at all these places except Peerpointee, where there is a large railway shed, and at Sahebgunge, where there is a pucca serai available. Golahs will also be required at Barkop and Mohagawan after that at Doee has been established.

19. Something may be done through the bazaar chowdhries for the sale of grain at distances from the central depôts, either by supplying them with Government grain at a fixed rate to be retailed also at fixed prices, allowing a fair sum for carriage and profit, or by selling through them as paid agents, and Government defraying the cost of transport. As before remarked, if we get the grain, I think there will be no difficulty in dealing with its distribution and sale, always premising that the retail price fixed be not beyond the means of the people working as labourers at the daily rates now allowed. Perhaps 13 seers for the rupee, or Rs. 3 per maund, may be suitable, or not less than 12 seers for the rupee retail.

20. It is probable that relief committees will shortly be needed at Rajmehal, Sahebgunge, and Godda to deal with stray cases of poverty and distress.

21. If any non-commissioned officers and sepoys can be spared from the regiment at Bhagulpore, they can be usefully employed in protecting the transport of grain; otherwise additional police must be enlisted.

22. The highest price of grain heard of by me was at Moraroe and "hâts" adjacent, where rice was offered for sale at 8 seers for the rupee, and few or no buyers. The price generally in the Damin-i-koh appeared to be 10 seers for the rupee, and the stocks extremely small.

23. I believe I have now touched upon all the subjects to which my attention was directed in your letter No. 818—S.R., dated 10th ultimo, and that it will be better not to encumber this report with matters of pure detail, which can be dealt with separately.

24. I proceed to-day to Peerpointee as requested by you, where I shall await further instructions relative to my future movements.

Sonthal Pergunnahs.

1. Report upon Rajmehal sub-division by Mr. E. B. Baker, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, dated 14th February 1874. Copy received with Government order No. 920—S.R. of 21st ultimo.

2. Report upon part of Godda sub-division by Mr. F. Grant, Sub-divisional Officer, dated 22nd idem (copy annexed).

3. Report upon both sub-divisions by Officiating Deputy Commissioner, dated 27th idem (copy received with Government No. 1220—S.R. of 4th instant).

4. Report upon part of Godda sub-division by Mr. Baker, dated 3rd instant (copy annexed).

Notes of personal communications made by Messrs. Boxwell, Grant, and Stewart, the Deputy Commissioner and Sub-divisional Officers.

In connection with the papers noted in the margin, the question has now to be decided whether any, and if so what, measures have to be taken to secure certain portions of the sub-divisions of Godda and Rajmehal in the Sonthal Pergunnahs from the effects of scarcity.

Vide statements of Messrs. Grant and Stewart.

2. Speaking in general terms, it may be said that the tract regarding which fears are entertained comprises the entire tract of the Government estate Damin-i-koh, situate in the sub-divisions of Godda and Rajmehal, and the plain country below the hills in the former sub-division, which is included in a line drawn from Gobindpore (marked in the map north, near the East Indian Railway), south through Godda, and thence direct eastward to the hills.

Vide paragraph 9 of Mr. Baker's report of 3rd instant.

The strip of lands between the hills and the river on the north is also considered to be in danger by Mr. Baker.

3. It is known that the aughanee rice crop within this area suffered seriously from drought during the past year, and was to a great extent a failure. The bhadoie crop was a good one. The reports of the officers who inspected the country during October and November, while the crops were on the ground, are to hand, and they state as follows:—

In his No. 1304 of 17th October 1873, Mr. Stewart, Sub-divisional Officer of Rajmehal, stated—

"Bhadoie dhan is produced in the low country bordering the Ganges and in the dearas.
" This was about a 10 to 12 anna crop. Indian-corn is also a bhadoie crop; this was a 16-anna
" crop both in and outside the Damin. These crops have been gathered, and I should say on

" the whole the bhadoie crop has been a 14-anna one." Reporting on the 7th November following, the same officer estimated the aughanee rice crop at about 3-annas yield. The highest estimate reached for one out of six pergunnahs being 6 annas; and a further report dated 14th idem gave the same result for two other pergunnahs. In the sub-division the food consumed by the people is thus described. The people outside the Damin eat rice; the Sonthals, rice and greens of various kinds; they, however, eat also the flesh of almost any animal. The Pahareas ordinarily consume maize, and only take to rice when this is expended. The October report for Godda was made by the sub-deputy and endorsed by Mr. Bedford, the sub-divisional officer, who had just rejoined. It is stated that of bhadoi crops the principal one was janera, which had "abundantly grown" during the year, and was calculated at 14 annas in the rupee. The rice crop was estimated at not more than a 4-anna outturn.

A further detailed report was received on 7th November. In this the rice crop in all pergunnah Godda was stated to be "fair;" in Bellathan, as only likely to yield 1 anna (this pergunnah at the best of seasons only yields little rice); in Passai, favourable; and over the Damin, as more or less unfavourable, according to the situation, the crop being preserved here and there by irrigation. It was specially noticed in this report that the pergunnah of Muniharee (for which some importation has just been made by Government) was likely to suffer more than others, the entire rice crop having withered and being grazed off by the cattle. The outturn was put down at *nil.*

On the 20th November the sub-divisional officer, having carefully marched through the northern part of his district, reported that the crops in tuppas Berkop and Patsunda (to the west of the line representing the line of present anticipated distress) would be 7 to 6 annas respectively, while the prospects of Muniharee were "most gloomy." Again, on 30th November, he added: " The more I see of the dhan crop the more I come to the conclusion that the average rice crop " expected as shown in my report to the Commissioner in the early part of November was under- " estimated."

4. It is stated in the annual report for 1872 that the rice crop of that year did not exceed a 10 to 12-anna crop.

5. The part of the country concerned is not to any extent a *rubbee*-producing country. The investigations of the local officers show that there is very little cold-weather crop now in the ground.

Vide statements of Messrs. Grant and Stewart, and paragraph 12 of Deputy Commissioner's No. 38 Ct., dated 27th ultimo; also paragraph 4 of Deputy Commissioner's No. 69 Ct. of 11th instant.

6. As to present conditions, the people are said to be growing anxious for work. Upon two roads which have been lately open throughout the length of Godda and Rajmehal, the numbers of labourers are counted at close upon 4,800 and 800 respectively; in the former case the increase has been rapid, but the people are said to be well fed, and there is no appearance of want visible. Prices of food are at present generally cheaper throughout the pergunnahs than in the other districts of the division, and, as compared with what prevailed in these localities in 1866, a year of scarcity, results appear in the margin.

Rajmehal, 14*th March.*

	1866. Seers.	1874. Seers.
Rice - - -	12	11½ to 13
Maize - - -	20	16 to 17

Godda, 14*th March.*

	1866. Seers.	1874. Seers.
Rice - - -	14	12
Maize - - -	14	16½

7. Opinions as to the measures necessary to be taken differ. Mr. Baker, an officer of experience, who was specially deputed to visit the pergunnahs, in his report of the 3rd instant, declares that it is absolutely necessary to import and store grain to meet the distress amongst the people, which he believes to be imminent. The sub-divisional officers of Rajmehal and Godda both strongly concur in this opinion (*vide* their statement and Mr. Grant's report of the 22nd ultimo). Mr. Boxwell, the Officiating Deputy Commissioner, does not consider that the importation of food need form part of the system of relief. He wishes indeed to have a store of some 50,000 maunds placed in the district, to be available in case of a sudden deficiency of supplies occurring; but he would not offer food upon the works, as he is of opinion that the people have grain of their own sufficient to last them at least for a period of six weeks!

8. In reply to inquiry from me, the missionary of Taljharee, Mr. Brown, writes* of the whole country of Godda and Rajmehal, with which he declares himself to be acquainted, that as compared with ordinary years and with regard to food-supply, the condition of the people is now what it usually is in the month of July, "when they are wanting or waiting for the maize crop;" in other words, there is a clear deficiency of four months' supply of food for the people, and he advocates a liberal recourse to works to assist the population and importation of food for them to buy, as there is no trade.

9. The population of the tract under consideration may be taken at about 240,000. It is observed that the expectation that there will be a short food-supply, which is entertained by those who, as being on the spot, are best qualified to judge, is based upon the fact that one of the main crops of the year was bad; a second, the *rubbee* (which, however, is not a crop of first importance) being also deficient. I cannot, however, forget that the bhadoi crop, which is a great one in the Sonthal Pergunnahs, was good, and the people are a hardy race, able to supplement their food supplies by recourse to animal food and jungle produce. As an example of this, the year 1866 may be pointed to, when they passed through a crisis with but little assistance, and without any importation of food on the part of Government.

Rajmehal Damin-i-koh - -	99.462
Godda - - - -	86,660
Ditto outside Damin-i-koh, taking one-fourth as distressed - -	50,000
	236,122

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* Extract of letter attached.

10. For such reasons I consider the calculation that 50 to 60 per cent. of the population may require food-supply at the hands of Government far too high, and I should doubt if the number will be found to come to 30 per cent. Taking, however, this last figure for the purpose of estimate, the total food-supply for the population concerned would be 162,000 maunds for four months at ¾ seer a head.

11. Acting upon this estimate, I would proceed in the following manner. In the case of golahs numbered 2, 3, and 4, I would place now a two months' supply, and in every other instance a one month's supply, calculated on the above basis. From the 1st of May onwards to the commencement of the rains, the grain expended from the stores should be recouped and additions to the stock then made until at golahs numbers 2, 3, and 4 there should be a four months' stock, and at the other golahs a three months' stock, available for consumption from the 1st of June, calculated at such new rates as the condition of affairs then ascertained may lead us to decide upon. In the case of the golahs 2, 3, and 4, as the communication will be difficult during the rains, the stores should be completed during the dry weather; in the other cases a month's supply or more, if it be found necessary, could be conveyed even during the rains.

1. Doe, 10 miles from Peerpointee Station.	Storage places for Godda sub-division.
2. Mohagaon, 21 ditto ditto	
3. Borkope,	
4. Godda, 40 ditto ditto	
5. Burhait, 12 miles from Bahawa Station.	Storage places for Rajmehal sub-division.
6. Borio, 12 ditto Teenpahar.	
7. Taljhoree on the Railway, but no Station. Yet an arrangement to deposit grain can be made with East Indian Railway.	
8. Banjhee, 10 miles from Sahebgunge.	
Note.—In Godda the bulk of supplies is expected to be required at Doe and Mohagaon.	

G. N. Barlow,
Officiating Commissioner.

Bhagulpore, the 16th March 1874.

Minute by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., dated Bhagulpore, the 20th March 1874.

At Bhagulpore the Commissioner of the division laid before me certain papers connected with the probable scarcity in the sub-divisions of Godda and Rajmehal in the district of the Sonthal Pergunnahs. Having conferred with the Commissioner, I have to record the following observation:—

Population 240,000. I would take 25 per cent. for 4 months, equal to 60,000 persons expected to need assistance, which gives (¾ seer per head per diem)—

135,000 maunds in all, or
33,750 „ per mensem.

The Commissioner concurs in the above estimate.

I would ask that provision be made of 135,000 maunds; arrange that one month's supply be sent quickly to Rajmehal side, and two months' to the Godda side.

The proportion for the remnant of the period to be kept in reserve.

The sub-divisional officers ask for provision for 50 per cent., but then the bhadoi maize was good, equal to half the food-supply of the year; the rice was bad (2 to 4 annas). According to per-centages taken in other districts provision for 25 per cent. should suffice.

No. 1810—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, to the Commissioner of Bhagulpore.

Scarcity and Relief.

Calcutta, the 26th March 1874.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2353, dated 23rd March, forwarding Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 20th idem, together with certain other papers regarding the condition of the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

Ten printed copies of your letter and its enclosures are forwarded.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts Sir Richard Temple's estimate that 1,35,000 maunds of Government grain should be stored in the Sonthal Pergunnahs, of which 34,000 maunds are to be sent at once. Out of this quantity, 10,000 maunds have already been sent to Peerpointee, and the rest shall reach the stations named before the 10th April if possible. Subsequent despatches shall be sent off as the Sonthal officers are ready to carry it away and the needs of other districts admit.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor looks to you and to Mr. Boxwell to see that ample relief works are actually opened and are well managed throughout all the bad tracts. The influx of 10,000 workpeople on to one road, and the sale of 1,000 maunds of Government grain thereon, seem to show that relief was much wanted. It must be fully understood that the public work officials are to work under the sub-divisional and the relief officers. The establishment you have sanctioned for Colonel Moore is approved.

4. If things in any part of the Pergunnah get suddenly worse, you will have to do something beyond giving a general order such as is summarised in your 5th paragraph. Meanwhile, it will

be necessary for you to take care that there is no clashing of orders or authority between Colonel Moore and the subdivisional officers of Godda and Rajmehal.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1811—S.R.

Extract copy of paragraph 3, with copy of Mr. Barlow's statement of grain requirements, forwarded to Mr. Toynbee for compliance.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 26th March 1874.

Appendix G. to Fourteenth Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873–74 in Bengal, from 20th March to 2nd April 1874.

No. 111, dated Allahabad, the 23rd March 1874.

From L. C. Abbott, Esq., on duty with Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., to the Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I am directed by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple to forward copies of Minutes Nos. 55 and 56 of 23rd March, regarding the organisation of the reserve transport train and the supply of native doctors.

I am to solicit the early attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to Sir Richard Temple's remarks regarding the supply of native doctors.

Minute by Honourable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., No. 55, dated Allahabad, the 23rd March 1874.

Having inspected the head-quarters of the reserve transport train in company with Mr. H. Rivett-Carnac (the Commissioner) and his two staff officers, Captain Apperley and Lieutenant Vivian, and having carefully considered the best means of efficiently organising the train for service in the distressed tracts of Behar, I have to prescribe the following organisation, which has been, to some extent, tried already, and is proved by this experience to work well.

2. The reserve transport train, consisting of carriage and cattle purchased for Government in the districts of the North-West Provinces, is to consist of at least 2,000 carts with full complement of bullocks. It seems probable that the local orders in the districts may raise the number somewhat above the 2,000.

3. The train is to be divided into detachments. Each detachment is to be made up of 250 carts with their complement of one driver and two to four bullocks for each cart; and is to be directed by the following officers and men:—

European officer in command of detachment - -	1
Duffadars (native officers) - - - - -	5
Sepoys - - - - - -	25

Thus there will be one native officer to every 50 carts, and one sepoy to every 10 carts.

4. Thus, also, the 2,000 carts will be divided into eight detachments. If the purchases shall exceed 2,000 carts, then the surplus is to be formed into, and made up to, a ninth detachment.

5. I consider that nothing short of the above establishment will suffice to ensure the good working of the train on service. The amount of work obtainable from the carts depends greatly on the strength and efficiency of the organisation.

6. The Commissioner is authorised to apply to the head-quarters of the army, for the sanction of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, for the services of such officers and men as may be required for the establishment to be constituted as above.

7. The Commissioner's staff for the management of the train should continue to consist, as at present, of two officers, together with one sergeant and such small temporary ministerial establishment as the Commissioner may find necessary.

8. With each train there will be despatched—

Native carpenters	2
„ blacksmiths	2
„ farriers	2
„ orderlies for the officer commanding	2
Total	8

These men will be appointed by the Commissioner.

9. Together with each detachment, spare wheels, axles, shoes for bullocks, rope and some stores, gear, &c., also two sets of scales to weigh the fodder provided for the cattle on the road, a supply of medicines for the men and also for the cattle, will be sent. There will also be a treasure chest for paying for supplies on the road, with four native constables in charge.

10. The carts of the several detachments are to start from Allahabad fully laden with the reserve fodder for the general transport service in Behar. This fodder, having been selected and purchased in the North-Western Provinces, is never to be expended (save under urgent necessity) on the road; but it is to be carried intact to Patna. The fodder for the convoy to Patna is to be indented for and supplied by the district authorities in the usual manner.

11. On arrival at Bankipore (Patna) the officer commanding each detachment will place himself under the orders of Colonel Macgregor, who (under the general direction of the Commissioner, Mr. Bayley) directs the transport service in Behar north of the Ganges.

12. I particularly desire that the organisation as established at Allahabad be permanently maintained by Colonel Macgregor for each detachment after its arrival at Patna, and that no general alteration be made without previous reference to me. If in any case it be found necessary to employ the carts in separate parties, still the organisation should be preserved as much as possible. If, for instance, 50 carts have to be sent on a particular duty their duffadar and their (5) sepoys would go with them.

13. The detachments are to be designated by letters A, B, C, and so on consecutively according to the dates on which they started from Allahabad, and each detachment will bear its distinctive letter throughout the service. Similarly, the carts and cartmen are to be numbered 1, 2, 3, and so on consecutively; and each cart will keep its number throughout the service.

14. I am glad to find that already four detachments have left Allahabad; the sooner the remaining detachments follow the better.

15. The accounts of each detachment are kept by the European officer and submitted to the Commissioner. They are then audited by the Accountant-General (Allahabad). But after placing himself under Colonel Macgregor the officer in charge of a detachment will submit his account through Colonel Macgregor.

16. In conclusion, it seems to me that the interests of the service in North Behar have been greatly promoted by the prompt orders given by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces for meeting our requisition for reserve carriage, and by the vigorous co-operation of the Honourable J. D. Inglis in giving effect to these orders.

17. Mr. Inglis informs me that the manner in which this important business has been executed by the Commissioner, Mr. H. Rivett-Carnac, has given entire satisfaction to the authorities of the North-Western Provinces, and all that I have seen of the working of the affair leads me to the same opinion.

MINUTE by Honourable Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 56, dated Allahabad, the 23rd March 1874.

THE experience now being gained day by day shows me that the subordinate medical establishment in the distressed districts, despite recent augmentations, is hardly strong enough, and that we have already obtained all or nearly all the men that are obtainable in the Bengal Presidency.

2. But it seems to me that some men of this class might be obtained from the Madras and Bombay Presidencies; say 20 from Madras and 10 from Bombay. The Madras medical subordinates are (as I well know from experience in the Central Provinces) very well trained men.

3. Besides the medical establishments for the relief circles, there will be subsidiary departments formed from time to time to which it might be very desirable to attach medical subordinates.

4. For instance, the reserve transport train would be all the better for the aid of such men. But unless we can obtain some men from the other Presidencies, I know not how any such need can be supplied.

No. 116, dated Bankipore, the 26th March 1874.

From L. C. ABBOTT, Esq., on special duty with Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I AM directed to forward copy of a minute, No. 58, of 25th March, recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the organisation of the Arrah reserve train.

2. It will be seen that, though some alteration has been made in the kind of animal to be employed for transport work, the total carrying power remains as before.

MINUTE by the Honourable Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 58, dated Bankipore, the 25th March 1874.

AFTER considering the progress made with the collection of reserve carriage from the Shahabad district through the agency of Mr. Fox, I find that about 500 carts are ready, and that about 250 will be very shortly ready, in all 750.

2. Mr. Fox has collected 1,000 cart bullocks, and Colonel Mackenzie 600, in all 1,600. Thus there are enough bullocks for 750 carts, which are made to be drawn by pairs of bullocks.

3. I desire these be organised in the same manner as that prescribed in my minute No. 55, of 23rd March, regarding the North-West reserve transport, and that the organisation be entrusted to Mr. Rivett Carnac and his staff, through whom the work has been done so successfully at Allahabad. This part of the work will be done at Dinapore or Arrah. Mr. Carnac is aware of the necessity for the utmost expedition possible.

4. There will be three (3) detachments lettered and numbered consecutively with the Allahabad detachment.

5. These detachments, as well as the Allahabad detachments, will be handed over by Mr. Carnac to Colonel Macgregor on the north or left bank of the Ganges in complete order.

6. Colonel Mackenzie and Mr. Fox should be instructed to make over the carts and cattle to such person as Mr. Carnac may appoint at Dinapore or Arrah.

7. Mr. Carnac is authorised to apply to the Adjutant-General for the sanction of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for such officers and men as may be necessary under the above orders.

8. There would still remain 250 carts with bullocks to make up the complement of 1,000 to be obtained from the Shahabad District; that is, the difference between 750 and 1,000.

9. Out of the 750 carts with bullocks to be hired from the North-Western Provinces, about 550 have been hired, leaving a balance of 200 carts with bullocks.

10. Adverting to the reserve of pack-bullocks, I find that out of the 6,000 total ordered, only 750 have actually been purchased. I am separately considering the reasons why the supply is so short at this date.

11. However, looking to the extremely large number of bullocks already employed in Tirhoot and in other districts, and after consulting the Commissioner, Mr. Bayley, and his officers, I consider it preferable to make up our remaining numbers by animals other than bullocks.

12. As the season will not be suitable for camels, we must look to the ponies and the pack-donkeys which are procurable in large numbers in the North-Western Provinces. The ponies are specially serviceable.

13. The collection of the animals will be entrusted to Mr. Carnac. He will be good enough to obtain, with the utmost possible expedition, such numbers as he may find on precise calculation to be needed, to make up the balance as above set forth.

1st.—Of the Shahabad carts with bullocks.
2nd.—Of the hired North-West carts.
3rd.—Of the pack-bullocks.

14. Mr. Carnac is requested to arrange at once with Colonel Macgregor as to the organisation of these large numbers of ponies and pack-donkeys. If possible, I desire that the two officers should arrive at an agreement as to the organisation. Any arrangement in which they shall concur is to be carried out by Mr. Carnac without further reference to me, and he is authorised to apply to the Adjutant-General for such officers and men as may be needed.

15. If there should be difference of opinion between the two officers as to the best mode of organisation, then reference must be immediately made to me. But I hope that this will not be necessary.

16. Mr. Carnac has been duly impressed with the importance of using all practicable expedition.

17. The Government of the North-Western Provinces will be addressed to the effect of the minute.

18. The Commissioner of Patna has been requested to cease purchasing bullocks.

APPENDIX H. to Fourteenth Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873–74 in Bengal, from 20th March to 2nd April 1874.

Dated Purneah, the 12th March 1874.

From H. HANKEY, Esq., Additional Commissioner, Bhagulpore Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

IN continuation of my letter dated 31st January, I have the honour to submit the following report of the state of transport in the Purneah district.

2. In my letter above referred to, I reported that there was abundant carriage in the district, and that the offer of liberal rates would be sure to draw it out. This opinion has been amply verified.

3. During my last visit of inspection, I made, as already reported, a slight increase in the rates, but the rise was insufficient to produce any marked effect, and the means of transport showed for some time a downward instead of an upward tendency.

4. From a report of the week ending 11th February, it appeared that only 22,990 maunds of grain had left Caragola, making a daily average of 2,090 maunds. This was sufficient proof of the inadequacy of the rise previously given, and as about this time the total assignment of grain allotted to the district was materially increased, I considered it high time to make a large bid for cartage.

5. I accordingly instructed the Collector to raise the rates by 50 per cent., and to give the utmost publicity to the change. This he did, and the effect has been almost marvellous. Everybody who could has provided himself with a cart. An active cart-wheel trade has sprung up; wheels are sought for with the greatest avidity; and a class of men who call themselves thikadars have been called into existence. They are a kind of petty contractors, or, more properly, cart-suppliers, who collect carts in batches of 20, 30, and greater numbers, and are remunerated by a per-centage on the earnings of the cart.

6. The unusual number of prancing, rearing, and kicking bullocks that meets one's eyes on the road argues the unusual number of new arrivals that have suddenly been pressed into the service. Transport has received the most astonishing impetus, and I believe no one was more astonished at the cartage power of the district than the local officers and local residents.

7. Some two months ago, the Collector rather surprised the Commissioner by an estimate of 3,000 carts, and I believe the latter subsequently rather questioned the accuracy of his own figures. The actual number of carts now employed has never been counted, but it certainly exceeds 8,000.

8. On the 31st January last, I reported the daily average of carts for week ending 1st February to have been 335 carts. The average from 1st to 14th February was 253 carts, from the 14th to 28th it was 466, whilst for the 10 days ending March the daily average has been 830 carts. Up to February 1st the aggregate quantity despatched was 1,27,412 maunds. Up to March 10th it was 3,63,551 maunds. Between 1st and 10th March 98,594 maunds has left Caragola, making a daily average for this period of 9,859 maunds.

9. The cartage has therefore been considerably more than doubled, and in the place of a lac, estimated in my previous report, I am now able to report that the Collector can with the *greatest ease* remove 2,00,000 per mensem from Caragola. I might easily increase the estimate, but it appears to me unnecessary to do so, and it is better to err on the right side.

10. We can, therefore, manage to transport the required quantity of grain, by means of local carriage, without any assistance from without in the shape of imported carriage. A Benares contractor, named Sargut Bux, presented himself two days ago and offered to take a contract at Tirhoot rates to remove 40,000 a month. There appears to be no necessity for concluding any such contract.

10½. In addition to the cart service, we have a service of pack-bullocks and ponies, which number at present 1,894. I found these working from Purneah to Bulrampore and Barsoe. The road to these places follows the Grand Trunk Road as far as Dengra, and I have therefore ordered this to be made the starting point in lieu of Purneah. Pack-bullocks should never work on the same road as carts, unless, of course, in case of necessity to supplement a deficiency of cart carriage. Here no such necessity exists. They are a more expensive mode of transport, and block up the road to a terrible extent, not to speak of thus making it nearly impassable for travellers owing to the clouds of dust they raise. The cost of a pack-bullock carrying two maunds from Purneah to Bulrampore is Re. 1 . 8; the distance is 36 miles. The rate is therefore 4 pice per maund per mile.

11. So far thus, and *quoad* means of transport only, the progress made and the *status quo* is eminently satisfactory. The gross result is decidedly good. In matter of detail, however, such, for instance, as organisation and method, there are still many defects. There are still many causes of delay which are very easily removable.

12. The ferry service at Dengra Ghât has been improved to a certain extent by the employment of a large boat and the erection of another landing stage on the Kissengunge side. The accommodation is, however, not nearly sufficient, and the service is not nearly as good as circumstances admit of. I have called the Collector's attention to the fact.

13. The adoption of the small chalan system is admittedly an improvement, and has worked beneficially. It would, however, work better still, if only a better class of men could be got to serve as chalandars. As already reported, the Purneah material is bad; as a rule the chalandars are lazy, apathetic, careless, and inefficient. I hope to abolish them altogether and introduce a new organisation in the manner detailed below.

14. One of the chief causes of delay now existing appears to me the system of payment and its distribution over so many places. The cartmen get an advance at Caragola, another at Purneah, and their hire is finally adjusted at the receiving golahs. It is obviously clear that if payment could be made once for all, a great deal of valuable time would be saved. Mr. Mulock does his best, he works hard, and I have not a word to say to his demerit; but, for all this, it is not too much to say that a clear day is usually lost in Purneah by thousands of carts.

15. This seems to me altogether unnecessary. No reason exists, so far as I can see, for any stoppage at Purneah at all; indeed for many places; Arrareah for example; the coming through Purneah is out of the way and involves a detour. I have therefore abolished Purneah as a regular stopping place altogether.

16. The system at present is for all carts to halt at Purneah. On arrival, Mr. Mulock distributes them to the several golahs for storage. It is my opinion, however, that this work of distribution could be equally well discharged by the despatching officer at Caragola, who should be supplied for the purpose with weekly distribution lists showing the names of the golahs and the quantity required in each in order of urgency.

17. I am convinced, also, that payment should be made from below, *i.e.*, at Caragola, once for all, in advance. This plan has several reasons to recommend it. First, a payment of some kind must be made; a complete payment could be made in nearly the same time. Secondly, frequent remittances to all parts of the district, involving numerous escorts and police guards, would be saved, and the transport required for this constant remittance rendered available for grain. The Collector says he could arrange to keep Caragola supplied from treasure *en route* from Calcutta direct, thus saving all expense of its despatch to and from Purneah.

18. The disadvantage, *pro contra*, to be set against this proposal consists of a certain amount of risk, the risk of advancing to cartmen and the difficulty of recovery in case of failure to deliver the rice at the proper golah; thus, supposing a break-down to occur in a chalan for Dengra Ghât, and the rice of one cart to have been taken off at Purneah, the cost of transport between Purneah and Dengra would have to be recovered.

19. Under any circumstances I believe this risk would be very trifling, but under the thikadar system which I am now introducing it will be little more than nominal. Even were the risk greater it would be worth accepting in view of the enormous saving of time, and consequently money, that must arise from a system of single payment.

20. In paragraph 4 of this report I have alluded to a class of men called thikadars, who have recently sprung into existence. In the early days of transport it was found advisable to offer encouragement for the collection of carts, and the thikadars were allowed a per-centage of 2 annas in the rupee. In enhancing the cartage rate it was never intended to increase the allowance given to contractors, and considering the allowance of 2 annas in the rupee excessive and unnecessary, I stopped it.

21. It occurred to me, however, that the existence of this class of men might be made the basis of a capital organisation, and I accordingly made the thikadars the following offer: an allowance of one anna in the rupee in exchange for three duties,—1st, collection of carts; 2nd, entertainment of their own chalandars, one to every chalan of 25 or lesser number of carts; 3rd, excess payment for carriage referred to in paragraph 6 to be deducted from their earnings in the event of non-recovery from cartmen. These proposals have been accepted by as many thikadars as I have seen.

22. It further occurred to me that whilst on the one hand it would be unadvisable to interfere at present with the high rates given, yet they had done their duty in attracting carriage, and that it was only reasonable that Government should be relieved of the cost of the large establishment which a transport service under *khas* management necessitates. I thought that cartmen would readily pay a sort of registration fee of 4 annas a load to be allowed the privilege of taking it at such abnormally high rates. I sounded a large body of cartmen whom I met at Dengra, and they readily assented. I believe we shall not lose a cart by the arrangement, and it will at once relieve Government of the entire cost of establishment charges for transport of every sort and nature.

23. The Collector has concurred in the desirableness of the above changes, and they will therefore come into effect in a day or two, as soon as the arrangements for increasing the pay establishments can be made.

24. The net result is that we shall have what I believe to be the most perfect system of transport possible,—a system possessing the advantages of the contract system without its drawbacks. We have a body of men who are enormously interested in procuring transport and in accelerating it when procured. At the same time we have a direct control over the whole arrangements, which continue simply at our will and pleasure. The cost of transport under this system is .

25. I have referred in paragraph 11 to certain defects of organisation and absence of method observable at several places. This specially occurred at Caragola, and was noticed by Sir Richard Temple. Mr. Munro has certainly not made his arrangements so neat and so business-

like as he might have done. He has had no previous experience in such matters, and lacks special knowledge, and there is therefore an appearance of confusion about the ghât which ought to be avoided. I went to Caragola two days ago and saw to these defects, and have every reason to believe that there will be a great improvement in future. Notwithstanding this, Mr. Munro is a most indefatigable young officer, and deserves great credit for the good work he has done.

26. On the subject of fodder, I append the subjoined note by Mr. Mulock, merely adding that I do not apprehend the slightest difficulty on this score during the period our transport lasts. There seems to be good grazing all along the road-side, and empty gharries bring sufficient dry straw for the return journey back. When the rubbee is cut the supply will be still further increased.

Fodder.—A very large quantity of fodder has been collected at Caragola, but I cannot state with any accuracy how much. It has been drawn from Arrareah and from a distance from the high road so as not to interfere with the stocks stored by private agency for sale to carters, and two boats full came from the banks of the Coosee from Mr. McQueen. Mr. Gouldsbury has also collected about Rs. 250 worth at Dengra, and is fast collecting more; Mr. Rattray is buying up at Arrareah, and Mr. Craven at Kissengunge. At Purneah we have collected Rs. 200 worth, and have sold most of it at the rate of four annas for as much as one man can carry on his head. I remark, however, that large quantities are brought into the bazar in head-loads and sold to the cartmen.

27. In addition to the brisk wheel trade which has been referred to above as having received so great an impetus, the local authorities have also been collecting wheels for sale. Mr. Mulock has sold 50 pairs out of 54 purchased, and believes he could sell 500 pairs if he had them. The best wheels appear to come from a place called Chukla, near Kissengunge, and 150 pairs have been ordered from thence. The prices range from Rs. 10 to 15 or 16 a pair.

28. The total allotment of grain to Purneah is 5,00,000 maunds, and in addition we have to transport 1,40,000 for Dinagepore, making a total of 6,40,000 maunds. We ought to complete the entire quantity by the end of next month, or, allowing for an unexpected slackness, whether occasioned by the coming harvest or accident, say by the 15th of June. We are giving Dinagepore 50,000 maunds a month, and could increase this rate of supply if necessary.

My dear Bernard, Bhagulpore, the 15th March 1874.

The figures in paragraph 8 of my Purneah report, posted to-day, are incorrect as regards gross amount despatched from Caragola. Munro gave me different figures, which, if possible, I will telegraph to-morrow. Those given in report are Mulock's, but I don't think the difference is large. The report is very badly copied, for which I apologise. I will get a better clerk if possible.

Yours sincerely,
H. Hankey.

Dated Bhagulpore, the 31st March 1874.

From H. Hankey, Esq., Additional Commissioner, Bhagulpore, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honour to submit the following progress report regarding the state of Bhagulpore transport.

2. The most important fact in connection with the transport service, viz., the conclusion of the two contracts, has already been communicated to the Government. I was able to announce the negotiation of Mr. Thomas' contract during Sir Richard Temple's visit to Soopool, and the other contract (Mr. Hennessy's) was arranged on the 26th ultimo, and work under it commenced on the 28th ultimo.

3. A short description of either route may perhaps be useful. Mr. Thomas, with whom are associated two natives, Shaikh Ruhmut Ally and Byrub Churn Dutt, has contracted for the Khaguria route. The rice is crossed at Monghyr, and then taken up cart to Soopool or other golah within the Soopool or Mudehpoora jurisdictions. There are two breaks in this route, one at Khaguria over the Gunduck, the other at Surubjeeta on the Tiljoga. The latter is bridged, and the former will be bridged immediately; meanwhile good ferry arrangements have been made. The road, or more properly the cart track, may be described as capital throughout.

4. There is another route from Khaguria, a little to the east, crossing by Muttiana Ghât instead of Surubjeeta, but I have ridden both ways, and am decidedly of opinion that the Surubjeeta route is preferable; it is more direct and the track is better; it is in fact the track most used and best known. We may, however, possibly use this route for empty return carts to prevent crowding on one walk.

5. Besides this, however, there is an alternative route which we do make use of; this is called the Gogree route. Grain is shipped at Monghyr, taken down the river in boats to Gogree, and thence by cart to Soopool and elsewhere, *viâ* Choutum Ghât. By this route, therefore, there is only one break, and this has been bridged. The track by this route is also a very good one. The distance by these routes from Monghyr to Soopool is 56 miles, and one mile has been given in for the river; total 57 miles in lieu of 75 miles, the distance by the old Philout route.

6. Mr. Hennessy's contract starts from Jugdishchuk, opposite the East Indian Railway Station, Sultangunge, and has, as at first arranged, terminated at Muttiana Ghât, close to Pachadee village. Until, however, the bridge at Itmadee could be completed it was verbally arranged that he should work up to Philout, and subsequently, on the completion of the bridge, it has been arranged that he should take longer distances and fill the golahs of Mudehpoora, Kamp, and Bijnathpoor, 50, 44, and (not fixed) miles respectively from Jugdishchuk.

7. I rode to Itmadee last Saturday, the 21st instant, and saw the first cart over the bridge which has just been completed. Mr. Hennessy is therefore now carting to Kamp direct.

8. The advantages of this route over the Philout route are in my opinion great and manifold. It is a saving in distance; it has only one* break instead of two; it is further westward, and therefore not flooded so early by the rising of the Koosee; it passes through the heart of the country of the anticipated distress, and the track affords better going than the made road.

9. Now that Mr. Hennessy is taking the long distance, the Collector will have enormous cartage power for the work of distribution amongst the minor golahs. The distances are all shortened, and this of course is tantamount to doubling or tripling the number of carts hitherto employed for the long distances from Philout.

10. Both the contracts are working as well as could be desired, and may fairly be described as successful in every respect. The contractors are giving us no trouble, and are exceeding the daily rate contracted for. In fact, our single anxiety in respect to the contracts is the fear that Calcutta supplies may not come up to our transporting power; for some time past there have been numerous complaints of deficiency in the daily supply from Calcutta.

11. The total amount of grain carried under either contract is as follows:—

Up to 30th March, 1,40,000 (approximately) by Thomas and Company;
By Mr. Hennessy, 1,29,680 maunds up to 28th March,

giving a daily average of in Thomas's contract, and of in Hennessy's.

12. For the reasons given above, however, viz., the falling off in the Calcutta supply, these figures are useless as a criterion of what can be done. To this end a shorter period must be taken when stocks were abundant, and this has only been the case at Jugdishchuck. Under this contract I find that 85,509 maunds were taken away during the first 11 days of the working of this contract, giving a daily average of 7,682 maunds.

13. The failure in the Calcutta supply is much to be regretted, inasmuch as it has in a measure disorganised our transport. We have to re-do work which we had already looked upon as complete. It will tend, moreover, to discredit the Transport Department, for a success with a cloud in it is not so good as a complete success, and but for this falling off in the supply I think we should have nothing to explain.

14. The expenditure which has been incurred by the Transport Department in the construction of the bridges on several lines of route has been creditably small. Economy has been strictly studied. The bills for the several works have not yet been submitted, but the following figures are approximate, and will give a general idea.

Khaguria bridge, about Rs. 1,200, and Rs. 600 a month for the hire of 12 boats forming the bridge. Half of this expenditure is borne by the contractor.
Surubjeeta bridge about Rs. 400, and hire of two boats, about Rs. 64 per mensem.
Choutum Ghât about Rs. 350, and Rs. 50 per mensem for boats.
Philout bridge about Rs. 280, plus the hire of the boats.

15. Tarpaulins must also come under the head of transport. Of these I purchased 50 in Calcutta, and Captain Grant speaks of them as having been of the greatest use and saved a large outlay in golahs. In addition to these, Mr. Toynbee sent up 100 for the use of the division. The total amount of expenditure under the head amounts to Rs. 7,825.

16. As the transport throughout the whole division has now in a measure settled itself and is working in what may be called a groove, and as therefore this is probably the last special report that will be submitted, I must not omit to make prominent mention of the excellent services of Captain Grant and the other military officers employed in this department. Captain Grant has been in executive charge of the Khaguria route, and has had the disposal of the subordinate officers. Captain Grant is a most thoroughly efficient officer, and it is almost a matter of regret that the Transport Department had not to encounter obstacles and difficulties than it has. Captain Grant speaks in high terms of Mr. Carnac, who has been employed on the Khaguria route. Great credit is also due to Captain Connolly for his exertions in constructing the Itmadee bridge almost unaided and alone. Mr. Gaislee has been employed along the banks of the Koosee in collecting useful information.

17. In conclusion, I may be permitted to note that whilst the 1st March found the division transporting at the rate of 1,60,000 per mensem, the last of March leaves it despatching upwards of 5,00,000 with ease and without the aid of imported carriage.

18. The maximum transporting power of the division has never been fairly gauged owing to the unfortunate failure of the Calcutta supply above referred to, but it has at all events shown itself equal to more than five lakhs, and I should be within the mark in stating that there are 19,000 carts employed.

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* There is an insignificant little nullah besides, cheaply bridged by canoes.

19. Fears have been entertained in some quarters, especially by the press, that our transport is likely to suffer in strength and efficiency during the hot months. I have no fear whatever on this score. My opinion is, in fact, directly to the contrary. Our transport is daily increasing, and has not even yet attained its maximum strength, and the bullocks are looking better and stronger than when we first commenced operations. I should be afraid to guess how many carts we might soon put on our lines. New carts are coming in from every quarter; the possession of a cart is now a principal object of ambition amongst all the poorer classes, and I hear frequently of native women pawning their jewels to purchase a cart.

APPENDIX I. to Fourteenth Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873-74 in Bengal, from 20th March to 2nd April 1874.

No. 33 T, dated Calcutta, the 16th March 1874. From A. MACKENZIE, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Patna.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has discussed with Mr. Stevens, the Superintending Engineer of the Durbhunga Raj, the question of internal navigation during the rains on the rivers north of the Ganges in your division. Mr. Stevens reports that many of these will be navigable to boats of considerable burden for at least two or three months in the rains, some for a longer period. He suggests, however, that steps should be taken at once for clearing away the bunds which are commonly thrown across many of the smaller streams, and which, though cut by the rising of the waters in the rains, are still at that time obstructions to free and safe navigation. Work of this kind would, he says, be admirable relief work (as almost every village along the course of such rivers has its bund, which is now quite useless owing to the general drying up of the waters, and as the removal could be effected without any professional supervision). The Lieutenant-Governor leaves it to you to settle whether it would be desirable to order the removal of these bunds generally, or in particular streams. If you find it to be desirable you may order it. The circle officers could take charge of such operations as village relief works.

2. Mr. Stevens further points out that early arrangements should be made, say in June, for securing not only boats for the navigation of the larger rivers, should it still be necessary at that period to continue grain transport, but also canoes or dug-outs for distributing grain from the golahs in those parts of the country where land carriage becomes almost impracticable, for instance, near Alapore. The Lieutenant-Governor brings these facts to your notice, leaving you to arrange at the proper time as may be most expedient. He believes that when we have large quantities of grain stocked, the distribution will be best effected through the petty local traders, but they must use dug-outs or any carriage suitable to the season. Everything possible should be done to facilitate communications."

No. 1838—S.R.

From A. MACKENZIE, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Patna, Additional Commissioner of Patna, Commissioners of Bhagulpore, Rajshahye, and Relief Commissioner, Rajshahye.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR, Calcutta, the 26th March 1874.

WITH reference to the accompanying marginal extract from a letter No. 998, dated the 21st March 1874, from the Government of India, I am to request that you will very carefully consider and report at an early date how grain can best be locally distributed in your division in the rains to such parts as may then need it.

"The Government of India desire to direct the attention of the Government of Bengal to the collection of full information of the means that will exist during the rainy season for importing and distributing supplies of food, should it become necessary to increase the supplies already allotted to the distressed districts, especially in North Chumparun and North Tirhoot. These investigations should be in sufficient detail to enable preparations to be made, so that action may be taken without further inquiry should the necessity arise."

2. What you have to consider is how far land-carriage will then be still possible; the extent to which it is likely that the grain already allotted to each district will have been finally stored before the rains, and the amount that will then remain to be stored; the various routes, minor rivers and so on, by which grain could then be conveyed from the large receiving depôts on the main streams to the working golahs; the navigability of those routes, whether available for small steamers, or for country boats only; the best mode of arranging for working the various routes; the plan of distribution from the minor golahs to villages or works, and, in short, all points that may enable Government to determine on a plan of operations in the manner contemplated by the Government of India.

I have, &c.,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 2001—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal to T. H. Wickes, Esq., C.E.,
Executive Engineer, Moorshedabad.

Scarcity and Relief.

Calcutta, the 1st April 1874.

Sir,

With reference to the extract from orders of the Government of India quoted in the margin, I am directed to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor has selected you for the duty of inquiring into the best way of utilising the water routes in the famine districts during the rainy season. The Lieutenant-Governor would wish you to digest all available information; you should also visit the principal famine districts within the next six weeks, to discuss with the local officers the preparations which should now be made for making full use of the river routes when the waters rise on or about the 1st July next.

5. Now that it may be hoped the necessary organisation for the relief of distress has been completed, the Government of India desire to direct the attention of the Government of Bengal to the collection of full information of the means that will exist during the rainy season for importing and distributing supplies of food, should it become necessary to increase the supplies already allotted to the distressed districts, especially in North Chumparun and North Tirhoot.

6. These investigations should be in sufficient detail to enable preparations to be made, so that action may be taken without further inquiry should the necessity arise. If it be thought desirable to depute special officers to make the inquiry respecting the power of transport during the rains, the Government of India will be happy to provide the assistance of such officers.

2. The most recent papers upon the subject of the navigability of the rivers in Northern Bengal and Northern Behar are Mr. Robinson's Report of April 1872 and Mr. Stevens' Reports of December 1871; copies of those papers are forwarded herewith. Copy is forwarded also of Bengal Government orders, No. 429—S.R., dated 4th February 1874, regarding the prospecting of water routes by officers of the Quarter-Master-General's Department, and a suggestion that occasionally short land tramways may be very useful in linking one water route to another, or in getting round any special obstacles in rivers that are otherwise navigable. Copy is also forwarded of Major Lindsay's report upon the upper Attrai, and of Mr. Luff's report upon the Oorasagor and Burrul route.

3. The steamers and other appliances which the Government possess or hereafter will possess for working the grain transport on rivers are—

(*a.*) Ordinary river steamers and flats drawing from 3½ to 4½ feet.

(*b.*) Four smaller steamers of the *Flame*, *Shamrock*, *Frank and Ada*, and *Ganges* type, from 60 to 80 feet long and drawing from 2½ to 3 feet of water. None of these steamers possess barges or flats except the *Flame*, which has two small barges.

(*c.*) Fourteen small steamers from 80 to 90 feet long, with one flat apiece. These steamers and barges are either making in the dockyard or coming out from England. None of them can, it is feared, be ready for work in the famine districts before the middle of July.

Précis of the letters specifying the length and draught of the steamers already available, and of those which are making, are enclosed.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor considers it will be best for you first to consider the circumstances of the Rajshahye division,—because you are now employed there, you know its rivers best, and because the rivers generally rise earlier than do those of North Behar. When you have made out, in concert with Mr. Robinson and the district officers, your scheme for utilising the water routes of the Rajshahye division, you should at once move on to North Behar, and investigate the river routes into and throughout North Tirhoot and North Chumparun in concert with the district civil and Public Works Department officers and with Mr. Metcalfe, the Additional Commissioner. When you have disposed of these districts you can take up the north of the Bhagulpore division, and investigate the water routes to Bhaktiarpore, Soopole, and into Eastern Purneah above Dingraghat. The Mahanuddee route up almost to Barsoee will be considered by you in connection with the water routes into Western and North-Western Dinagepore.

Rajshahye, Maldah, Rungpore, Dinagepore, Bograh, Tirhoot, Chumparun, Monghyr, Bhagulpore, Purneah.

5. You are authorised to send to the Magistrate-Collector of each of the districts noted in the margin a memorandum showing the points on which you require local information to be collected, and the Commissioner will be asked to tell off a competent officer, if possible, to prepare for you the information you require. But in case there should be delay in obtaining such information, you will proceed to each district in the order above given, and will make your investigations and submit your report to the Commissioner, sending copy direct to Government as soon as you can.

6. Each Commissioner and Relief Commissioner will be invited to send you memoranda and suggestions as to the river routes you should investigate, and the special points you should take up.

Meanwhile I am to note here generally the course which your inquiries may perhaps take, though of course the present instructions will not limit your field of inquiry so long as you succeed in considering and reporting upon all the districts above named before the 1st June.

Having provided yourself with maps, you would ascertain from the district officer in what tracts of his district distress is likely to be worst, how much of the present allotment of Government grain will be ready stored in those tracts before the rivers rise, and approximately how much grain out of the present allotment, or out of possible future reserves, can require to be carried by water into the worst or into any other tract from the 15th June to the 15th September. From the district officers you would also ascertain how far distribution of small quantities by boat from large store-houses to smaller depôts would be required.

You would ascertain the depth of water for each month from July to September in the larger streams which traverse the tracts to be supplied; and you would make out a scheme for supplying by water the quantity required, showing how far away from the depôts on the railway or on the great rivers (Ganges and Berhampooter) the large river steamers could be usefully employed; how far smaller steamers could be employed, where coal ought to be stacked for steamers, and by what agency. You would then show how far each kind of native boat, from the large 4,000 maund craft down to a small dug-out, could be used; whether there were sufficient boats of each kind available, and, if not, whence they should be obtained. You would consider what operations ought to be at once undertaken to improve river beds or landing places; for constructing rafts out of dug-outs, for collecting boats and dug-outs; for organising, if need be, reserves of boats or dug-outs from the 1st of June, or for making additional golahs on the rivers. You will have to remember that the 14 small steamers coming from England or making in Calcutta cannot be in position much before the 15th July, and therefore your schemes must be for utilizing the rivers with native boats and the craft described at clauses (*a*) and (*b*) of paragraph 3, up till the middle of July; and for having at obligatory points enough grain and enough coal to make immediate use of the new steamers when they come. The small steamers now available may be allotted mainly to the Rajshahye Division.

7. While you are employed on this special duty you will be allowed a deputation allowance of Rs. 200 a month, and will be allowed to draw *bonâ fide* expenses incurred in travelling by rail, steamer, carriage, or palanquin for yourself, for two servants, and for two horses if you take horses with you.

I have, &c.,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

APPENDIX K. to Fourteenth Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873–74 in Bengal, from 20th March to 2nd April 1874.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 31st March 1874.

Instructions for Major Trevor, R.E., on his appointment to be Additional Chief Engineer to inspect and direct relief works in the famine districts.

Copies of the Lieutenant-Governor's letter to the Government of India, No. 1800 A, dated the 30th March 1874, and of the reply of that Government, No. 533 E G, dated 30th idem, on the subject of Major Trevor's appointment, are appended.

2. Major Trevor will have the powers of a Chief Engineer; and when he and the Commissioner or Additional Commissioner agree on any question of opening an emergent relief work they may do so in anticipation of the orders of the Government, subject to the general control reserved to the Commissioner. Major Trevor may issue orders verbally or in writing in respect of the conduct of relief works; he may call for such information or returns as he requires; but the ordinary reports and returns will continue to be submitted to the Public Works Department in Calcutta. Major Trevor will send copies of any important orders or sanctions he may issue, and also will submit short weekly memoranda of his proceedings to the Famine Secretary in Calcutta, who will forward all such papers to the Public Works Department for information and record. The Public Works Department in Calcutta will, if Colonel Nicolls thinks necessary, submit to the Lieutenant-Governor any remarks or suggestions that Major Trevor's proceedings may call for.

Major Trevor will provide himself with such small office establishment and camp equipage as he may deem absolutely necessary, reporting its cost to the famine department.

3. In regard to the subjects which must first of all engage Major Trevor's attention, the following passages from a note * recorded by the Lieutenant-Governor on Tirhoot affairs are extracted:—

* Copy of the note is appended.

Deputation of Major Trevor.

"Superintending Engineers have been appointed to the several districts in which large relief work is going on, but they are comparatively new to the duty, and in order to advise and assist them, to see that the utmost that is possible is done to render the great amount of labour now in our hands as beneficial as possible by selecting the best large works, and to introduce on the works the best system possible under the circumstances, it has been arranged, in communication with the Government of India, that (since the Chief Engineer of this Government, Colonel Nicolls, has his hands more than full) an Engineer Officer of experience and tact, Major W. B. Trevor, should be deputed for the general inspection and regulation of the various relief works. He will proceed to the different distressed divisions with the powers of a Chief Engineer, to be exercised in communication with Colonel Nicolls, will confer with the Commissioners and Superintending Engineers, will give them the best advice and assistance he can, and will direct operations in concurrence with the Commissioners.

"The difficulty of finding sufficient work for the enormous number of labourers in Tirhoot and some other districts, is much pressing on us. It turns out that in many places the labourers dislike tank-work and insist on flocking to the roads. We must reduce them to order and discipline, and make them do the work most fitting for them to do; but still it is a great object to maintain large works sufficient for the employment of all the labourers who legitimately seek regular work and submit to regular discipline, while at the same time the opportunity of permanently benefiting the country should not be neglected. A chief duty of Major Trevor will be to inquire whether any additional great works can be undertaken with advantage in the districts where we have hundreds of thousands of labourers."

4. Looking to the enormous numbers of people on the roads in North Tirhoot the arrangements there are at present most pressing. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks Major Trevor had better go there at once and try to arrange matters for the best, in communication with the Additional Commissioner, Mr. Metcalfe, and Mr. Pothecary.

The system in Sarun is no doubt lax, and both there and in Chumparun, and in parts of South Tirhoot and the Bhagulpore Division, the numbers may not improbably greatly increase after the rubbee harvest is over and until the rains begin. The Lieutenant-Governor considers Major Trevor should look up the management of the works in Sarun and Chumparun also, so as to put the establishments there on as good a system as possible, and one calculated to receive and employ large bodies of labourers. Major Trevor will confer with the Commissioners of Patna and Bhagulpore, and with the Superintending Engineers, regarding their divisions as a whele. He will judge by what he learns on the spot whether he must a[illegible] go much into detail in any other districts of Behar than those above specially named, o[illegible]ether he had better go on to Dinagepore, where much important work is being done, and where, as the rains may begin earlier than further west, and there is little rubbee, there is less time to be lost than in some of the rubbee districts.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor is inclined to think that Mr. Robinson, the Relief Commissioner of Rajshahye, has not had so much or so good engineering assistance as some other Commissioners, and he would be glad if, after looking into North Behar affairs and settling the lines of west to east roads from the Behar side, Major Trevor could visit soon the districts of the Rajshahye Division beyond the Ganges, and look into this and other matters there.

6. In connection with this last subject of west to east roads, there must probably be an extension of the Tirhoot Railway by prolongation of the Durbhunga line in two directions, one to the north-east by the Alapore country in the direction of Nathpore, and the other to the north-west. Mr. Crawford Campbell, Superintending Engineer under the Government of India, has been deputed to inquire into these projects, and will render any assistance he can. Major Trevor should form his plans in concert with Mr. Campbell, and in such a way that road and railway plans may not clash. It would be most desirable if the lines for the Railway Company be settled and the earthwork executed now.

7. As to irrigation works, the regular irrigation works are under that department; but if any separate local irrigation plan for immediate utilisation of labour is started, Major Trevor may deal with it on the spot, informing the Irrigation Department and arranging in concord with them.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. Bernard,

Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Enclosure No. 3.

Resolution.

Scarcity and Relief Department.

Read— Calcutta, the 30th March 1874.

The district narratives of the Patna Division for the fortnight ending on the 21st March.

The Sarun narrative did not arrive until Saturday, the 28th; the Tirhoot narrative was received on Friday, the 27th; the rest came in punctually.

2. *Patna.*—There is little calling for remark in the Patna narrative. Steps are being taken to apply a remedy to the block of private grain at the Patna Railway Station; and the Lieutenant-Governor is obliged to Mr. Mangles for the personal efforts he has made to facilitate the unloading and removal of the grain.

3. *Gya.*—The price of common rice remains very high (10 seers a rupee) in parts of the Gya district, yet the absence of people from the relief works, and the fewness of applicants for charitable relief, appear to warrant the Magistrate-Collector's confidence that "the condition of the people is still generally good." The statement regarding the unsuitability of the tools will be communicated to the Public Works Department. The arrangements for giving employment and wages to an "invalid gang" on every relief work appear to be judicious; 192 persons, chiefly lepers and professional beggars, receive charitable relief, a little work being exacted from every person so relieved.

4. *Shahabad.*—In parts of Bhubooah and Sasseram prices are high, common rice being dearer than eleven seers per rupee; still, as the number of people on the relief works has decreased, no general distress is reported, and private trade in grain is said to be brisk, there is perhaps no need for immediate anxiety. In Sasseram and Bhubooah, where the people are poor and the land is comparatively unproductive, it will be necessary to have relief works kept thoroughly ready to be opened. The account of the inquiries preparatory to organising charitable relief in the head-quarter sub-division is satisfactory. Mr. Eyre's arrangements for giving home work and for searching out distressed people in the Sasseram sub-division seem to be effective. The Lieutenant-Governor presumes that similar steps are being taken in Bhubooah.

5. *Tirhoot.*—In parts of Seetamarhee, Tajpore, and the head-quarter sub-division of Tirhoot, the supply in the bazars is said to be short in consequence of the Government grain contractors having taken up a very great deal of the available carriage of the district, and having thereby raised the price of what remains. In view of what the Government has undertaken, this result cannot be altogether avoided; still the Lieutenant-Governor shares the anticipations of evil results if all the local pack-bullocks are taken up for Government grain. There can be no doubt of the propriety of Mr. Wace's action in declining to interfere to seize these animals. For the support of the Tajpore sub-division we must very largely look to the flow of private grain from the supplies constantly flowing into Patna.

6. The small assignment of Government grain made to Tajpore must, under Sir Richard Temple's Minute, No. 57 of 27th March, come out of the supply to one or other of the northern sub-divisions, and the supply needed for the head-quarter sub-division must for the present come out of the Seetamarhee allotment.

7. The accounts from Hajeepore and Seetamarhee are as yet satisfactory. The large number of works over which the 27,000 labourers in Seetamarhee are spread is ground for satisfaction, provided the supervision is tolerable. There is said to be much distress in Tajpore. In parts of the head-quarter sub-division there seems already to be much distress; but the arrangements to meet it seem to be adequate.

In Durbhunga and Mudhoobunnee there is some famine and much distress among the poorer classes. Some of the deaths adverted to in Mr. Gordon's 19th and 20th paragraphs were, it must be feared, due, in part at least, to insufficient nourishment; but the details given show how very difficult it is to say whether a specific death was from starvation only, or from disease. But if no more such deaths than those mentioned in these paragraphs occurred among the hundreds of thousands of famine-stricken people on the relief works in these two sub-divisions, the famine may be said to have been arrested.

8. The number of work-people returned as being employed on the Mudhoobunnee and Durbhunga roads is enormous. The Lieutenant-Governor himself saw that there were very many thousands on the Bahera and Durbhunga road, but the number that have suddenly appeared on the Mudhoobunnee road must, if they are really all there, be at the outset almost unmanageable. Large arrangements have been made to add to the Public Works establishments in these sub-divisions. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that tampering with the labour returns, and peculation, if there be any, will be stopped; and he is aware that the very best attention of Mr. Metcalfe, the Additional Commissioner, and of Lieutenant Wright, the Executive Engineer, are being given to the matter. Every possible effort must be made to disperse these large crowds, get them back to their houses, and relieve them there. Even if there is some inaccuracy about the returns of labourers, still the number must be very large, for Mr. Metcalfe, after visiting the northern tracts, writes that the whole of the poorer population of the north of the sub-division have come down to the Government roads in the south. The best way of dispersing and relieving these crowds will occupy the close attention of all the Mudhoobunnee officers during the next few weeks.

It is satisfactory that Government had over 200,000 maunds of grain stored in the Mudhoobunnee Sub-division before the rush began; and the absence of epidemic, owing to the excellence of the climate, is subject for much thankfulness.

9. The Lieutenant-Governor learns from Mr. Worsley's covering letter that the difference between the two companies which work the transport from Bunker Ghat to Seetamarhee have been settled, and that the working is now smooth again. Hitherto the despatches from Bunker Ghat for Tirhoot alone have ranged close upon 25,000 maunds a day; though for a few days of last week the despatches fell to 15,000. The breakdown of the Chumpta Ghat transport contractors seem to have been very serious; and it is not yet clear whether they have redeemed any of their lost ground by successfully working a new route from Monghyr. The narrative does not say anything of the Mokameh route, from which both the North-Western Provinces' contractors and a part of the Chumpta Ghat transport were to have begun working more than a week ago. Future narratives should state the progress in distribution of grain to the outlying golahs from the central depôts at which the large transport contractors deliver the bags. The Lieutenant-Governor has asked that Colonel McGregor may furnish a fortnightly memorandum on the working of the transport under him to the Commissioner, for submission to Government, with the divisional narrative.

10. The charitable relief organisation appears to be fairly at work in Durbhunga and Mudhoobunnee, but the numbers receiving relief are not given for Durbhunga, and the number for Mudhoobunnee (only 570 in all) appears small in the face of distress such as is evidenced by the rush of the labourers to the works. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that no mention is made of any arrangements for making advances of money or grain to ryots; he is aware that this is a very difficult matter, but, being so, it should be grappled with at once, so that some solution of the difficulty may be attained before it is too late. Sir George Campbell notices that in the head-quarters and Seetamarhee sub-divisions arrangements for giving out village and household work are well in hand. Now that basket-making has been fairly set going, he hopes that further indents for baskets for relief works will not be sent to Calcutta from Mudhoobunnee.

11. *Sarun.*—The account of the sufficiency of the supplies in the Sarun markets, and of the information coming in from so many sides, is satisfactory. Though coarse rice is at several marts dearer than 11 seers per rupee, still maize is nowhere dearer than 13¾, and if the supply at that price is sufficient, the people can pull through. The damage done by hail in certain limited tracts just north of Chuprah seems to have been more serious than was at first supposed. If the rubbee yield is to be half an average crop, the Lieutenant-Governor would hope that Mr. Drummond's estimate of 4½ to 5 maunds an acre may be below the truth; for in a fertile district like

Sarun the average yield of wheat and barley must surely be above 10 maunds per acre. It is observed that Messrs. Hudson, Wright, and Rattray's estimates would put the rubbee outturn at something above half of an average crop.

12. The extracts given at paragraphs 14-21 of Mr. Drummond's narrative amount to very sufficient evidence that as yet there is no general distress among the people, that isolated cases of distress are relieved, and that by a very liberal system of relief works famine has been kept off. Many of the people who are paid on the relief works do very little good work for their wages; still they are thus kept from starving, and they would not come on the works at all if they could earn a living elsewhere. The question whether more work could not be got out of the more able-bodied, and whether additional safeguards are possible against peculation of wages, is being separately considered. There are now about 100,000 people on the Sarun works, inclusive of 3,600 on the Gunduk embankment; and the Lieutenant-Governor, as he has before said, believed that much effective relief has been given through the medium of these works for the last ten weeks; and, with reference to Mr. Drummond's 27th paragraph, he would say that he would not wish to have the present Sarun system suddenly and inconsiderately changed so as to insist upon a full day's work from each labourer without discrimination. He is aware that with a people unaccustomed to work, and threatened by famine, any such insisting might in some cases be injurious, but he trusts to see a discrimination exercised between the able-bodied who can do full work and those who cannot.

13. There is ample store of Government grain already in the district to meet any sudden demand. 308,000 maunds of Government grain and 88,000 maunds of Court of Wards' grain have already reached their final destination.

14. It seems that as yet general charitable relief is happily little required in Sarun; such relief is, however, either given or made available at many centres. The indigenous village and other local agency is fully utilised to search out, relieve, and report cases of distress; and for the present there is no necessity to do more.

15. *Chumparun.*—The accounts from the Bettiah and head-quarter sub-divisions are good so far as they go. Grain is not dearer, and the markets are fairly well supplied; and though very large numbers come upon the relief works, and many apply for charitable advances and loans, still there is no starvation, and distress is being relieved. 56,102 people are employed daily on 15 tanks and 36 roads, besides 2,139 on the Gunduk embankments.

The grain transport continues to work thoroughly well; 547,000 maunds of Government grain have been received into the district, and 394,000 maunds have reached their final destination, so that there is ample grain already available to meet present emergencies.

16. The charitable relief arrangements appear to be complete. The Lieutenant-Governor is much satisfied with Mr. Howe's Ramnugger report, which was received as this Resolution was passing through the press. It certainly appears that the officers in North Chumparun have, by relief works, by selling Government grain, by distributing food, by giving advances of money and grain, relieved distress wherever it has occurred, and are keeping the population from general distress, and from the other consequences of the famine that had come upon them. The account given by Mr. Howe of his sales of Government grain are satisfactory; there is still, however, much less to do in completing the home relief in villages and making advances of grain to ryots. The Lieutenant-Governor is, however, satisfied that matters are well in train for administering all the authorised forms of relief.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. A, dated Bankipore, the 22nd March 1874.

From A. C. Mangles, Esq., Collector of Patna, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I have the honour to submit the following Narrative for the fortnight ending Saturday, the 21st instant:—

A.—State of the Country.

2. The several bazars of the Sudder Station and the interior continue to be well supplied with grains of all sorts. No deficiency of supply has been reported from any part of the district. On the contrary, owing to the harvesting of the rubbee crops, the local markets have been less resorted to by the cultivating and labouring classes, who either subsist on the produce of their own fields or on what is given to them as wages for cutting the crops of others; and even some of our advance-holders who have started grain shops in the interior of the Sudder Sub-division, and who can afford to sell at reduced rates, have done little business during the last four weeks. Notwithstanding this, however, I am glad to say that the amount of grain imported by private individuals is still very great; so much so, that on my return from camp on the 7th instant, it was brought to my notice that there was a heavy block at the Patna City, the merchants not being able to remove the grain as fast as it came in. This, no doubt, was in a great measure owing to the heavy strain which had been placed on our transport resources in the conveyance of treasure, tools, and baggage of troops to other districts, and to the panic which had taken place among the remaining cartmen that they would be taken away from their homes for similar purposes. I at once let it be generally known that Government had no further demand for carts in large quantities, and would make its own arrangements for those it did want; at the same time

deputing one of my municipal officers to render all the assistance in his power to the traders,—firstly, in obtaining delivery of their goods, and, secondly, in obtaining carriage for their removal. My endeavours have been so far successful that, from the 9th up to date, we have been able to remove some 10,000 bags from the Patna City Station in excess of what has been received, but still I am sorry to say that, taking both the Patna City and the Patna Ghat Stations together, the receipts have been slightly in excess of what has been taken away. This, the Station-master tells me, however, is not so much owing to want of carriage, which, with the exception of only two days, has been quite sufficient to meet all requirements, but to the difficulty experienced in giving delivery owing to the unsuitableness of the Patna Station for carrying on such a large traffic, and to the neglect of the mahajuns themselves, who do not come to the station till late in the day, and then, before trying to remove their consignments, see what they can do towards selling it on the spot. It is now my intention to depute Mr. Allen, Assistant Magistrate, to look after this work at both the Patna City and Ghat Stations; and I trust that before long I shall be able to report a complete clearance; that is to say, if the mahajuns have room in their golahs, which I am afraid they have not.

3. The following were the prices of grains obtaining during the fortnight:—

Patna.

	Seers.
Rice (best)	11
Rice (common)	12
Wheat	16
Barley	19
Jowar	19
Maize	17
Gram	19

Barrh.

Rice	10½
Maize	14
Gram	17
Wheat	12

Behar.

Rice	12½
Maize	16
Gram	18
Wheat	14
Barley	14

Dinapore.

Rice	12
Maize	17
Gram	18½
Wheat	15½

In the interior of the Sudder and Dinapore Sub-divisions the prices were as follow:—

Thannah.	Rice.	Maize.	Wheat.	Barley.	Gram.
Bankipore	11	16	14	16	18
Bickrum	12	16	15	—	18
Nowbatpore	12	16	15	—	18
Mussowreh	11	15	14	—	15
Monair	11	17	15	—	18

4. On the night of the 16th instant we had a shower of rain amounting to ·37 at head-quarters, and during the fortnight Behar had ·27, Barrh 1·07, and Dinapore 1·50. In some places it was accompanied by hail, but fortunately no material injury was done to the crops anywhere. On the contrary, cheena, sugarcane, cotton, and castor crops were much benefited.

5. About half the rubbee crops are still on the ground, but they are now fast being reaped, and in the course of the next three or four weeks we may expect to see them all harvested, especially if the weather continues as favourable as it is at present. My expectations regarding the outturn of the crops have, I am glad to say, been fully realized, so much so, that the Deputy Collector of Behar, writing on this subject, says: "No one has any reason to complain; without exception, the unanimous testimony of the people is that the rubbee crop is one of the best they have ever seen." In by far the greater portions of the district we have had from a twelve to a sixteen anna crop, and in the less fortunate tracts, consisting of the high lands, where rubbee was but sparsely grown, not less than an eight-anna crop has been gathered; so that, taking the whole district together, I may safely say that we have had a twelve-anna crop. In Barrh and Behar the crops have been especially good, and in the Sudder and Dinapore Sub-divisions they have not been bad, except in Mussowreh and parts of the Bullia and Monair pergunnahs, which were but thinly sown with spring crops owing to want of moisture, but even in these parts much has since been done by means of irrigation and with the help of the slight showers we have had from time to time, and both cheena and Indian-corn have been and are still being sown.

6. In paragraph 5 of my last Narrative I informed that about 50,000 beeghas of land had been sown with cheena in the Behar Sub-division. The Deputy Collector now informs that this area

of cultivation has since been increased, and that some of the cultivators have sown the crop on fields where they have already had a good poppy crop. In the Sudder sub-division a village-to-village inquiry was ordered by me with the view of ascertaining to what extent the recent rains had been taken advantage of by the people in sowing their lands with maize and cheena, but as yet I am sorry to say the returns submitted are too incomplete to allow of my forming any opinion as to whether the lands so sown are more or less than in ordinary years; this, however, I hope to be able to say in my next narrative.

7. A large tract of country, measuring some 5,000 beeghas, lying between Mussowreh and Nowbutpore, and in the heart of that portion of the country concerning which I had the greatest fear, has, I am glad to say, owing to the exertions of the Zemindar, Baboo Nowrung Behari, yielded a capital rubbee crop, and the Baboo has expressed his intention of keeping his share of it for the benefit of his ryots.

8. No case of misery or starvation has been brought to notice during the fortnight, and with regard to the condition of the people I have little to add to what I said in paragraph 17 of my last Narrative, except it be that from inquiries made it would appear to be generally understood that in ordinary years an able-bodied workman can earn sufficient during the harvesting of the rubbee crop to keep him in grain till the harvesting of the bhadoi, or, at any rate, till he can obtain labour in the fields again in weeding or otherwise looking after it; and I do not see why this year should be any exception to the general rule, except in those limited portions of the district above referred to. Rice, no doubt, is the favourite food among the people, but is by no means so generally used among the lower classes as most people think, the coarser grains being more satisfying and taking longer to digest; rice is looked upon by them as a sort of luxury, to be used when there is an abundance.

9. During the fortnight I have started a depôt at Bankipore for recruiting coolies for British Burmah, and have been so far successful that up to date 134 persons have signed the necessary contract, of which number 113 have already been despatched to Dr. Payne at Calcutta. Of these I have heard of the arrival of the first batch, consisting of 56 men, women, and children; and it was satisfactory to learn from Dr. Payne that he looked upon them as a very promising lot. Of the 134 registering, 62 were residents of this district, 21 of Gya, 12 of Chumparun, 2 of Tirhoot, 15 of Shahabad, and the remainder had come from the North-West. In addition to these, 36 persons, residents of Patna and Gya, were recruited during the fortnight for Cachar under Act VII. of 1873, and I was glad to notice that out of the whole number of 170 there were none who showed by their personal appearance, at any rate, that it was famine or distress which had driven them to emigrate.

10. There was no case of grain robbery reported during the fortnight. Eleven cases of theft were reported, whereof there was one, a heavy one, at Futwah, in which a number of thieves entered the station premises and carried off 10 bags of Government rice. Four bags were recovered at the time, the thieves having dropped them on an alarm being raised, and a portion of the stolen grain has since been recovered from the houses of a number of mushars, who were brought to justice and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment each.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

11. An advance of Rs. 8,000 was applied for during the fortnight for relief work No. 31 (Buktearpore and Koneebagh road). The average daily number of labourers employed on our local fund roads and relief works during the week ending the 14th instant was 9,079, showing an increase as compared with the figures given in the last Narrative; but I am sorry to say that I cannot look upon these figures as being altogether trustworthy, and I certainly do not consider them so. As regards the classes of people employed, for it is a remarkable fact that, in that part of the country where we have had both good rice and rubbee crops, the per-centage of the non-labouring classes said to be employed on the roads is considerably higher than in those parts where we had next to no rice crop and a very insufficient rubbee.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

12. During the fortnight ending the 14th instant the following quantities of grain were imported into the district :—

	Rice.	Wheat, Oats, and Barley.	Jowara.	Other Grains.
By rail - - -	209,147	40,037	66,375	176,445
By river - - -	1,150	100	200	1,112
	210,297	40,137	66,575	177,557

or a grand total of 494,566 maunds, but these figures do not include what has been received at the Futwah Ghat. The returns for that station not having as yet been received, I have not been able to get accurate figures as to what quantity out of the above was on account of Government, but, roughly speaking, it did not exceed 12,000 maunds; so that the remaining 374,566 maunds were private importation. The export of all kinds of grain during the same period was only 15,926.

13. Up to the week ending the 14th instant, the removal of Government golahs from Patna to Futwah Ghat had not, as I anticipated, been of much benefit to the traders, who still had by far

the greater part of their grain consigned to the Patna City Station, as will be seen from the figures supplied by the Railway Company for the Patna City and Ghat Stations for the weeks ending the 7th and 14th respectively; and which show that whilst during that time 213,911 maunds had been delivered at the Patna City Station, only 66,068 had been received at the Patna Ghat. To remedy this the Station-master informs me that the Traffic Superintendent at Dinapore proposed sending on the surplus grain from the City to the Ghat Station, but this was objected to on the grounds that it was likely to cause confusion, and a remedy has been found by telegraphing up the line advising consignors to send to the Ghat, and I am given to understand that during the last week, for which no official return has yet been received, the consignments to the Ghat Station have much increased in number.

14. Our means of transport have, as I have already stated, been taxed to the utmost during the fortnight, for, in addition to 26 lakhs of rupees which have been despatched to their destinations in Tirhoot and Chumparun, we were required to make arrangements for sending another 14 lakhs to other districts, of which only 2 lakhs could be met by rail. These have been sent. Fortunately Sarun was able to make its own arrangements with regard to 5 lakhs, and Gya has been written to to do the same with regard to its 7 lakhs. Besides this, the despatch of a very large number of tools for relief works had to be sent, and large quantities of baggage for troops and private individuals crossed the river. It is my intention, if possible, to obtain the Commissioner's consent to my keeping a certain number of the carts coming from the north-west on this side of the river for this special work. The intimation given to us of treasure coming is so short, and the necessity of its immediate despatch on arrival so great, that it is absolutely neeessary for us to keep a number of carts in constant readiness, which is a great drain on the resources of the country.

15. During the fortnight a telegram was received from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor asking me to make arrangements for one lakh maunds of rubbee fodder. I have already taken agreements for the supply of 85,000 maunds to be sent to Bunker Ghat and Chumpta, and the Behar sub-divisional officer informs that he could with difficulty make arrangements for another 25,000, but that he hopes other districts, such as Arrah and Sarun, where they have also had good rubbee crops, may be indented on first. Behar is also sending at once Rs. 1,250 worth of rice straw to Chumpta which had been stored in case we might require it later on in the year for our transport cattle. In the Sudder sub-division I am also calling in what I had collected at the different golahs for a similar purpose for the use of the up-country cattle passing through to Tirhoot. Other offers for the supply of rubbee fodder have been made in the Sudder sub-division; but I have not closed with them as yet, as even in ordinary years this is not a fodder exporting district, and I am waiting to see what effect the parting with this one lakh will have, and to learn what the other districts can supply.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

16. No progress has been made in the transport of grain into the interior of the district since the submission of my last report; first, because no grain was received at any station for this district; and second, because all the available carriage was employed in the service of other districts and in removing the block at the Patna Station.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

17. The whole of the amount which was allotted to me for making advances for purchase of grain has been given out. The Patna zemindars, who got the last advance of Rs. 30,000, have begun to get their grain from the Upper Provinces, and will shortly be ready to sell it in the manner described in one of my former narratives.

18. No one received an advance for agricultural improvement during the fortnight, but some petitions which have been received are under consideration; those who had to stop their village works on account of the present harvest will shortly be able to resume them.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

19. I have selected the market place built at Sadikpore on the Wahabee ground, but which has never filled as a charitable relief house in the Patna City; and the pucka lines near the Bankipore police station have been set apart for the same purpose. I have appointed sub-committees to superintend these relief houses, and similar preparations have been made at Dinapore, so that these can be started at a moment's notice. I have also sent an order to the sub-divisional officer of Barrh to make all the necessary preparations for relief houses at Barrh and Mokameh to meet any exit of famine-stricken people from Tirhoot crossing the river at those points.

No. 425 F, dated Gya, the 23rd March 1874.

From A. V. PALMER, Esq., Collector of Gya, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I HAVE the honour to submit my fortnightly report on scarcity and relief in Gya District for the fortnight ending Saturday, 21st March.

A.—State of the Country.

2. There is no lack of food-grain in the bazars. The annexed table will show the reported prices-current during the past fortnight. I believe these prices-current not to be altogether reliable, and that they err on the side of high prices:—

Bazars.	Wheat.		Barley.		Rice, 1st sort.		Rice, 2nd sort.		Millet.		Maize.		Gram.	
	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 7th March.
	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
Gya - -	10 4	10 8	17 4	15 0	8 0	8 4	10 0	10 4	15 0	15 0	14 0	13 4	14 8	13 8
Nowada - -	11 8	11 8	16 0	16 0	—	—	11 12	11 12	14 0	14 0	13 0	13 0	15 8	14 8
Jehanabad - -	13 0	13 0	15 0	15 0	9 0	9 0	10 0	10 0	—	—	13 12	13 12	16 0	15 0
Aurungabad -	12 8	12 0	15 0	14 8	9 12	9 12	10 12	10 12	14 8	14 0	14 8	14 8	15 0	14 8
Daoodnugger -	12 0	14 0	16 0	16 0	10 0	10 8	10 8	10 12	—	—	15 0	14 0	16 0	15 0

3. There has been, during the past fortnight, showers with hail. In no place has this been very severe or sufficient to interfere with the harvesting of the crops. At Jehanabad half an inch was reported, and in Aurungabad flying showers.

4. The crops promise a full yield. Peas and mussoor have now been gathered, and wheat is being cut.

5. The condition of the people is still generally good. In all large villages there are a certain number of lepers and incapables whom the high prices must affect. To assist these, measures have been adopted at the head-quarters of each sub-division, and at Kootoomba in Aurungabad.

6. There is also a class with whom it will be difficult to deal, viz., those who are capable of working, but who, from caste prejudices, are unwilling to give a *quid pro quo*, or in any way earn anything in the shape of wage.

7. Grain thefts have not noticeably increased, but offences against property have very steadily been increasing for some months past.

8. There are no special tracts calling for special mention.

B.—Relief Works.

9. The marking out of the work (Gya to Puraya, 10 miles), which has been sanctioned, has, I regret to say, not yet been reported done by Executive Engineer.

10. The statement to be submitted on Wednesday next to the Public Works Department of the Bengal Secretariat will, at a glance, give all detailed information.

11. There is a supply of food in the vicinity of all the works; the labourers are still in good condition, and are paid by a fixed rate for the quantity of work done.

12. Tools have, in some instances, been supplied, but they are almost useless. The picks are far too heavy and cumbrous, and totally unfitted for earth-work, and the kodalies are so flimsy and light that they make little or no impression on the hard ground.

13. None but professional workmen are reported to have come to the district works, with the exception of 74 at Aurungabad, employed in excavating a tank, and 152 at Jehanabad employed in levelling the ground for a dispensary. A third relief gang is now being started in Nowada.

14. It has been found that the rule heretofore adopted, that contractors were to give work to all who applied for it and to make over to the duffadar those who were weakly, though plausible theoretically, did not answer in practice.

15. It was incredible, with such high prices of food grain as obtained here, that persons other than professional beldars should not have wanted work. The contractors, duffadars, and supervising officers all averred that no outsider came for work.

16. This has now been altered in consultation with my sub-divisional officers, and thus the work under contract will be quite separate from other relief work, which will be placed immediately under a different officer, viz., sub-divisional officer. Two gangs will be started on each work; one, payment-by-result gang, the other invalid gang.

17. The rates fixed for the first-named will be remunerative and attractive—Re. 1-12 per 1,000 cubic feet. From this professionals and beldars will be excluded.

18. This gang will have their work measured up by the duffadar every other day, and for the amount completed payment will every other day be made, the amount due being divided equally amongst the gang. It is hoped that this will induce a healthy competition to earn a full wage, and it is the best possible check for detecting the drones and those who, though capable, are unwilling to do more than a show of work.

19. The invalid gang will be employed on light labour, and will be paid daily according to the established rates, viz., 5 Goruckpooree pice per man, 4 pice a woman, and 2½ a child.

20. Experience shows that this last description is popular. In the first place the daily payment, however small, is satisfactory. Secondly, employment is thus given to children, and they can earn their livelihood instead of remaining dependent on what their parents can spare.

21. It is no uncommon thing for the father to work at the harvest or earthwork, and for the mother and children to flock to the invalid gang relief.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD GRAINS.

22. The annexed table will give, in compact and condensed form, an approximate account of private food-supplies imported during the fortnight.

Bazars.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, 1st sort.	Rice, 2nd sort.	Millet.	Maize.	Gram.	Total.
	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.
Gya - - - -	477	137	65	1,212	22	367	217	2,497
Nowada - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Jehanabad - -	146	138	32	130	—	105	202	753
Aurungabad - -	111	—	8	381	—	—	90	590
Daoodnugger - -	1,250	225	1,100	1,400	—	105	1,675	5,755
Total -	1,984	500	1,205	3,123	22	5,767	2,188	9,599

23. This gives a total of 9,599 maunds against 7,625 maunds imported during previous fortnight. It is satisfactory to see that these private importations as the year goes on are increasing.

24. I annex a comparative statement showing private importations into Sudder Bazar of Gya this fortnight and last fortnight:—

	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, 1st sort.	Rice, 2nd sort.	Millet.	Maize.	Gram.	Total.
	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.
This fortnight - -	477	137	65	1,212	22	367	217	2,497
Last fortnight - -	800	176	162	1,801	—	293	374	3,606

25. When the harvest is over and grain threshed the importation will doubtless increase.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

26. In my last report I annexed a statement of store centres with amount of grain stored at each. During the past fortnight very little grain has been received from Government. I have now about 140,000 maunds stored as against 127,000 maunds last fortnight.

27. I require about 5,000 maunds at Bihta and 8,000 at Bankipore to complete my consignment.

28. The distribution of grain over the district in these store centres will enable me to meet any sudden or emergent call from any part of the district. The main store I have kept at sub-divisional head-quarters, as there it is best looked after.

29. It has not been found necessary to sell the Government grain, nor do I apprehend that any such course will have to be adopted for the next two months.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

30. These advances are—

1st, for purchase of grain.
2nd, for land improvement.

31. *For purchase of grain.*—There have been five applications (three Jehanabad, two Arrungabad) during the past fortnight. Of these one has been rejected and four are under inquiry.

32. *For land improvement.*—The following statement will show the transactions of the past fortnight:—

Advance for Land Improvement.

Name of Applicant and Right held by him.	Nature and Locality of Work for which Advance is applied for.	Amount of Advance applied for.	Period within which the Work is to be completed.
	JEHANABAD SUB-DIVISION.	Rs. As. P.	
Mook Lall Singh, Malik - -	1 pucca well in Dedhsia - - -	125 0 0	3 months.
Ruttoo Mahto, Tenant - -	1 pucca well and repairing of another in Kooraree, pergunnah Ekil.	125 0 0	4 ditto.
Chooramun Singh and Biswanath Singh, Zemindars.	1 pucca well and embankment in Babhunpoora, pergunnah Okree.	125 0 0	6 ditto.
	NOWADA SUB-DIVISION.		
Meera Lall, Mokurredar - -	1 pucca well in mouza Hurdya appertaining to Mehal Singhur Narain, pergunnah Jurra.	200 0 0	30th June 1874.
	Total -	575 0 0	

33. I further submit a statement of applications for advances for land improvement, and how dealt with:

Sub-divisions.	Number of Applications received during the fortnight.	Number of Applications received previously.	Total Number of Applications received.	Number disposed of.					Pending.
				Applications granted.	Applications rejected or withdrawn.	Applications reported to Commissioner.	Returned.	Total disposed of.	
Gya - - - - -	2	20	22	2	12	1	—	15	7
Aurungabad - - -	—	78	78	27	34	2	6	69	9
Jehanabad - - - - -	13	35	48	16	11	—	4	31	17
Nowada - - -	2	3	5	2	—	1	—	3	2
Total - -	17	136	153	47	57	4	10	118	35

F.—Charitable Relief.

34. Apart from the ordinary district road works (which are supposed to be relief works) each sub-division has opened a small relief work as a tentative measure. At *Aurungabad* a tank is being dug in the town; at *Jehanabad* the site for a hospital is being cleared and levelled; at *Nowada* the collection of kunker and hill-gravel for road repairs has been commenced; at *Gya* the realignment of a small portion of road, about two miles in length, has been commenced.

35. Hitherto those working on these works have been paid 5, 4, and 2½ pice respectively. For cutting earth payment by results is being introduced.

36. Relief has been given to professional beggars in the shape of cooked food as per margin. An average of 42 persons in Aurungabad and of 142 persons in Jehanabad have been relieved by pice. In Jehanabad some work has been extracted from each person relieved.

	Daily Average.
Gya - - - - -	98
Nowada - - -	32
Pukreebarwan - - -	21
Rujowlee - - -	41

37. In these two places cooked food will be substituted for pice, except where the parties work at the invalid gang.

38. Meetings have now been held at each sub-divisional head-quarters when Rs. 24,464 was subscribed, of which Rs. 11,121 has been paid. The marginal statement will show these results at a glance.

Sub-division.	Date of Meeting.	Amount Subscribed.			Amount Paid.		
		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Gya - -	7th March -	17,499	0	0	5,590	0	0
Nowada - -	10th February	5,250	0	0	5,181	0	0
Jehanabad -	7th March -	575	0	0	350	0	0
Aurungabad -	18th " -	1,140	0	0	Not reported.		
	Total -	24,464	0	0	11,121	0	0

39. I annex statement called for in Bengal Government, No. 1,251, dated 5th instant:—

Number of Committees and Sub-Committees as yet appointed.	Number of Special Relief Sub-divisions opened and officered.	Number of regular Relief Circles opened and manned by Special Officers.	Number of Relief Circles opened and managed by Planters, Zemindars, and other Residents.	Number of Workhouses or Centres for the Distribution of Food and Gratuitous Relief.	Number in Receipt of Gratuitous Relief.		
					Men.	Women.	Children.
At Gya. 1 District Relief Committee - 1 Sub-Committee.	—	—	—	—	44	40	19
At Jehanabad. 1 Sub-divisional Committee - 1 Sub-Committee at Urwal.	—	—	—	23	—	—	—
At Nowada. 1 Sub-divisional Committee -	—	—		—	94	Detail not given.	
At Aurungabad. 1 Sub-divisional Committee.							

No. 452F, dated Arrah, the 24th March 1874.

From H. W. ALEXANDER, Esq., Collector of Shahabad, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honour to submit my eighth narrative for the fortnight ending on Saturday, the 21st March.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Abundance or scarcity of supplies in the bazar.

1. The supplies in the local markets have increased and are fully sufficient. Grain is still coming into the district in large quantities by rail. The rubbee is being rapidly harvested and will help greatly to increase the local stock.

In Bhubbooa the Deputy Collector reports the condition of affairs in this respect to be normal.

Kind and prices of grain selling at one or more specified principal marts.

In Appendix A. is given the kind and prices of grain selling at the chief marts in the district.

In regard to the price of rice, it will be noticed that it has both risen in some and fallen in other marts; on the whole, the prices are better than they were last fortnight.

Any information in regard to the amount and stocks of grain in the hands of zemindars and others.

3. No additional information has been gained under this head.

Rainfall, if any; state of crops; the condition of the people; actual facts as to any known cases of misery and starvation; grain thefts and robberies, and condition of any particular tracts.

4. The weather during the past week was cloudy and threatening; wind variable. A heavy thunderstorm occurred on the night of the 16th, accompanied by rain, which appears to have been very general; it did not, however, fall in sufficient quantity to do any material damage to either the standing crops or to those already cut and stored in the open granaries. In Bhubbooa some damage appears to have been caused by hail. This must, however, have been very slight, as prices were not affected by the circumstance.

In the Arrah sub-division the crops are being rapidly cut and harvested, and are reported favourably on, the crops in Diarah lands in particular.

In the Buxar sub-division the Deputy Collector writes, "Some of the barley and wheat is still uncut, and the harvest of the grain, which, though backward, is said to be a most promising crop, is little more than half through in many places."

From Sasseram Mr. Eyre reports, "The crops in the Sasseram sub-division are everywhere reported good. In Bhubbooa a half to a three-quarter crop is expected. I should be inclined to call this an under estimate of the probable outturn."

The cultivators are now busily engaged in cutting and storing their crops, and although labour is not, where it can be avoided, being made use of in order to save the grain given in payment, still many must be obtaining employment, from the fact that the numbers heretofore employed on relief works have considerably decreased within the last fortnight.

Beggars, and those who subsist entirely on charity, and the poor people of high caste, are suffering pressure, but not in any intensified form as compared with condition as reported in my last narrative.

Information is being gathered as to the number of such people who really stand in need of help, and subsidised relief will be afforded to all those who deserve and require it. It would be unadvisable to commence selling grain now, under the market rates. Trade is being carried on briskly, and we have yet to learn what effect the rubbee harvest will have on prices at present ruling in the market. No specified cases of misery and starvation have yet come to light.

There has been no increase in the number of grain thefts and robberies so as to call for special notice.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

Full details in regard to all such works in progress will be furnished in the statement (called for in circular No. 5718, dated 3rd December last) which is due on the 25th instant.

No relief works in addition to those alluded to in my last narrative have been started during the period under report.

The rubbee harvest is attracting many from the works in progress; when all the crops have been cut and stored, people will again resort to the canals and the roads for employment.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

Grain has been coming into the district during the past fortnight in increased quantity; if anything, private importations by rail being large, both in the Arrah and Buxar sub-divisions. The quantity so imported will be shown in a separate statement after detailed returns have been received from the Traffic Department, East Indian Railway. By river, only 500 maunds have been imported from Ghazeepore and Goruckpore.

In the Sasseram sub-division 3,361 maunds have been imported during the fortnight from other districts. The returns from Bhubbooa under this head are incomplete.

The means of transport are at present sufficient for all requirements. On this head the sub-divisional officer of Buxar remarks "that nearly all the private carrying of the sub-district is done by pack-bullocks, and that it is not advisable that large purchase of these animals, at high prices, should continue to be made for the supply of Tirhoot if they can be got elsewhere."

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

In the Arrah sub-division no grain has been received during the period under report. The amount noted in my last narrative has been received up to date and stored in the central golahs. I presume, before very long, further consignments, in accordance with requirements already reported, will be received.

In the Buxar sub-division nothing has been done in the way of storing grain since the date of the last narrative. In the Sasseram and Bhubbooa sub-divisions a total of 24,508 maunds have been received, all of which has been stored. The further requirements for these two sub-divisions have been intimated separately, and I trust may soon be complied with.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

In the Arrah sub-division no advances have been made for land improvements. Four applications of traders for advances, aggregating Rs. 3,000, have been transmitted during the fortnight, and orders in regard to these have been passed.

In the Buxar sub-division Mr. Armstrong reports, "Since my last narrative, seventeen petitions for tuccavee advances for improvements have been filed, of which, six have been rejected, the security offered being, in my opinion, unsatisfactory, and the remainder are being inquired into. I have also finally recommended the advance of a loan of Rs. 1,000 to Gunga Bishoon, teli, for the purchase of grain, good security having been tendered."

In regard to the applications for loans from the municipalities of Arrah and Sasseram, I trust they may receive early attention and be sanctioned.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

I have no additional information to give to that supplied in my last narrative in reply to circular No. 1251—S.R., dated the 5th March. In regard to the headings Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, a house-to house visitation has been carried out within the limit of the Arrah Municipality (this has been conducted by the different members of the Committee), in order to ascertain how many and what persons might require relief. Lists were furnished of respectable women and their children requiring aid, too old to work, or able to work, but not in public.

2nd. Of men, women, and children in want of help and capable of doing light work out of door.

3rd. Of men, women, and children incapable, from age or bodily infirmities, of doing any work, and who have heretofore subsisted on charity.

A meeting was held of the Arrah Sub-Divisional Committee on the 19th, and it was resolved that a sub-committee be formed of native gentlemen, residents of the town, to make careful inquiries in regard to persons named in list No. 1, and in each case, where it appeared advisable, to give immediate relief in the shape of an advance of Re. 1 and 16 chittacks of cotton (cleaned) the latter to be returned, spun into 14 chittacks of thread, in a fortnight. In this way 35 people have, up to date, received aid, and 36 have had gratuitous relief given to them.

In regard to the 2nd list the police were ordered to direct all named therein to seek for employment on the light labour gangs which have been started on relief works near the town. The locality where these light labour gangs are employed is indicated by red flags; any unable to do earth-work can spin rope or cotton thread.

On the 21st an inspection was held by the Civil Surgeon and myself of the people named in the 3rd list, and sturdy and well-conditioned beggars rejected, and only those selected as fit objects for charity who appeared in anything like a distressed condition; 18 persons were considered as proper subjects of gratuitous relief, and it was arranged that in each case a sum of Rs. 2 should be paid into a respectable native resident of that part of the town in which these poor people lodged, with directions to see that they each receive three pice daily. Similar inquiries must be made, and similar lists prepared, in regard to the whole of each sub-division. The agency available for this purpose is that of the sub-committees selected for each relief circle; further aid is, however, essentially required, in the shape of one or two inspecting officers, for this duty, and also for supervising the relief which may thus have to be given. A separate statement is annexed (Appendix B.) of the number of men, women, and children who have received gratuitous relief during the fortnight ending the 23rd March.

In regard to the Buxar sub-division Mr. Armstrong writes, "The actual charitable operations commenced are still confined to the advance to each officer in charge of the thannahs and outposts of a small sum for the gratuitous relief of infirm persons, chiefly professional beggars, who are relieved with food. A return is annexed, in accordance with the Government of Bengal's letter No. 1251—S.R., dated 5th March 1874, showing the number of men, women, and children who have received food regularly to each thannah and outpost during the fortnight. The arrangements being made in preparation of the machinery of charitable relief have been reported in my letter No. 280, dated the 13th March 1874. I note the Commissioner's opinion that it is advisable to postpone the giving of relief through sub-committees till the last possible moment, and I think while the members requiring gratuitous relief at the present head-quarters of the six proposed circles stand as low as they now do, it would be premature to start the regular feeding establishments at Chowsa, Buxar, and Saraya, and send in all the applicants to these places. I have called the proposed members of the sub-committees to a meeting on Monday next, when I will enlist their immediate services for the giving of any information concerning distress which may be in their power. The first thing in the way of a relief establishment that I should press for, would be the appointment of an inspector for each circle."

With reference to the Sasseram and Bhubbooa sub-divisions Mr. Eyre reports, "Upon the 26th February I commenced subsidised indoor relief in Sasseram, for all those physically unable to do earth-work on the relief roads. Grass fibre was obtained from the Kymore table-land, to be manufactured into rope. Three seers of the fibre is given out to each applicant at daybreak, to be returned in rope the same evening. The work is carried on in two large sheds provided for the purpose. The price fixed is five pice per seer of rope, and three seers represents the average daily labour of a person in the condition of those to whom such light work is applicable. Payment is made every day, and the daily earning of one anna three pie (fixed with due regard to the market rates of the common food) provides two fair meals.

" The following are the aggregate results of this relief:—

Date.	Number of Persons.	Daily Average.
26th February to 3rd March	51	8·5
4th March to 11th "	156	22·3
11th " to 20th "	192	19·2

" In addition, I have to report that arrangements have been made by the Sub-Divisional Committee of Sasseram and will shortly be made in the Bhubbooa sub-division for—

" 1. Purchase of fire-wood for poor-houses.
" 2. Purchase of necessary utensils, &c., for cooking food and drinking.
" 3. Construction of poor-houses.
" 4. Purchase of cotton for spinning relief.
" 5. Purchase of fibre for rope-making at the centres.

" The sub-committees and police are all engaged in making inquiries village by village, as to who are entitled to subsidised or gratuitous relief.

" Subscriptions amounting to Rs. 2,600 have been collected in the Sasseram sub-division."

No. 745F, dated Mozufferpore, the 25th March 1874.

From C. F. Worsley, Esq., Officiating Collector of Tirhoot, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

In forwarding the district narrative of scarcity and relief for the fortnight ending Saturday, 21st instant, I have the honour to submit the following remarks:—

2. *Para.* 8.—The want of carts for transport of private grain is a very serious difficulty; and though private trade might have been expected to do a great deal in this part of the district with sufficient carriage at its command, it cannot, I fear, under existing circumstances, be trusted to accomplish all that is required. There are still, no doubt, a considerable number of cattle of sorts in the interior, and from what I have myself seen in several villages to the south, and heard generally from others, I am of opinion that most villages have sufficient cattle to fetch such grain as they require, provided it can be obtained at moderately accessible marts. It is the town and the large marts that are primarily and directly affected by the scarcity of carriage; if they cannot secure sufficient carts their supplies are at once reduced; but in regard to villages (except in the north) the matter is mainly one of additional expense and trouble. I know from personal inquiries that villages 10 miles south of Mozufferpore, which used formerly to draw their supplies from the town, now import them on pack-bullocks from Hajeepore.

3. I agree with the district relief officer in thinking that our allotment of Government grain should be increased, and considering that carriage will probably be plentiful after the 15th June, and that private importations can be made in most parts of this sub-division throughout the rains, I think his estimate, which provides for supplying food to one-fifth of the population for two months, is both reasonable and sufficient. The additional allotment now asked for is 135,000 maunds.

4. *Para* 18.—The rubbee crop in the south of the Hajeepore sub-division is nearly a full one, but in the north it is very poor in several places. I saw yesterday at Shahpore Mircha Factory the produce of some 80 beegahs land, which the manager had stacked in his compound, and which he assured me was a fair sample of the outturn of the crop in his neighbourhood (about 10 miles north of Mahoweh thannah). The yield of grain he expected to be not more than 5 maunds per beegah. I have been over a good deal of the land in the south of the Mozufferpore sub-division and in the jurisdiction of the Chandrahattee outpost. What has struck me most is the irregular and unexpected plots in which good, indifferent, and bad crops occur. Side by side with a limited area of fine crops may be seen large fields either wholly bare or dotted with patches of produce, and the contrast is often equally marked even in the vicinity of village wells. The head constable of the outpost, which comprises 50 or 60 villages, estimates the average outturn at 8 annas, but I should not myself place it higher than 6. At present, want of water is felt much more severely than want of food in this part of the district.

5. *Para.* 21.—The telegram referred to in this paragraph was partially confirmed in a demi-official letter, dated 19th instant, which I received from the Executive Engineer, Durbhunga. In this letter he mentioned that "on three roads in the neighbourhood of Mudhoobunnee the numbers had increased from 57,000 to the enormous number of 114,430."

6. *Para.* 25.—I have not yet been able to visit personally the parts of the Sudder sub-division where distress is said already to exist, but I have arranged to make a tour with the District Superintendent of Police through the whole of the western portion of the sub-division between 27th and 31st instant.

Within a few days after I took charge of this district I began to receive petitions from villages in the south complaining of want of water and praying that their tanks might be re-dug at the expense of Government, and I therefore devoted my attention first to this subject. It is not my wish, nor indeed is it necessary, to dig tanks in every village where there is a deficiency of water; and hitherto I have refrained from giving money for this purpose, except in villages where the *maliks* are very poor and petty, and cattle have to be taken 1½ or 2 miles distance to water.

I have opened tank works at three villages, Koorunee, Sudwara, and Ghin-Ghuria in Chandrahattee outpost jurisdiction, and placed the works under one of the *maliks* or jeyt ryots of the village, who is paid Rs. 10 per month for supervision. The necessity of obtaining water is the best guarantee that a fair day's work will be exacted from each labourer.

7. I have visited Soomera and Chajan villages, in which the first symptoms of distress were observed more than a month ago. In the former village cotton-spinning, twine-twisting, and basket-making have become very popular, and afford ample employment to all who cannot work at the tank. In the latter village I found some 300 persons employed in digging out an old tank. None of the labourers appeared to me to be thin or weakly, nor have I noticed any bad cases on the tank-works at Gunnerpore, Sukree, and Behunpore along the Hajeepore road, where many hundreds of persons are daily employed.

8. I have issued strict instructions that wherever there is a real demand for employment (as at Motipore), and there is tendency of labourers to collect together at any one work, new works must be immediately opened in the neighbourhood and the labourers be distributed over them.

9. *Paras.* 27, 28.—With reference to crime, I think the fact of its being double what it was in January and February 1873 is less matter for surprise than the numerically small increase, if regard be had to the size and condition of the district. The general orderly behaviour of the people is most remarkable.

10. *Para.* 30.—I feel a little doubtful whether so large a number of works as 113 can be absolutely required in the Seetamurhee sub-division, where the number of labourers employed upon them is only 20,032. The increase of labourers does not appear to have been proportionate to the increase of works during the last fortnight, and an average of less than 180 labourers to each work seems smaller than it might advantageously be. I have now no direct control over this sub-division in relief matters, but I think it right to direct attention to the subject. The enhanced rates of wages in Seetamurhee sub-division I have previously noticed, and I am much surprised that they have not attracted more labourers.

11. *Para.* 34.—I am anxious to open more road-works in the Sudder sub-division, and I hope within the next 10 days to suggest some for the Commissioner's approval. One work I have already ordered to be commenced in rather a distressed locality. It is a road leading from Regye Factory (14 miles north-west from Mozufferpore) to Titariah in the Chumparun district, where it will join a new road passing *viâ* Seraha to Motiharee, and originally planned and partly executed by Mr. Metcalfe, Collector of Chumparun, in the scarcity year of 1869. When the entire road is completed it will form a second line of communication between Mozufferpore and Motiharee.

12. *Para.* 40.—I regret to observe that the balance of grain in hand at Bunker still continues to increase, and that yesterday it exceeded 80,000 maunds. The Southern Company are arranging to carry up the Gunduck to Sahebgunge, and thence to transport on carts to Seetamurhee, all the remaining grain that they have contracted to convey to that sub-division. By this arrangement some 1,000 or 1,200 carts will be set free and will become available for transporting increased quantities of grain to Cantee, Rossulpore, and Athar depôts of the Northern Company. I think hitherto that the Southern Company have been allowed to carry direct to Seetamurhee more than their fair share of grain, and that owing to irregular arrivals of grain the Northern Company have been put to great inconvenience and have had some reason to complain. Colonel Macgregor, however, has now made a distribution of grain under which the Northern Company will receive their due share each week, and I trust there will be no further contention between the two Companies.

13. *Para.* 59.—The distribution of charitable relief in Mozufferpore is being carefully made under the immediate supervision of the Chairman and members of the Sub-Committee. I have twice been present at the distribution of grain and am satisfied that the persons relieved are fit recipients of charity. To the care and precautions taken to admit none who are able to work I attribute the entire success of this institution.

14. In conclusion, I may add that relief preparations are advancing rapidly in the Sudder sub-division, and that, though increased distress is daily reported, adequate measures are being everywhere taken to afford relief.

Dated Mozufferpore, the 23rd March 1874.

From H. W. GORDON, Esq., Covtd. Deputy Collector, on special duty, Tirhoot, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honour to submit my narrative of scarcity and relief in the Tirhoot district for the fortnight ending Saturday, the 21st March 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. *Durbhunga.*—In the Durbhunga sub-division the supply of food-grains in the bazars does not differ from that last reported, The Rosera bazar supplies to some extent the markets on the south-eastern side of the sub-division. Supplies still continue to be plentiful in the Durbhunga bazar. Prices are everywhere high.

3. *Madhubanee.*—In Madhubani sub-division prices are about the same as last reported. The supplies in the bazars are reported to be small. Indian-corn in small quantities is being imported on pack-bullocks from Seetamurhee, and urid and gram from the North-West Provinces by way of Chumpta Ghaut.

4. *Seetamurhee.*—In Seetamurhee sub-division the prices of grain have remained steady, except at Sonbursa, where the price is reported to be below 10 seers. Sales of Government grain have commenced at Bhootahi and Sonbursa.

5. *Hajeepore.*—In Hajeepore sub-division prices have a downward tendency, owing no doubt to the cutting of the rubbee having commenced. The supplies in the bazars continue to be sufficient.

6. *Tajpore.*—In the Tajpore sub-division wheat and rice are slightly dearer. Mr. Wace fears that rice is not always procurable at the figures quoted in the markets in the interior. The bhadoi grains are selling at about the same rates, but the supply of makai is not quite so brisk as it was. The grain most common now in the bazars is a mixture of grain and barley, imported, it is said, from the North-West Provinces.

7. Mr. Wace writes: "I am, however, anxious about the bazar supplies. The contractors carrying from Chumpta Ghat have lately taken to using pack-animals. I have been asked to issue orders in the local markets to ensure a greater supply of them. This I have refused to do. I do not know how this great importing pergunnah has been hitherto supplied, with nearly all its carts drawn off to feed those tracts which usually export to it; but of this I am certain, that if pack-bullocks are also taken up, the bazar supplies must fail."

8. *Sudder.*—In the Sudder sub-division prices continue very high, especially at head-quarters, where common rice is now selling at 9 and wheat at 10 seers a rupee. That prices should rise is not, I think, surprising. Private importation is, I believe, almost paralysed, nearly all the available means of transport having been taken up by the contractors. The smaller markets in the interior now draw their supplies from the larger bazars of Mozufferpore, Sharfuddeenpore (10 miles from Mozufferpore on the Durbhunga road), and other places. At Rajkhund I was told the market was supplied from Sharfuddeenpore; the drain on the larger marts has consequently increased, and as the incomings do not balance the outgoings the prices necessarily rise, and I fear will rise until Government sales commence. I confess I am somewhat anxious about the supplies in the interior; in some places it is evident grain is only procurable in small quantities. On my way from Rajkhund to Kutra I met several men returning from a large mart (Nagwarah) with their pack-bullocks, but with no grain. They told me they could not get any. The rubbee now being harvested will no doubt afford some aid to the people; but this aid cannot be general, because in some rice-growing tracts there is no rubbee at all. I am therefore anxious to get more Government grain stored speedily in the sub-division. At present all the grain passing through goes to Seetamurhee, and I have written to the Commissioner stating the allotments I think required for each circle, and asking permission to take some of this Seetamurhee grain.

9. The annexed table gives the prices and descriptions of grain selling at some of the principal marts in the district on the 7th and 21st instant.

10. *Stocks.—Durbhunga.*—On this subject the sub-divisional officer of Durbhunga observes: "The only thing worth communicating to you is the fact that on two occasions, when Mr. Aikman in Hirni and Mr. Paul at Mohamadpore were present at fires, it was found that in each case large quantities of grain were stored in the houses that were burnt. Mr. Aikman reports that he thus found grain stored in most unlikely places." It is not said to whom this grain belonged: stocks may, and no doubt do, exist, which will never be sold to the public and cannot therefore be taken into account.

11. *Madhubani.*—The Madhubani officer reports: "I can add nothing to the information with regard to stocks in the country. My inquiries have elicited no traces of the existence of such stocks except of paddy in the hands of the mohunts, and I fear that the amount stated to be in their possession is exaggerated by popular reports."

12. *Seetamurhee.*—On this subject the sub-divisional officer of Seetamurhee says but little, Mr. J. Tripe, Superintendent of North Shewhur, writes: "I am convinced that in this neighbourhood no ryot has any store of grain, and we must look to feed the people either by relief works or sales for the next eight months, when the paddy crop comes in."

13. *Tajpore, Hajeepore, and Sudder.*—I have nothing further to report as regards stocks in these three sub-divisions. My impression is that in the Sudder and Tajpore sub-divisions stocks that will be available are inconsiderable.

14. *Rainfall and state of the crops.—Durbhunga.*—During the fortnight the rainfall in the Durbhunga sub-division was ·06 inches. The crops remaining in the ground in any quantity are rahur, barley, and cheena. Rahur is good, barley generally very poor, and cheena is not promising.

15. *Mudhoobunnee.*—In Mudhoobunnee itself the rainfall is reported to be ·06 inches; but in the neighbourhood of Narha Factory 1½ inches are said to have fallen. In the vicinity of Andramat, in the Naraya relief circle, a severe hail-storm occurred, which extended over an area of between 40 and 50 square miles. The rahur, barley, mango, and other crops which came near the centre of its sweep were completely destroyed. In the rest of the sub-division the rahur and mangos promise well. Very little cheena and moong has been planted.

16. *Seetamurhee.*—The Seetamurhee officer reports: "On the 9th there was a shower of rain ($\frac{1}{10}$ of an inch). The prospects of the cold-weather crop continue good in most places. The quantity, however, will not make up for the quantity unsown and the quantity that did not germinate. Wheat, barley, and rahur are fast approaching maturity; peas, mustard, gram, and massur are still being harvested. The mango crop is doing well."

17. *Tajpore.*—The rainfall at Tajpore during the fortnight was ·19 inches, but less where it was more needed. Mr. Wace still adheres to his previously estimated outturn of rubbee in pergunnahs Suressa and Balagutch. While it is hoped that this crop will save Balagutch, it is feared that in Surressa it will afford but a scanty subsistence for about two months. The prospects of the cheena, keoni, moong, and mangos are not so good as last reported. The mangos have suffered from the recent rain and high winds. People think the mangos will be a means of subsistence for more than a month, some say for two months; but I cannot help thinking this fruit will be a dangerous article of food to a starving population. The rain certainly did some good to the cheena, moong, and keoni sowings, and it is hoped that in parts they will afford considerable relief; but in the western tract and in the vicinity of the Tal Barreyla, where the soil is clayey, little or no relief can be looked for from this source.

18. *Hajeepore and Sudder.*—No rainfall is reported from Hajeepore, and only a few drops fell in the Sudder. In Hajeepore the rubbee is being harvested, and there is a very fair outturn. I have just returned from a journey through a portion of the Rajkhund and Kutra circles to the north and east of the Sudder sub-division. I did not find the rubbee looking generally as well as I expected. In parts where irrigation was possible there are fine patches especially of rahur, but the wheat and barley are exceedingly poor. There are large rice tracts in this direction, in which I was informed little or no rice was yielded. On the whole, I fear the rubbee in this direction will not afford means of subsistence for a considerable time. Much cannot be expected from the moong and cheena; more rain is needed for them. The warm west winds, which have already set in, will do great damage to such of this crop as has germinated, and irrigation, from the extreme scarcity of water everywhere, is simply impossible.

19. *Condition of the people.—Durbhunga.*—The sub-divisional officer writes: "Actual famine exists only in the Bahera thanna, and there only in certain villages, and among certain classes in those villages. Everywhere in Bahera and Singhia there are cases of emaciation and distress to be found, but only in the Desouta circle is there actual famine among any considerable number. In the Durbhunga thanna the cases of emaciation are met with as a rule on the great Durbhunga to Bahera road relief work. But if you consider that on this road there are at present 6 per cent. of the total population of the sub-division, that the people absolutely desert their villages during the day, taking with them the sick and old, who at the best of times exist in many villages, to receive the pay their mere presence on the work entitles them to, you will be surprised that so few bad cases occur among them. During the fortnight few deaths on the road have occurred, and I am informed that the bodies were emaciated. But, looking at the circumstances, the mortality seems very small." Mr. Aikman, Superintendent of Hatti relief circle, reports: "With regard to deaths from famine, it cannot be denied that such have occurred. In villages to the south of Bahera it was stated to me that several deaths from want of nourishment had occurred. In a village named Sheonagur I saw the body of a man who was said to have died from starvation. He was an old man, and the appearance of the corpse bore out the statement, as the body was in a state of extreme emaciation. But even in this case I noticed that the son of the deceased did not show any signs of suffering from want of food. In a place like Hatti people arrive often from considerable distances in a state of utter exhaustion, which even the most careful attention will not enable them to rally from. I have heard of five deaths having occurred in Hatti in this way. The only one that happened whilst I was here, was that of a labourer on the road. I saw the body. The end may have been hastened by want of proper nourishment, but the case did not seem to me to be one of pure starvation. I have appointed an inspector and two peons, whose duty it is to patrol this place and the works going on here and pick up and convey to the relief houses any case of extreme want. With regard to the question of mortality, I would remind you that the average Indian mortality, even in the best of times, is not less than 40 per mille; and considering the large numbers (not less than 10,000) at work on the road at this and Singhya we must not be surprised at deaths occurring."

No deaths from starvation are reported from other parts of the sub-division.

20. *Mudhoobunnee Sub-division.*—Mr. Magrath writes, "The people are rapidly reaching the end of their means of subsistence. This is especially the case in Pergunnahs Hatti and Jubdi, particularly the parts of them lying in the Motipore Circle." Three males (dosadh) and one female (dhanuk) were reported to have died of starvation in this circle. But the sub-divisional officer finds on inquiry that two "were children of a widower, who was himself in a state not only not of starvation, but of rude and well-nourished health. If these children died of starvation it was absolutely through neglect on the part of their father. The other case was that of a dosadh of

25 years of age, who appears to have preferred to sit idle in his village rather than go less than six miles to work on the road."

A tank was opened in this village as a relief work, but the people who came did not even stop for half a day, and most of them, when there, did not attempt to do anything. Mr. Magrath remarks that "this is the most disheartening point of the famine relief." Distress is said to be very general in the north of the Motipore Circle: four deaths from starvation were reported, but the sub-divisional officer considers that "disease was in all cases the proximate cause of death." Babu Ishri Parshaud reports two deaths from starvation. They were women who came to the tanks in the last stage. It is supposed that they came from places outside the district, as the names of the villages cannot be traced. At Harlakee the works now carried on are deemed quite adequate for relief of distress, but the Superintendent adds that "the time has now come when relief must be afforded to the upper classes." Among others the "sonars," it is said, will not work with the *kodali*.

Since the 22nd February the Sub-Assistant Surgeon has kept a record of cases of starvation admitted for medical assistance; of these two have died (one from spleen, and the other from disease of the heart), six have been discharged, four have absconded, and the rest are still under treatment.

21. Mr. A. Forbes, in charge of Naraya relief sub-division, writes, "The establishment of sub-circles has not been commenced at all too soon; in almost every village real cases of distress can be found by ferretting them out. And Mr. F. A. Forbes reports that his sub-superintendents are already bringing them to light in considerable numbers." The general prospects of the Naraya sub-division is not considered to be gloomy. The startling telegram, however, received a few days ago that 120,000 people, *i.e.*, between a fifth and sixth of the total population, had collected on three roads is indicative of wide-spread distress in the Mudhoobunnee sub-division.

22. *Seetamarhee.*—In the vicinity of Eturnah, in the North Shewhur Circle, great distress is anticipated. Bands of people from Nepal and the surrounding villages were flocking to the grain golah, and were delighted to find that grain was stored there to feed them in the time of their distress. In Shewhur the condition of the people is reported to be not discouraging.

Mr. Wise, the Superintendent, writes of Sonbursa that "rice is very scarce, and that he is afraid the Nepaleese will come down like bees, and the small quantity of 7,500 maunds will soon be finished. Small-pox has broken out in Seetamarhee, Majorgunge, and in parts of Jalleh, but the health of the sub-division is said to be generally good.

23. *Tajpore.*—There have been no cases of starvation in this sub-division, but misery is wide-spread. The worst parts are those west of the Mozufferpore road and the shores of the Bareyla, and those in the south-east quarters of the sub-division.

24. *Hajeepore.*—In this sub-division no cases of starvation, or of absolute distress, even amongst the professional beggars, have occurred. Indeed, this sub-division seems in every way to be better off than any other portion of the district.

25. *Sudder.*—Distress more or less severe is prevalent all over the sub-division. The Deputy Inspectors, whose appointments were alluded to in the narrative, have now visited portions of their respective circles. Their daily reports are not encouraging. The police, who maintained a perfect silence as to the condition of the people prior to the Somera case, are now submitting daily reports of an alarming nature. Many of these when tested are found to be exaggerated, while some are absolutely false. For instance, the reported two deaths from starvation in a village named Baragaon, some 14 miles west of Mozufferpore. On visiting this village I saw no signs of distress. The people (two women) who had died were in good circumstances, while their immediate relatives were in good condition and health. These deaths had evidently occurred from disease. The only complaints made were that there was a scarcity of water, an evil which is now becoming general. There, however, can be no doubt that distress is, and will be, much more severe than was ever anticipated. As Mr. Worsley wrote in a former report, the Sudder sub-division has laboured under the disadvantage (until lately) of having no special officer to make village visitations and careful inquiries. The result is that we are somewhat behindhand in our relief organisation. I have no fear, however, that the measures we are adopting will not meet all emergencies. I have started, and am starting, relief works (principally village tanks) in each circle. In six of the eight circles there are managers of factories who have undertaken to open, and, for the present, to supervise tank and road relief works. Under heading B it will be seen that many have been started. I may mention one instance as indicating the distress of the people. Mr. Fraser, of Motipore, started a road about a fortnight ago, and in about 10 days 5,000 persons flocked to it. I have been to his factory and selected some tank work in the neighbourhood so as to prevent overcrowding on one work. These labourers do not happily evince signs of much distress. Some of them come from a distance, but all return to their homes at night. High rates are not the inducement, because the highest rate given by Mr. Fraser is only little more than one anna per diem, while the Public Works Department are paying 1½ annas. The Commissioner has sanctioned the employment of an European supervisor of Mr. Fraser's works on Rs. 100 a month. Besides advances made to planters for relief works and for charitable relief, I have made over moneys to each of the Deputy Inspectors, authorising them to commence village tanks wherever distress indicates a need for them, and through the agency of the malik, putwari, village headman, or other local agency to whom a monthly remuneration will be given, to appoint mates of gangs of 20 labourers, in fact to make all necessary arrangements. Some Sub-Deputy Inspectors have also been appointed for each circle to assist the Deputy Superintendent in surpervising these village works. Small sums of money for charitable purposes have been also advanced to them and sent to thannahs and outposts in order to relieve cases of urgent want. Minor works, such as spinning, rope and basket making, have

been started in several villages with wonderful success. A head cotton golah has been opened at Mozufferpore and subsidiary golahs in some villages in the interior. In the villages of Chajun and Somera no signs of famine now exist; relief works of every description have been started, and no apprehension of distress need now be entertained. Mr. Deputy Collector Warde-Jones has just returned from a visit to certain distressed villages in the Paru Circle. In Janilpur and the neighbourhood he found some 80 persons who greatly needed help. He accordingly opened a cotton and jute godown, and had spinning and rope-making operations commenced at once. He found a large number of persons who were unfit for any kind of work. For these he established two poor-houses (one for males and the other for females), where cooked food is to be distributed daily under the immediate supervision of Mr. Abbott of Jointpore. At Paru Mr. Warde-Jones found matters as bad as at Jointpore, and made similar arrangements. Pending the arrival of the Superintendents of relief circles, I have been busy in dividing each circle into sub-circles of some 20 villages for the present, so that the Superintendents will have some materials ready to hand when they join. I am glad to say three Superintendents arrived on the 21st and will be posted to Paru, Belsundh, and Kutra, where relief measures seem more urgently called for. On my recent visit to Rajkund and Kutra circles I found the relief works consisted only of a road from Rajkund to Jaleh, started by Mr. O'Reilly, a tank by the Darbhunga Raj, to which however very few outsiders were admitted, and a private tank by a zemindar. The total number of people employed in these two circles was not more than 1,000 out of a population of about 218,000 souls. I started a tank at once near Rajkund through the village headman, and Mr. McEwen, of Rajkund Factory, promised to start others. He now writes to me that he has started two more tanks, and that from the numbers that came to these works he judges the people are in distress. At Kutra I made similar arrangements and had tank work started by the Deputy Inspector. The Executive Engineer has been asked to open work at different points along the Belsundh and Simree road which runs through the Rajkund and Kutra circles.

26. Our organisation of labour relief and charitable relief is yet scarcely systematic or complete. The Sudder sub-division, if not the largest in size, has the largest population (926,928) of the six, and it will take a little time to elaborate our arrangements to get matters into perfect working order. I have endeavoured to do my best, and I trust in my next narrative to be able to report a more systematic organisation.

27. *Crime.*—Grain thefts do not appear to have increased throughout the district during the fortnight. But crime, especially thefts and house-breaking, has greatly increased during the last two or three months. I subjoin a comparative statement for the months of January and February in 1873 and 1874.

Names of Sub-Divisions.	January.		February.	
	1873.	1874.	1873.	1874.
Mozufferpore - - - -	63	120	74	109
Tajpore - - - - -	23	47	46	56
Durbhungah - - - -	33	79	36	97
Hajeepore - - - -	8	39	13	65
Seetamarhee - - - -	46	90	52	118
Madhubani - - - -	27	78	27	76
Total - -	200	453	248	521

28. The District Superintendent of Police observes, "The most marked increase in proportion to usual average of crime for each sub-division is at Hajeepore, which has increased by about five times the ordinary amount, owing to rice thefts at the ghauts. Durbhungah and Madhubani, each has increased by nearly three times the average amount of crime. Seetamarhee has more than doubled. Mozufferpore shows something under 75 per cent. increase, and Tajpore exactly 50 per cent."

B.—Relief Works.

29. *Durbhunga.*—In the Durbhunga sub-division there are 10 roads and five tanks under the Executive Engineer. These works give daily employment to 76,071 labourers. Of these, 50,400 are employed in the Durbhungah and Bahera road. Village works employ 17,146, and the Durbhungah Raj 12,460; total for the whole sub-division, according to returns received, 105,677. Mr. Macdonell, however, observes that these returns are not complete, and he estimates that the total numbers employed do not fall short of 120,000.

30. *Seetamarhee.*—During the fortnight 66 new relief works have been opened in this sub-division. There are now 29 roads and 84 tanks, giving employment to 20,032 labourers daily. The Court of Wards employs 3,050, and private relief works 4,000, thus making a total of 27,082 souls. The rates paid on these works (2 annas per man, 1½ annas for women, and 1 anna for children) seem to me to be high. The highest rate paid by the Public Works Department in other sub-divisions is 1½ annas; and on many of the works carried on by the planters and village agency, little more than 1 anna is given, and yet the people flock to these works in large numbers. Mr. O'Reilly remarks that the Nepaulese come for work in great numbers on the relief works on the frontier.

31. *Madhubani.*—During the fortnight, 15 tanks and 3 roads have been started. There are now 38 relief works open, and 117,296 labourers employed daily. The telegram sent since the

returns were written gives 120,000 persons on the Belwarah and Mirzapore roads. The returns give only 50,000. The above numbers will therefore be increased by 70,000; and the total number employed in this sub-division will thus amount to 187,296. In most cases the local bazar supplies the food, but at Janjharpore, Belwara, Pandoul, and Kewan, rice is being sold on the works.

32. *Tajpore.*—In the Tajpore sub-division there are seven road relief works, giving daily employment to 1,057 labourers. Two tanks are also being deepened, employing 1,205 labourers daily. Total for the whole sub-division 2,262.

The few people who come to these works do not indicate much distress in this sub-division.

33. *Hajeepore.*—The Sub-Divisional Officer writes that "there are no purely relief works in this sub-division, and there is not the least necessity as yet to invite labourers by throwing open works."

The Executive Engineer gives the numbers working daily on the repairs of five roads as 635.

34. *Sudder.*—During the fortnight 19 tanks and four roads have been started. Of the tanks 18 are supervised by local agency at the expense of Government, and the other is a large private tank which is being excavated about 1½ miles from Mozufferpore, on the Hajeepore road, by Ram Monohur Sahoo, a wealthy mahajun of the town. Of the roads three are being carried on by planters, and the fourth is the road across the Turki Chour under the Executive Engineer. The relief works are now 16 roads, 25 tanks, and one embankment (Gunduk), and the total number of labourers daily employed on these is 22,992.

35. Summing up, then, we have for the whole district the following numbers:—

Mudhoobunnee Sub-Division - - - - -	187,296
Durbhunga - - - - - - -	120,000
Seetamurhee - - - - - - -	27,082
Sudder Sub-Division - - - - -	22,992
Tajpore - - - - - - -	2,262
Hajeepore - - - - - - -	635
Total - - - - -	360,267

C.—TRANSPORT OF GRAIN.

36. *Durbhunga.*—The programme of transport operations has been changed. The Sub-Divisional Officer writes—"There are four bases of operations—Monghyr, Mokameh, Chumpta, and Bunkar. The Alliance Company carry from Monghyr and Chumpta; the North-Western Contractor, Nil Komul Mitter, from Mokameh (*i.e.*, Semeria Ghaut); Mr. Wilson from Bunkar. Some of Mr. Wilson's grain is delivered at Poosah, and thence carried on by Mr. Studd. The Monghyr route is open for boats to Poorani Ghaut, south of Singhia. Three lakhs are to be delivered there, and distributed among my Bahera and Singhia golahs. The Mokameh grain is to be delivered at Pahuddee for Muddehpoora, &c. The Chumpta grain at Hya Ghaut for Modhoobunnee, and Mr. Studd is to deliver at my north-west golahs. The Alliance Company have made great, and not unsuccessful, efforts to increase their resources. They have now 6,000 carts in the field, and several hundred pack-bullocks. They have a fleet of boats, and state that they can put 3,000 more carts on work."

37. *Mudhoobunnee.*—The Sub-Divisional Officer reports—"The transport, as Government is by this time well aware, is blocked below Lehera, so that not one-fifth of the grain due has been laid down for transport into this sub-division.

38. *Seetamurhee.*—Grain is being pushed in steadily from Seetamurhee to the frontier outpost. The Sub-Divisional Officer writes—"I learn that grain coming from Seetamurhee has been temporarily directed to Durbhunga. I estimated eight lakhs of maunds for Seetamurhee sub-division; but in that made no provision for an increase of people from Nepal, and I trust that as much grain as possible may be thrown into the division with all the speed practicable.

39. *Tajpore.*—On the 13th there was a balance of 34,600 bags in hand at Chumpta, and the average despatches for the preceding days were 2,463 bags, and the greatest number despatched in any one day 5,215 bags. The Alliance Transport Company were thus working much below its contract, but it is hoped that the opening of the Monghyr route will bring more carts into the field.

40. *Hajeepore and Sudder.*—During the last few days there has been a hitch at Bunkar Ghaut. The last return shows 69,310 maunds as balance in hand. Major DeKantzow reports "that carts have come in only half strength;" some, it is alleged, have been taken on from Russulpore to Pooprea by the Northern Company, and others from Durbhunga. The northern contractors retort that the carts they have taken belong to their parts of the district, and not to Hajeepore, and that therefore they have a right to them. The refusal of the two Companies to amalgamate is to be deplored. Union in a matter of this kind would undoubtedly tend to make the contracts work regularly and smoothly.

41. *Private Importations.*—Private importations appear to be very small throughout the district. Some are going on in Mudhoobunnee, but to what extent is not known. In Tajpore it is reported that "zemindars and others are doing absolutely nothing: many of them are perfectly correct in stating that they have no means of transport now, if they wished to import." In the Sudder Sub-Division, I believe importations are almost *nil.* There is no means of transport. Merchants who have taken advances for the purchase of grain complain that they cannot get the grain they have purchased into the district. Even in Mozufferpore there is great difficulty in getting two or three carts for private purposes.

D.—Storage of Grain.

42. *Durbhunga.*—The quantity of grain stored in the Durbhunga Sub-Division is 91,978 maunds. The golahs have a capacity for holding 1,240,000.

Mudhoobunnee.—The quantity stored in Mudhoobunnee is 203,344 maunds.

Seetamurhee.—In Seetamurhee 236,602 maunds. In this sub-division the construction of five large golahs has been completed at Seetamurhee, and one is in the course of erection. The names of the golahs and relief circles in the three sub-divisions were given by Mr. Worsley in the last narrative, and need not be reported in this.

43. In Tajpore the quantities stored are as under—

	Maunds.
Poosah	17,858
Tajpore	1,766
Total	19,624

Golahs are being constructed to hold the extra 58,000 maunds for which Mr. Wace has applied.

44. *Hajeepore.*—In Hajeepore the quantities stored are—

	Maunds.
Hajeepore	1,980
Lallgunge	212
Mahooa	2,987
Total	5,179

45. In the Sudder sub-division—

	Maunds.
Mozufferpore	18,725
Kutra	6,628
Turki	10,722
Belsundh	2,808
Total	38,883

No intimation has been received of the arrival of any of the 20,000 maunds at Sahebgunge.

I have applied for an extra supply of 135,000 maunds, to be distributed as under—

	Maunds.
Mozufferpore	19,000
Sahebgunge	5,000
Kutra	18,000
Turki	7,500
Belsundh	18,000
Rajkhund	20,000
Paroo	27,000
Marwan	18,000
Total	132,500

say 135,000; and I am constructing golahs to receive the quantities.

47. Summing up these, the total quantity of Government grain stored in the district is as under—

	Maunds.
Durbhunga	91,978
Mudhoobunnee	203,344
Seetamurhee	236,602
Sudder	38,883
Tajpore	19,624
Hajeepore	5,179
Grand total	595,610

E.—Advances.

48. *Durbhunga.*—In Durbhunga Rs. 1,140 have been advanced for purchase of grain, Rs. 1,315 for excavating tanks, Rs. 100 for digging wells. Four applications are pending.

49. *Mudhoobunnee.*—The Sub-Divisional Officer of Mudhoobunnee has advanced Rs. 500 under the Land Improvement Act, and Rs. 830 to ryots under Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 29.

50. *Seetamurhee.*—In Seetamurhee Rs. 3,385 have been advanced for purchase of grain, Rs. 26,850 have been lent to zemindars for the support of their poor ryots, Rs. 730 for digging wells, and Rs. 11,375 for land improvements.

51. *Tajpore.*—In Tajpore three applications for advances for the purchase of grain, and five for land improvements, are still pending.

52. *Hajeepore.*—No advances were made during the fortnight in Hajeepore.

53. *Sudder.*—Rs. 7,755 have been advanced for purchase of grain. It seems to me hardly advisable to continue these advances. It is almost impossible that grain can be now imported. The money will probably be spent in private speculation, and though the public may, to a small extent, be indirectly benefited thereby, still the object for which these advances are being made will not be achieved.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

54. *Durbhunga.*—The Sub-Divisional Officer gives information in a general form. In the Desonta and Rohar circles the grouping of villages has been completed, almost completed in the Singhia, and half completed in the Mahomedpore circle. "The only circles that remain are the Gangduti, Liherah, and Hya Ghât circles, and officers have been sent to them."

Poor-houses have been established at Durbhunga, Bahera, Hatti, and Singhia, in each of which cooked food and medical treatment are administered. Charitable relief is being distributed in the circles that have been organised, and the Inspectors have been directed to put on charitable relief on all proper cases. The numbers daily in the receipt of gratuitous relief are not given. The house-to-house register for the town of Durbhunga, as required by Sir Richard Temple, has been completed. "The town has been divided into seven circles, and the relief operations in each circle been entrusted to a committee. Mr. Macdonell regrets he is unable to give the lists of those on charitable relief in the various circles, and pleads as an excuse the unavoidable delay incident to all new arrangements in the submission of returns; he hopes, however, in his next report to be able to say that things are progressing in an orderly manner."

55. *Mudhoobunnee.*—The following statement has been submitted from this sub-division:—

Number of Committees and Sub-Committees as yet appointed.	Number of Special Relief Sub-Divisions opened and officered.	Number of regular Relief Circles opened and managed by Special Officers.	Number of Relief Circles opened and managed by Planters, Zemindars, and other Residents.	Number of Work-houses and Centres for the distribution of Food and Gratuitous Relief.	Number of Men, Women, and Children (with total) in receipt of gratuitous relief in any shape through the Charitable Relief Organisation.
1. Mudhoobunnee Sub-divisional Committee.	1. Mudhoobunnee.	1. Nowada, Mr. Mackertich	—	1. Mudhoobunnee	50 to 60 per diem.
	2. Narayn	2. Jhenjharpore, E. C. Ozanne	—	2. Motipur	300 per diem.
		3. Motipur, H. C. Williams	—	3. Naraya.	
		4. Mahadeomuth, F. A. Forbes	—	4. Muddehpoora.	
		5. Narayn, A. Forbes	—	5. Pandoul	130-140.
		6. Pattrahee, Mr. Lorimer	—	6. Kewan	40.
		7. Umgaon, H. Rattray	—	7. Belwara	30.
		8. Bhaknea.			
		9. Kutchra, Neeklay.			
		10. Doomra.			
		11. Mudhoobunnee, Ishri Pershad.			

As yet it has only been thought necessary to establish a shed as a poor-house at Mudhoobunnee, and in the other places the poor mostly come and go. A shed has also been erected at the dispensary "for those suffering from starvation and requiring medical assistance." The Sub-divisional Officer writes—"Messrs. Williams, Mackertich, Forbes, and Rattray report that they are engaged in the arrangement of sub-circle and house-to-house visitation by Superintendents. Mr. Williams has already two and Mr. F. A. Forbes four sub-circles already at work. Mr. Oozanne leaves at once for Jhanjharpore, and Babu Ishri Pershad will then start the sudder sub-circles. Relief by tickets has been started by Messrs. Williams, Mackertich, Forbes, and Lorimer."

56. *Seetamurhee.*—Mr. O'Reilly gives the subjoined statement:—

Number of Committees and Sub-Committees as yet appointed	1
Number of special relief sub-divisions opened and officered	1
Number of regular relief circles opened and manned by special officers	6
Number of relief circles opened and managed by planters, zemindars, and other residents	13
Number of work-houses or centres for the distribution of food and gratuitous relief	8

Number of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief in any shape through the charitable relief organised daily.	Men	2,800
	Women	1,600
	Children	821
	Total	5,221

57. Spinning and weaving are being carried on with great success in this sub-division. The number of persons to whom cotton and thread have been distributed is 3,261, and the amount expended in cotton and wages of labour Rs. 3,236. Rope and basket making have apparently not

been introduced. Messrs. Love and Wise, Special Superintendents, have joined their posts during the fortnight.

58. *Tajpore and Hajeepore.*—No charitable relief operations have commenced in these sub-divisions. Round about Poosah the number of beggars is reported to be increasing.

59. *Sudder.*—For the Sudder Sub-Division I beg to report as under:—

1. One Committee and five Sub-Committees have been appointed. Two Committees—one at Janitpore (in Paroo circle), and the other at Rajkhund—were appointed during the fortnight.

2. No special relief sub-divisions have been opened.

3. Eight regular relief circles have been opened. At present the only special officers are the Deputy Inspectors, who are carrying on the village visitation work.

*1. Sahebgunge.
2. Rajkhund.
3. Jaintpore, for Paroo.
4. Belsundh.

4. Four relief circles* are at present managed by planters.

5. Two poor-houses (one for males and the other for females) have been opened at Jaintpore, and two similar ones in Paroo. One poor-house has been opened in Mozufferpore.

6. The poor-houses of Jaintpore and Paroo have only just been opened, and no returns therefore received. Mr. Richardson, Chairman of Mozufferpore Sub-Committee, has furnished me with return, which I subjoin.

First Weekly Report of operations conducted by Mozufferpore Sub-Committee—Poor Relief.

Date.	Member of Committee in Attendance.	Adult Men.	Adult Women.	Children.	Total.	Approximate Amount of Food distributed.	Kind of Food.	Remarks.
1874. Sunday, 15th March -	R. J. Richardson -	11	—	—	11	5½ seers -	Janera.	
Monday, 16th March -	Baboo Ooma Churn Bose and R. J. Richardson.	15	20	4	39	18½ „ -	Do.	None but the blind, lame, aged, sick, very poor, and weakly have been relieved. Each adult has received ½ seer, and each child ¼ seer of janera or gram (uncooked) with a small quantity of salt daily. The distribution each morning at 7 a.m. has been made under superintendence of a member of the committee. A long shed is available for those who may wish to reside on the spot; as yet the building is unoccupied. Professional beggars and persons at all able to work have not been relieved.
Tuesday, 17th March -	R. J. Richardson -	19	27	6	42	24½ „ -	Do.	
Wednesday, 18th March	Syud Mohamed Ali Khan, R. J. Richardson.	25	32	10	67	31 „ -	Gram and salt.	
Thursday, 19th March -	R. J. Richardson -	31	53	24	108	48 „ -	Do.	
Friday, 20th March -	Baboo Kuldeep Sahoi, R. J. Richardson.	34	74	18	126	58½ „ -	Janera and gram.	
Saturday, 21st March -	R. J. Richardson -	53	95	23	171	97¾ „ -	Janera and salt.	
Total - -		188	301	85	574	265¾ seers = 6 mds. 25¾ srs.		

Gratuitous relief in money is being distributed by the Deputy Inspectors of circles. Returns show 79 persons have received this sort of relief. There must be a great many assisted by planters from charitable funds advanced to them, and by the police also from small sums I have placed in their hands. But I have no regular returns, and they cannot be expected until regular and systematic arrangements have been made.

In the Mozufferpore poor-house uncooked-food, and at Jaintpore and Paroo cooked food, is distributed.

60. Mr. Deputy Collector Warde Jones has at my request drawn up the following rules for feeding the poor with cooked food, which I hope may be approved.

RULES.

1. Gratuitous relief in the shape of cooked rice should be given to such as are really unfit for all kinds of work.

The Superintendents and Deputy Inspectors of circles to satisfy themselves that gratuitous relief is absolutely necessary.

2. When it is really found necessary to feed gratuitously, a poor-house, consisting simply of a thatched roof, supported by props (its size to be in proportion to number to be fed), should be erected, and the people to be fed should be assembled at 11 a.m. and again at 6 p.m. to partake of their meals. The hours to be announced by beat of drum.

3. Each "kangal's" name must be registered by the mohurir of the rice depôt, and the tickets should be granted to each "kangal" bearing his No. in the register. On this being produced he may be fed. Each "kangal" to eat his food at the refuge, and after finishing his meal he will go back to his village, unless unable to do so, in which case he may remain on the premises.

4. The following rations will be found fair and may be adopted:

* Rice cooked for adult male at two meals per diem, 12 chittacks; adult female at 10 chittacks; children at 7 chittacks.

To every maund of cooked rice, 8 seers of dâl may be allowed, and one third of a chittack of salt may be given to each "kangal."

When any "kangal" has gained strength by being thus fed, he or she must be turned out and the ticket granted taken away, and such person must be set to some task-work, such as public

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Note.—[* These rations are lower than those granted in the Orissa famine; *vide* page 150 of Administrative experience in former famines.]

works, deepening ponds, filling up cesspools, repairs of wells, &c., or be employed in spinning cotton or rope-making. Native doctors will be needed to look after these and other poor-houses which may be opened in different circles.

61. Mr. Wardie Jones has worked zealously and successfully in introducing spinning cotton and basket-making in several villages.

62. In Somera, Chajun and the neighbourhood a quantity of thread, rope, twine, and baskets has been made, and the three latter sold to the Executive Engineer, and the system is being extended to the Belsundh, Kutra, Rajkund, and Paon circles. I have a difficulty in procuring cotton. Messrs. Jones and Co. have some at Bankipore, but cannot get it over for want of carts. I observe that a quantity is going up to Durbhunga in the contractor's carts. I hope that some may be spared for this sub-division, otherwise my spinning work will be checked.

63. Mr. Wardie Jones has framed, at my request, some rules for spinning, weaving, rope, twine, and basket-making, which I venture to append to this report. They contain many points which are not touched upon in the Durbhunga rules, given in Mr. Worsley's last narrative.

Rules for Spinning, Weaving, and Basket-making, &c.

1. A head golah for storing cotton, jute, hemp, &c., to be established at Mozufferpore, and, if necessary, at the head-quarters of each circle.

2. Such golahs should be stocked sufficiently to supply the sub-golahs, which should be opened at the same places as those at which grain sub-depôts are established.

3. The establishment to be entertained at the Mozufferpore head golah to consist of—

1 Darogah - - -	Rs. 50 per mensem (security of Rs. 800 to be given).
1 Mohurir - - - -	„ 30
2 Dandidars, at Rs. 5 each -	„ 10
5 Peons, at Rs. 4 each - -	„ 20
Total Rs. -	100

The establishment for the golahs at the head-quarters of circles to consist of—

1 Darogah - - - - -	Rs. 35	0	0	(security of Rs. 500).
2 Dandidars, at Rs. 4-8 each - - -	„ 9	0	0	
3 Peons, at Rs. 3-8 each - - -	„ 10	8	0	
Total Rs. -	54	8	0	

The establishment for the sub-golahs to consist of—

1 Mohurir - - - - - -	Rs. 15	0	0	(security of Rs. 200).
1 Dandidar - - - -	„ 4	8	0	
2 Peons, at Rs. 3-8 each - - -	„ 7	0	0	
Total Rs. -	26	8	0	

4. The Mozufferpore head golah to supply the golahs at the head-quarters of circles with cotton, &c., unless it be found more convenient and less expensive to make local purchases.

5. The quantity of cotton, &c., to be kept at the Mozufferpore golah, and at the golahs at the head-quarters of the circles, should be based upon the probable requirements of the sub-golahs. In order to ascertain the requirements of the sub-golahs, the Deputy Inspectors should at once proceed from village to village, making detailed tests, naming all persons who, by reason of social rank, caste prejudices, and physical infirmity, can do *no* other kind of work than cotton-spinning, rope-making, and weaving. After completing these lists, which should also estimate the quantity of cotton, jute, &c., required for each village, the Deputy Inspectors should forward them to the Mozufferpore head golah with a view to immediate arrangements being made.

6. After the several golahs have been stocked, notice to be given to the people by beat of drum through the agency of the police, that cotton, jute, &c., will be supplied gratis to deserving applicants, and subject to the prescribed rules.

6. The several darogahs and mohurirs will open registers in which will be entered the names of all persons (and their place of residence) to whom cotton, jute, &c., are supplied, the quantities given, &c.

7. On the appearance of a deserving applicant, not more than one seer of cotton (to be returned in thread within 14 days) shall be given at a time, and not more than 10 seers of jute (to be returned in rope within 5 days). If the applicant's village is close by, he need not have more than 4 seers of jute (to be returned in rope within 2 days) at a time.

8. The rate of remuneration for thread and rope-making, &c., to be as follows:—

From 1 seer of cotton 14½ chittacks of thread to be returned (1½ chittacks being allowed as loss in weight on account of dirt).	Payment 12 annas.
From 1 seer of jute 14½ chittacks of rope to be returned -	Payment 3 Luhia pice per seer of rope made.

[*Note.*—One woman cannot spin more than 1 chittack or 1¼ of cotton per day, and one person cannot make more than 2 to 3 seers of rope per day. The rates of remuneration are therefore very fair.]

9. If possible, the cotton and jute will be supplied on the security of the jet ryot; if such security cannot be obtained, the darogah will make full enquiries as to the place of residence, &c. of applicant.

10. If less than 14½ chittacks of thread or rope be returned for one seer of cotton or jute, the value of such deficiency to be recorded in the register and deducted from the full remuneration.

11. On the first appearance each applicant to be supplied, not only with the quantity of cotton mentioned in Rule 7, but also with an advance payment of 12 annas; advance payment for rope-making also to be made (according to the quantity supplied); when the thread and rope due are returned, a fresh supply of cotton and jute to be given and a further advance. If possible, somebody should be made to stand surety for the return of the thread and rope.

12. Women of rank, who cannot appear personally, and who are too poor to send servants, and who from natural prejudices would prefer to die than to leave their homes, may be supplied with cotton through the golah pyadas at their houses. The quantity of cotton and the amount of money advance to be the same as authorized for applicants who appear at the golahs.

13. At the end of a fortnight the pyadah will again take a further supply of cotton and moneys to their houses and bring back the thread due. Till, however, the thread due is returned no more cotton or moneys must be given.

14. Thread returned to the golahs must be given to the weaver class to be woven into cloth, "dhotis," &c. to be made by them.

15. No weaver shall have more than 5 Calcutta seers of thread at a time; for every seer of thread 18 chittacks of cloth must be returned. The value of any deficiency will be deducted from his remuneration. The remuneration to be $\frac{4}{5}$ths of an anna per chittack of cloth made, and the 5 seers of thread supplied to be returned in cloth within 14 days after the receipt of the thread. A sirdar weaver to be elected and held responsible for the thread supplied, and for the money advanced upon the 5 seers of thread.

16. Darogahs must try to sell the thread and cloth in their hands at the following prices, or at such other prices as may hereafter be fixed:—

Rs. 42 per maund, No. 1 thread.
" 38 " " 2 "
" 34 " " 3 "

Each seer of cloth of No. 1 thread to be sold at Re. 1-4.

17. When the sale-proceeds have amounted to Rs. 100, that amount will be remitted to the Mozufferpore head golah.

18. Thread and cloth given in must bear a ticket showing the name of the maker, number in register, and quality, and the thread of cloth of the same quality must be kept together in a systematic manner.

19. When upwards of 10 maunds of cloth, or 20 maunds of thread, are in store, the fact must be reported to the Mozufferpore head golah for orders as to the disposal of the same.

Basket-making.

20. Bamboo shall be supplied for basket-making, and each Dome needing relief shall elect a sirdar to whom four bamboos may be made over at a time. If possible, the "Domes" must make baskets on the golah premises, and be paid daily at the rate of one *Luhia* pice per basket. One man can make five or six baskets per day. From a large bamboo six or seven baskets, and from a middling size bamboo five or six baskets, should be made. The basket should be of the ordinary size and kind used for carrying mud by coolies employed in road-making.

21. Full accounts of all transactions at every golah must be kept, and should be frequently tested by the Superintendents of Circles, and by Inspectors, who will record at each examination, which should be once at least in eight days, that they have carefully examined them and found them correct. At the end of every month the Superintendents of Circles shall send a consolidated monthly return to the Mozufferpore head golah signed by them. These returns should specify the transactions of each of the sub-golahs, as well as of the golah at the head-quarters of their circles. A systematic set of forms for the use of the darogah is in course of preparation.

22. It must be distinctly remembered that none but actually distressed people who cannot earn their own livelihood without help are to come under the operation of the foregoing rules, and the Superintendents and Deputy Inspectors are to make continual and careful investigation into the condition of those who receive relief in order to avoid an abuse of the system now introduced.

No. 1284 F, dated Sarun, the 26th March 1874.

MEMORANDUM by J. E. DRUMMOND, Esq., Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Sarun.

Forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department, Calcutta, for information, with reference to his Circular No. 80 of the 17th November 1873.

NARRATIVE of SCARCITY and RELIEF in the SARUN DISTRICT for the Fortnight ending 21st March 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

I.—*Abundance or Scarcity of Supply in the Bazaar.*

The bazaars of the district are sufficiently supplied with grain, and if the up-country supplies hold out, private trade may probably be depended on to keep the grain marts continuously supplied till the next harvest.

In the sudder sub-division, during the fortnight, the private importations were, to Revilgunge 76,612 maunds, of which 15,700 were maize, 13,800 barley and wheat, 8,262 rice, and 34,850 other grains; and to Dooreegunge 1,931 maunds, principally rice; while the imports at the Gunduk ghauts from Tirhoot and Chumparun were 897 maunds. The exports of grain to Tirhoot and Chumparun amounted to 6,820 and 807 maunds respectively.

2. The following is Mr. Wright's account for the Sewan sub-division:—

"The bazaars in this division continue to be fully supplied with food-grains. The private importations during the fortnight, as far as could be ascertained, amounted to 7,136 maunds, of which 2,172 maunds were rice, 2,209 maunds paddy, 1,256 maunds Indian-corn, 1,003 maunds peas, and the remainder was made up of small quantities of other grains. The private importations, I feel certain, are much larger than what the above figures represent, but we cannot get correct returns as we have not a proper agency for collecting the information, and traders misconstrue our motives for wishing to obtain the returns, and will not therefore give them to us willingly."

Mr. Rattray writes as follows under this head: "Importations are ample, keeping the supply quite up to the demand, and traders inform me that they have no anticipation of the present supply failing them at any time during the year. So far as I can gather from them, they expect the importations to increase with the rains when large supplies by water are brought from below Patna. It is a fact that more grain is at present being brought to the markets than is disposed of, and far larger importations would take place if purchasers could be found. It appears, then, that the want lies in the want of means among the poorer classes, and not in the insufficiency of grain in the market.

"Grain is being brought from Gazeepore, Azimghur, and other districts across the Ghogra and Ganges, whilst large supplies are also coming down the Ghogra from the direction of Oudh, principally to Revilgunge, from which place the markets in this part* of the Sewan sub-division are supplied. The importations at Sewan are about 1,500 maunds a week, and the stocks in the hands of the traders vary from 4,000 to 6,000 maunds per week. At Rughoonathpore the importations are about 400 maunds per week, a good deal of which comes from the Gazeepore district; and at Durrowlee the importations are said to be about 1,500 maunds a week, and about 20,000 maunds in stocks in the hands of traders. The importations are chiefly Indian-corn."

* The south-west part.

3. Of the Hatwah Estate Mr. Hodgkinson writes:—

"The harvest operations, which have been in progress the last fortnight, have not only increased the grain supplies in the hands of dealers, mahajuns, and cultivators, but have enabled the poorer classes who work as labourers in the field to obtain three or four days' store of food, owing to payment for their work being, according to custom, made in kind. Importations have been quite nominal."

II.—*The kind and price of Grain.*

4. The kind and price of grain selling at the principal marts and at the thannahs and outposts are given in the annexed statement.

III.—*Stock of Food in the hands of the People.*

5. The crops now being harvested will probably pass into the hands of the mahajuns, and it is not likely that many cultivators will be in a position to retain private stocks. As confirmatory of the above opinion, the following from the General Wards' Manager's report, just received, may be quoted:—

"Of course the people—I mean the agriculturists—have some stock in hands of new rubbee harvest, and they will have something more, but the new produce has commenced to be brought into the market, and it is expected that very few of the cultivators will, and can, keep a little for their own consumption. Therefore the hopes of the people must be generally presumed to rest upon the mart and market supplies."

6. The Sub-Divisional Officer of Sewan reports as follows:—

"I can add nothing to what I have previously reported under this head.

"Mr. Rattray, when writing of the sout-west portion of this division, says there are no stocks of grain in the hands of the villagers, the bulk of whom depend on the local markets for their supplies. Landholders of wealth and position have grain in store, but not more than will suffice for the support of their household."

IV.—*Rainfall.*

7. During the fortnight the rainfall at Chuprah amounted to ·39 of an inch, and the rain seems to have been pretty general throughout the district, though slight. In some parts, as at Hutwah, where only ·03 of an inch fell. Hail also fell on the 7th and 16th; on the former occasion being confined to the Siswan and Rughoonathpore out-posts of the Durrowlee thana, and on the latter to the tract where the four thanas of Chuprah, Manjhee, Bussuntpoor, and Musrukh converge. The damage on the first occasion has, on enquiry, been reported to have been slight; but severe damage, amounting in some instances to destruction of two-thirds of the entire crops, is said to have been caused in several villages by the second hailstorm, and the ryots in some of these villages have come in a body to represent their losses, shewing bundles of the injured crop in verification of the same. Accurate report of the extent of the damage has not yet been received, but, even allowing for the usual native exaggeration, the loss is believed from different accounts to have been serious. The committee members of the Bunwar, Arrowah, and Hurpore relief centres have been specially addressed to devise measures for the relief of cultivators who have suffered, and a supply of cotton has been furnished to afford spinning relief for the female

members of families of the higher castes. Sums of Rs. 1,000 to Arrowah and Hurpore, and of Rs. 500 to Bunwar, are also about to be sent with a view to small charitable loans to needy cultivators unable to obtain advances from their mahajuns.

8. From Sewan Mr. Wright reports as follows :—

"On the afternoon of the 16th instant there was a fall of rain, which measured ·19 of an inch in the gauge at Sewan, and again during the night of the same day there was a further fall measuring ·02, or in all a little over two-tenths of an inch."

Under this head Mr. Rattray writes from Durrowlee thana as follows :—

"There has been no rain during the week, except over a small area in the neighbourhood of Rughoonathpore and Siswan, for about a distance of three miles inland along the banks of the Gogra. The rain was very heavy, and was accompanied with hail, which fell thickest about Siswan, but was small in size."

The above refers to the storm which took place on the morning of the 7th instant. In a subsequent report for the week ending yesterday, Mr. Rattray says—"There has been heavy "passing showers during the week, without hail, but with a good deal of thunder and lightning. "The rain appears to have been general."

V.—*State of the Crops.*

9. The yield of the rubbee crops is turning out better than was expected, and the outturn for the Digwarrah, Burrowlee, Burragowan, and Sewan thanas may be increased from 12 to 14 annas, from 6 to 8 annas, from 4 to 6 annas, and from 8 to 10 annas respectively. On the other hand, the estimate of the yield must everywhere be taken as being on the basis of 16 annas instead of 12 annas (the Government calculation) as the full average crop, and the result is that while a 9-anna crop, or between half and two-thirds of the yield in an ordinary year, may have been obtained on the area sown, not more than half an average crop will have been secured all round after allowing for lands which were not sown or afterwards failed. I am bound to add that while I accept Mr. Rattray's estimate of 10 annas for the whole of the Sewan thana, the crops I saw on recently passing through that thana were very poor indeed, on extensive tracts on each side along the road not more than a foot and a half in height, and very thin. In fact, they were much on a par with those I saw on the Hutwah estate, in respect of which I am quite in accord with Mr. Hodgkinson's estimate, which it should be observed was originally one-fourth of the average outturn in an ordinary year, and not one-fourth of the average crop on the area sown. I travelled nearly 80 miles to Kuttaya in the extreme north-west corner of the district, and the contrast in the crops on leaving the Manjhee thana was most marked. There is too a great deal of rice land in the Sewan and Burragowan thanas, and I am inclined now to think that the area of the rice land throughout the district was under-estimated by me, and that it is nearer 400 than 300,000 acres. This would leave as the rubbee food area this year about 600,000 acres, which, allowing for an average produce of 4½ or 5 maunds an acre, would give 27 or 30 lakhs of maunds as the yield of the rubbee harvest to meet a food consumption of 45 lakhs of maunds required for two millions of people at the rate of half a seer a head for the six months from the 15th March to the 15th September. The cheena may give 3 or 4 lakhs more, and there will remain a deficiency of 11 to 15 lakhs of maunds, to meet which we shall have about 7 lakhs of maunds of grain stored in different parts of the district. It is hoped, therefore, that even with an increased rate of consumption, private informations and the mango crop, which is happily a most promising one, will supply any deficiency till the next harvest.

10. Mr. Hudson wrote as follows about the crops in his narrative for the fortnight:—

"The crops look very well all along the banks of the Gunduck and also between Pursa and Dighwarrah, and thence to this place.* The wheat and barley looks especially promising between Bissumbherpore and Digwarrah. I should estimate the general rubbee outturn of this part of the country at a twelve-anna crop, both from what I have heard from the police and other officials, and because in three villages, Sootihur, Digwarrah, and Mirzapore, I have got the zemindars and cultivators to admit a twelve-anna crop; at the second place they even admitted a sixteen-anna crop for the grain, which is regarded as being exceptionally good this year."

* Gurkha.

11. The following is Mr. Wright's report of the Sewan sub-division :—

"The rubbee crops are being reaped throughout the division, and will in a very short time be all safely housed. The crops are yielding much better than was expected. The outturn will not be less than five-eighths of an average crop, and may possibly be three-fourths. In the Burrowlee thana, where the crops were very poor, Mr. D. N. Reid, of Suddowah, writes, 'The rubbee is good and will yield an eight-anna outturn, instead of a four-anna one as I first estimated.'"

"Some damage was caused to the standing crops in a few villages in the vicinity of Rughoonathpore by the hailstorm of the 7th instant, but the injury was not serious. The crops that were struck down by the hail were ripe and ready for cutting, and they have since been cut and gathered, and most of the grain that had fallen from the ripe ears has been swept up and collected with very little loss."

Mr. Rattray, who was in camp near where the hail fell, reports as follows:—

"In isolated cases the wheat and barley crop has been injured in the proportion of four annas to the rupee, and some fields of poppy have also suffered ; but on the whole no serious injury has been done."

The following is Mr. Rattray's account of the estate of the crops on the southern part of pergunnah Andur and in pergunnah Nurhurri ; more than half this tract is under paddy cultivation. "Wheat and barley in most of the fields promise a full crop, but there is a large area where the crop is thin and has suffered a good deal from drought. The average outturn will be a twelve-anna crop. Rahur is in excellent condition, and there is every hope of its giving a full outturn. There has been no damage done by frost. Sugar-cane is cultivated to a slight extent, and the pea crop is not large. In most of the fields the harvest is ripe and is being gathered. The villagers anticipate a full rubbee crop, but I doubt if the average will yield more than a twelve-anna outturn."

Of the crops in the southern part of pergunnah Chowhar and northern part of pergunnah Andur, Mr. Rattray says: "The rubbee within this area is now being gathered, and the outturn promises nearly a full crop, although in many of the fields wheat and barley will not give more than an eight to twelve annas outturn. Rahur is largely cultivated, and will probably give an average outturn. No damage has been done by frost. Sugar-cane is cultivated to some extent, and the outturn has been very fair; nearly half the area mentioned above is under paddy cultivation. The crop, however, unfortunately failed owing to the drought. The rubbee lands are principally along the banks of the Gogra and the Soondee and Doba streams. The average yield of the harvest has been from 8 to 15 cutcha maunds per beegha against 15 to 20 maunds last year, although to the north of Ghootnee the yield is stated to be equal to the average of previous years.

"The rain which we have lately had has benefited the cheena crops immediately, and also enabled the ryots to go on with their cultivation for the next crops. It has also revived the grass on the grazing lands for cattle. The poppy crop has been somewhat damaged by the rain and the high west winds.

"The blossom of the mango trees has suffered a little from the same causes, but the trees have blossomed so abundantly this year that even if a great deal more of the blossom be knocked off the trees will be laden with fruit. This crop will be of great assistance to the poor people of the district, as they not only eat the fruit, but also prepare a sort of bread from flour made of the kernel of the mango stone."

12. I am inclined to doubt the fact of mango stones being used for food by the people in ordinary years, though they are said to have been publicly sold in the bazaars for the purpose in the famine of 1866, and it is probable enough that they may be so used by the people this year when hard put to it. They cannot, however, be a very nourishing diet.

13. Regarding the Hutwah estate, Mr. Hodgkinson writes as follows:—

"The outturn of the rubbee crops on the estate will probably be something under 3,00,000 maunds, of which about two-thirds is wheat and barley; the rest principally peas and rahur. This is equivalent to a supply for the whole population for about two months; and being assured that my estimate of the stocks formerly held is correct, I believe that there is now sufficient food to carry the population on to the beginning of July, exclusive of the grain imported by Government and the Raj."

VI.—*Condition of the People.*

14. During a rapid tour in company with the Executive Engineer through the Chuprah, Manjhee, Sewan, Burragown, and Burrowlee thannahs, with two noteworthy exceptions at Kattaya in the extreme north-west of the district, I saw no traces amongst the people of great emaciation from want. In this neighbourhood, however, the unusual sight presented itself of two men engaged in satisfying their hunger by cooking and making an immediate meal of some grain from a wheat crop, which they were in the act of cutting. Everywhere in my course through the Hutwah estate I found abundant relief works provided in the shape of tanks, though at the time, owing to the harvest operations, the numbers on the works were very few. Mr. Hodgkinson and his subordinates deserve credit for the thorough manner in which relief for the people seems to have been organised. Here, as elsewhere, without such relief in the shape of work, many must have succumbed under the pressure of continuous high prices. In the large tract of rice country between Bhorry and Kattaya and in other similar tracts elsewhere, where the aughanee crop is the one crop of the year, it is to be feared that relief may have to be provided till next December. As instancing the relaxation of caste prejudices, it may be noticed that in the Sewan thannah some individuals of the Kaith caste, including women, were found to be working on the road. At one of the tanks, too, we were informed by the overseer in charge, that when the work was first opened, many of those who thronged it were in a weak and emaciated state, and were only gradually brought round to a working condition. Here it is evident that the exaction of any strict labour test would have been fraught with the utmost danger in preventing the people from seeking relief; and the work of separation of the weak from the strong, and of assignment of light labour to the former, was obviously not a duty which could be safely entrusted to the tender mercies of an overseer, who is tried by the test of the work turned out. On the whole, I cannot doubt that the state of the Sewan thannah was at one time most critical, and that nothing but a complete change of the ordinary Public Works system and the strictest orders for the admission of all classes to the works would have saved the people. The Sub-Divisional Officer's "couleur de rose" views as to the absence of distress and the necessity of exacting a full equivalent in the shape of work for the money expended for the relief of the people, if adopted from the outset, would, in all probability, have brought about very serious failure of the relief operations in his sub-division.

15. Mr. Hudson writes—

"During the past fortnight I have travelled from Mukeir to Gurkha *viâ* Pursa, Dherare or Bissumbhurpore, and Dighwarah. There appears to be some little distress round about Mukeir and also Pursa, but as one moves to the south-east this disappears altogether, and is admitted not to exist." And again—

"Have nowhere met with any signs amongst the people of extreme want and misery. I especially remark that the children in the villages appear well fed and in good spirits. As long as 'makai' stands at 15 pucca seers and gram at 18, and yams and potatoes may be had for 2 pice a pound, actual hunger need not be endured, while clothing and fuel have ceased to be necessary. I must, of course, except the professional beggars, and some wretched specimens of humanity whom I have seen on the relief works here and there, also some special cases of destitution described in my diaries of February 23rd and March 2nd. But I speak generally of the observations which I am enabled to make as I ride through the villages and make enquiries. In my diary of March 2nd I have spoken of nine cases which I met with at the village of Nepunnia* of persons belonging to that and the surrounding villages, who appeared to have been previously earning a respectable livelihood, but to have been reduced to helpless destitution by the present year's scarcity, and, not being professional beggars, to be unable to obtain relief. To these I advanced sums of Rs. 2 and 3 from my special charitable relief fund of Rs. 50 (after making careful enquiry), and also sent their names to the officer in charge of the nearest police-station, with an order to him to report to me on their condition at end of two months: seven of the nine persons thus relieved were women."

* Pursa Thannah.

The following from one of his diaries may also be quoted:—

"On the road inspected the tank being dug at Anjanee, a work which was set on foot at my recommendation. The two overseers inform me that about 600 people on an average are employed daily, and that some of them come from a long distance, even from beyond the Gunduk. The people made no complaints to me except of the rate of wages, but this, of course, is simply 'asking for more,' as they are paid the full Government rate. They are only in arrears four days. Many of the people are very old, lean, and decrepid, and incapable of doing any but nominal work. I told the Moonshee Kurreembux (who appears a very intelligent and superior character of his class) to turn none away who offered themselves, no matter how feeble. The rule is 'Who *will* not work, neither shall he eat,' but not 'Who *cannot* work, then shall he be starved.' One old man was pointed out to me as too feeble to work, who had reached the relief work just on the point of starvation; and another man was shown to me, who belonged to the adjoining village of Anjanee itself, and who was so weak when he presented himself to the overseers that they say they fed him themselves with their own hands. The staple food of the labourers on the works, viz., 'sutto' of makai and gram, is now sold here for one anna* per seer, pucca weight, so that an able-bodied man, after deducting the price of his salt and 'mosala,' does not get more than one full meal a day."

* *Query*—One and a half anna.
J. E. D.

16. Under this head Mr. Wright reports as follows:—

"The people are now fully employed in harvesting the rubbee crops. Labourers engaged in this work are paid generally in grain, and they make a very good thing of it, as they get about five or six seers of grain a day for their work. Numbers have left the relief works to go and cut the rubbee crops. When going to Simaria the other day, one of the Executive Engineer's chuprasses, who was employed in having the road repaired, told me that he found great difficulty in getting coolies to come to work on the road, as they preferred going to cut the crops."

Mr. Rattray says under this head as follows:—

"At present no serious distress prevails amongst the poorer classes" * * * * "very little anxiety is shown to obtain employment on the relief works in hand. The gathering of the harvest is giving employment to many. The action of the landholders in exacting arrears of rent is a source of universal complaint amongst the villagers."

And again, in a subsequent report, he says:—

"In the gathering of the harvest, the manufacture of molasses, and the works to be had on the public roads, there is ample employment, and every advantage is being taken of the facilities thus offered to relieve the pressure of high prices."

17. The action of the landholders referred to by Mr. Rattray was all along feared by me, and it is, I think, much to be regretted that the Government did not see fit to suspend at the outset both rent and revenue demands in all tracts where the most serious failure of crops occurred, and the greatest distress was apprehended, in preference to the partial measure adopted, which, however applicable to the estates of single proprietors, becomes ineffectual where property is divided among a numerous proprietory body.

18. Mr. Hodgkinson observes under this head that "there has been no material change in the " condition of the people."

19. The General Wards' Manager reports thus:—

"Though there has been a great change in the state of the country, yet it has not improved the condition of the people; nay, I presume it would gradually become worse, and will continue to be so till the next Bhadoe crops are gathered. My reasons for such a presumption are that their stores, both in kind and cash, have now been almost exhausted, owing to the present dearth, and almost the whole of their rubbi productions will pass over to, or be disposed of for, their mahajuns, and that they will soon stand in need of fresh loans for next year's sowings; and supposing they manage somehow to receive loans from their mahajuns (who are very backward in advancing money, as they find that the means of their debtors are very limited) for this purpose, they will still stand in need of their maintenance. The labouring class of people will certainly find some work in the fields, but I apprehend on a very reduced scale, as the employers will doubtlessly avoid, as much as possible, to avail themselves of the hired labour in consideration of their own straitened circumstances. Under these circumstances, I fear there will be a great demand of advances by the people of both classes, especially when the relief works will be stopped. I must also add that, at present, distress is not felt by the agricultural or the labouring classes, both of whom are now supported by the new harvest, the employment in the fields, and the abundant relief works in hand throughout the district. The professional beggars only feel the consequences of the scarcity materially, as reported by me on previous occasions."

VII.—*Known cases of Misery and Starvation.*

20. There have been no cases of starvation; and distress amongst the professional beggars and others unable to labour on the relief works is being relieved.

21. The following is Mr. Wright's report from Sewan under this head:—

"No such cases have come to light during the fortnight. A few cases of distress amongst professional beggars are all that have been reported, and these have been relieved by private charity."

Mr. Rattray, when writing from the Durrowber thana, says:—

"There is no destitution in the villages, and no case of death from starvation has been brought to my notice, either by the villagers or the police."

VIII.—*Grain Thefts or Robberies.*

22. There have been ten cases of grain thefts during the fortnight.

IX.—*Condition of any special Tract.*

23. The Sewan thana may be added to the tract previously reported as occasioning anxiety in the future, and I have accordingly transferred 15,000 maunds of the Chuprah grain allotment to that place, in addition to what had been previously allotted.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

X.—*Progress of Relief Works, &c.*

24. The annexed statements show the relief works in progress and the number employed thereon. During the fortnight four additional works have been started, three in the Chuprah and one in the Sewan sub-division. The average number daily employed during the fortnight has been 93,571, and the number on the last day was 95,984, to which about 3,000 may be added on account of returns not received, so that there are now very nearly 100,000 persons employed. As this figure after all only represents about 5 per cent. of the whole population, these numbers may be expected to increase now that the harvest operations are nearly completed, and unless the proposed irrigation works are shortly sanctioned it will be a difficult problem to find work for all who seek it. I would also strongly advocate the proposed Ghogra embankment being also undertaken at once, and the requisite survey being made. Now that the river is understood to be in course of embankment on the right bank, the lands in this district will be still more liable to inundation, and if the work is ever to be done, there cannot be a better year for doing it than the present one. With these two great works, the Ghogra embankment in the south and the bank channel to the north as "pieces de resistance," it may be possible to provide for sufficient work being continuously afforded so long as the famine lasts. The per-centage of persons belonging to the non-labouring class amongst those now employed appears to be increasing, 27 per cent. of the workpeople under Captain May now belonging to such classes.

25. On the subject of the outturn of work, the following remarks may be quoted from Captain May's labour statement, as the considerations there cited seem to me to have much force, and are quite in accordance with the view of the matter expressed by me in paragraph 14:—

"It is found that the quantity of work turned out by the people on relief works is less than a fourth of what an able-bodied man does in ordinary times, but as the average capacity of these men is much below that of the "nuniah" or professional digger and their wages,—subsistence wages only,—it may be better to accept the outturn they give than to let them get into a helpless state and die. Exacting work does away with relief, and retrenchment for short work cannot be made without starving them, their wages being calculated at the lowest rate needful for subsistence only. When the above rates were fixed for relief works in this district, all the "nuniahs" left and declined to work at them, as in ordinary times they earn from 2½ to 2 annas per diem."

26. A similar remark is made by the General Wards' Manager, who observes thus:—

"It must be remarked that the employment of the old, infirm, and sickly people being, as a rule, avoided by private individuals, such sort of people generally seek employment at the relief works either started by the Government or on behalf of the Wards' estates. The consequence is, that the work becomes expensive, and the estimates previously made, wherein no allowance was erroneously made on this account, may fall short."

27. If it be the wish of Government that the system should be altered, I beg that explicit orders on the subject may be given; but I cannot say that I am prepared to recommend any change of system or to answer for the possible consequences of its alteration. Another difficulty is, that if full work be exacted and the works be rapidly pushed on, it is very doubtful whether, in the absence of other sanctioned schemes, our relief works will hold out as long as they are required; and this, it appears to me, is a very serious consideration.

XI.—*State Emigration to British Burmah.*

28. There are 79 emigrants in the depôt, of whom two are still suffering from small-pox, and one is in hospital.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

XII.—*Approximate Amount of Private Food Supplies.*

29. All that is known under this head has been previously reported.

30. Regarding the Hutwah grain supplies, Mr. Hodgkinson forwards the following information:—

"Up to date, 65,176 maunds have been conveyed to golahs on the estate, and 8,800 maunds are at Revilgunge and in transit. The Collector has returned 6,057 bags on account of the grain formerly placed at his disposal, and they have been stored—1,728 bags at Hutwah and 4,329 bags at Burragaon. There is, therefore, 78,290 maunds stored in the Raj, exclusive of the additional amount of grain which has lately been sent up by the Collector to Gopalgunge, &c."

31. And the General Wards' Manager reports thus:—

"About 22,000 maunds of grain are stored at Revilgunge for advances to ryots, but as there has arisen a doubt whether so much grain should be bought on behalf of the Wards' estates from loans, and that whether such loans would be legal, the grains have been proposed to be retained there instead of being despatched to the several places selected for storage till the matter has been decided."

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

XIII.—*Places of Storage and Amount of Grain received.*

32. The accompanying statement shows the storage places, the distribution thereat of the grain allotted, and the amount of grain received at the different storage places up to the end of the fortnight. The total amount of grain received had been 3,38,325 maunds, of which 3,07,926 maunds had been finally stored and 29,641 maunds were in transit. The transport service under Major Jackson at Arrah and Mr. Tonnerre at Doreegunge has proved very effective.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

33. Rs. 10,000 have been advanced during the fortnight for purchase of grain for sale, an Rs. 22,197 to zemindars for grain or money advances to their ryots, making up the total as yet advanced on these accounts to Rs. 1,39,700 and Rs. 3,09,087 respectively; and for land improvement Rs. 5,069 have been advanced, bringing up the total on this account to Rs. 62,274. The sum of Rs. 40 has also been advanced to persons for the support of their families, giving a total of Rs. 280 under this head.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

34. Government have misapprehended the report made under this head in the last narrative. So far from my having coincided with Mr. Hodgkinson's view that "there was no immediate necessity for any large scheme of charitable relief," a complete scheme for such relief for the whole district was submitted by me, and that scheme in its entirety is now in process of being brought into general operation. I now append a list of the names of the gentlemen through whose agency the charitable relief operations will be conducted, and beg that the names may be gazetted.

35. So far as returns have been obtained, the number receiving charitable relief is given below:—

Number.	By whom paid.	Number of Persons relieved.	Amount.	REMARKS.
			Rs. A. P.	
1	Officiating Joint-Magistrate, Mr. W. H. Hodson	9*	Not given.	* These have received advances of Rs. 2 and 3.
2	Executive Engineer, Lower Gunduck Division	455	49 0 0	
3	Manager of the Indigo Concern at Ramghur	7	8 0 0	
4	Baboo Sadhoo Sarun Sahoy of Bugowrah	20	9 10 0	
5	Munsiff of Pursa	96	9 0 9	
	Total	577	75 10 9	

36. It has been mentioned that Rs. 100 had either been sent or was being sent to each relief centre. These sums were, of course, intended merely as an instalment with which to commence operations, and I now propose to send further sums of Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 500 to the different centres, for employment in petty loans to distressed cultivators, to prevent them sinking into pauperism. The planter gentlemen in charge of these circles are in the best possible position to test applications for relief of this nature, and Messrs. Hudson and Rattray will be desired to refer cases, where it is impossible to make advances through the landholders, to the different centres for investigation and relief, if needed.

37. Wr. Wright reports as follows under this head:—

"The subscriptions to the charitable relief fund amounted during the fortnight to Rs. 232, and Rs. 234 have been collected during the same period."

"A large number of charitable relief circles have been fixed in this sub-division by the Magistrate of the district, and Rs. 1,400 has been distributed amongst them, as mentioned in my last report, and Rs. 1,600 more is in course of distribution. Besides the above sums, Rs. 50 has been sent to each of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Tytler and Rattray, and Baboo Raj Kissore Narain. No reports have been received as yet by me of any gratuitous relief having been given."

38. And Mr. Hodgkinson writes thus:—

"Relief centres have been opened at—

Hutwah.
Bhorey.
Dhoboul.
Sreepore.
Jugdispore.
Protappore.
Chuckia.
Moniarah.
Kabala.
Sonobula.
Kalaya.
Gopalgunge.

for any persons who require gratuitous relief. There are 14 at Hutwah, 6 at Bhorey, and 4 at Sonobula receiving it. From the other places I have had no reports, but at no place do more than 2 or 3 obtain it."

"The enquiries, village by village, which I reported having directed in my last narrative, have nowhere been yet completed; but from what I have learnt by the results (so far as they have gone already) I am glad to state very few persons have been found of the class to which gratuitous relief is a necessity."

"The ticcadars, gomashtas, and putwarees of villages have been by proclamation warned that they are held responsible for reporting any cases which require relief and taking steps to send them to a centre."

No. 840 F, dated Chumparun, the 23rd March 1874.

From H. KEAN, Esq., Collector of Chumparun, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit the fortnightly narrative of scarcity and relief for this district for the fortnight ending the 21st March.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

From the Bettiah relief sub-division the reports are favorable. The bazars are still fully supplied, and rice has been selling from 10 to 12 seers per rupee. No rain had fallen, but one or two storms of hail had occurred, fortunately without doing much damage to the rubbee crop. The *cheena* and early *dhan* are very promising. No cases of starvation are reported. The hail had also fortunately done little or no damage to the poppy in this sub-division, which, as reported in the last narrative, is a very promising crop.

In the Sudder Sub-division the prospects continue favorable. A hailstorm passed over thannahs Gobindgunge and Kessariah (Circle No. 3) on the 9th instant, but the damage done to the rubbee was fortunately small. A detailed report of the course taken by this storm, and its effect upon the crops, has already been submitted through the Commissioner; it will be sufficient to notice here, that it appears to have crossed the Gunduck near Sonewal (thannah Gobindgunge), and extended as far east as Bansghat (Kessariah). It travelled fortunately over a narrow belt of country, and, as far as thannah Kessareah is concerned, caused but little damage, but simply because there is little rubbee and poppy crop in that thannah to injure. In the Gobindgunge thannah, however, in the neighbourhood of Arrey Raj Kotewa, &c., considerable injury to both crops was caused.

To counterbalance this, on the other hand, much good was done throughout the sub-division by the rain to the *cheena* and early rice crop. The former is said to be doing very well, but very much, in fact everything, depends upon its having more rain. If this does not fall the west winds will dry it up, and in the tracts which have not the benefit of artificial irrigation the yield will not be large. Mr. Weekes (Circle No. 3) has made advances to a large number of ryots for both masonry and *kutcha* wells (161 in all), and where these have been used the 'cheena' is very promising; five times the usual quantity of land has been sown in this crop. It is not, however, the "custom" in this district to irrigate to any large extent, and the lands, moreover, being impregnated with saltpetre, a partial irrigation is found to be unsuccessful. Altogether the prospects of the crops continue favorable. Some of the 'rubbee' has been cut, and the ear is said in many places to be remarkably good.

Condition of the People.—The accounts from Bettiah (Circle No. 4) continue favorable; the extent to which charitable relief has been found necessary will be given under its proper head. In Circle No. 3, Mr. Weekes reports that the condition of the people in thannah Gobindgunge causes little anxiety, but that they are not so well off in thannah Kessariah; the worst part he says is a tract of country lying between Barah, Rajpore, Peepra, and Bohurwah factories, or on the south-east portion of his circle. The otherwise well-to-do cultivators are still, he says, badly off, and make very numerous applications for loans. The European residents have relieved this class very freely from advances received from Government under Circular No. 4020 of 29th December last, and steps are being taken to afford further relief under the charitable relief rules. There is still grain in the country. At Kessariah (one of the chief marts) rice has been selling at 11 to 11½ seers for the rupee, and maize at 15. From Circle No. 1 (Addapore, Motiharee) and No. 2 (Dhaka Modobun) the accounts are much the same. No unfavorable symptoms have shown themselves, and no deaths from starvation are reported. The relief afforded on the works and by the charitable relief committees is steadily and surely asserting itself. It has been found unnecessary to resort to the measure suggested in my last narrative, viz., to sell Government grain to petty dealers at Kutkenuah and that neighbourhood, as it has now been ascertained that the markets are not so entirely without grain as was at that time supposed. The measure has, therefore, been postponed for the present. Mr. Kilby reports (from Circle No. 2) that he has been unable to induce anyone, *i.e.*, native residents, to take advances under the Land Improvement Act, although he has offered to liquidate two-thirds of the cost on behalf of the Government. He has consequently been directed to lose no time in devoting the money (sent to him for the above purpose) in re-digging old tanks along the main lines of roads. Altogether, in Circles 1, 2, 3, and 4, the condition of the people may be said at any rate to be no worse than it was when the last narrative was sent in, and in so far as a large amount of employment has lately been afforded by the gathering in of the opium harvest, and of the harvesting (now extending) of the rubbee, it is better. The subjoined statements will show the price of food-grains.

B.—Relief Works.

The following list will show the relief works in operation, and the number of persons employed thereon

Name of Work.	Men.	Women.	Children.	TOTAL.
Moteeharee station road	18,871	16,604	4,817	40,292
Ditto to Kutkenuah	11,643	15,473	5,878	32,994
Ditto to Dhaka	8,747	6,093	6,747	21,587
Ditto to Segowlie	207	254	66	527
Ghorashan to Dhaka	22,131	7,806	4,455	34,392
Bugha to Bettiah	121	229	63	413
Dhaka to Padumkair	9,028	2,488	1,072	12,588
Jamooah to Seeraha	13,619	4,145	4,933	22,697
Dhaka to Tilhara	2,696	1,040	1,202	4,938
Dhonoti Ferry	1,219	1,742	1,096	4,057
Ghorashan to Tilhara	4,381	1,873	1,333	7,587
Peepra to Rajpore	168	—	—	168
Peepra to Mozufferpore boundary	88	—	—	88
Repair of Dhaka road	8,377	1,868	1,490	11,735
Choitaghut road	24,056	25,358	10,209	59,623
Mudhoobunnee road	17,899	13,322	9,540	40,761
Modhubun road	14,584	9,350	4,557	28,491
Sitacoondoo	149	354	26	529
Dhakaha road	357	—	—	357
Gobindgunge road to Burhurwa	1,198	2,082	559	3,839
Tirkowlia to Sangrampore	8,389	6,115	3,073	17,577
Tituriah to Sullynpore Ghat	4,550	715	1,398	6,663
Tituriah to Kattaha Ghat	5,958	1,447	2,650	10,055
Sullynpore Ghat to Simra Ghat	12,593	2,471	3,920	18,984
Kuttaha to Modhubun	886	264	406	1,556
Chupra to Phoolwarya	9,443	11,796	4,058	25,297
Burhurwa to Bhooputpore road	1,296	1,299	804	3,399
Muckwan to Lalserya factory	1,473	1,352	1,234	4,059
Ghorashan to Meerpore	386	13	—	399
Portion of road leading to Sutterghut and Gobindgunge	3,612	1,117	1,380	6,109
Road from Narkatya to Ghabairghut	981	533	448	1,962
Ghorashan to Kutkenuah	4,081	2,257	2,170	8,508
Poornehia to Tilhura	1,197	597	669	2,463
Tanks.				
Kullyanpore tank	3,080	1,756	761	5,597
Soniathpore „	4,054	3,961	4,414	12,429
Kesseriah „	785	1,657	1,063	3,505
Chundbursa „	473	382	708	1,563
Burhurwa „	9,705	9,576	6,164	25,445
Mukwan „	620	648	438	1,706
Jamoonahpore „	530	205	345	1,080
Bangrah „	334	227	379	940
Ghameriah „	18	20	5	43
Tank at the north of Dhaka	117	26	75	218
Aureraj tank	566	762	369	1,697
Monshi Bazar tank	366	220	151	737
Gunduck crossing	44	55	31	130
Total of Sudder division	235,076	159,552	95,156	489,784
Bettiah Sub-division.				
Bettiah to Gobindgunge	54,412	44,831	20,906	120,149
Bettiah to Tangrahee	26,271	35,130	5,986	67,387
Lalseryah to Bettiah	21,002	16,711	6,899	44,612
Lowryah to Bugha	674	660	248	1,582
Amaithia tank	141	291	121	553
Laheeriah „	2,792	5,964	460	9,216
Total of Bettiah sub-division	105,292	103,587	34,620	243,499
Total of Sudder division and Bettiah sub-division	340,368	263,139	129,776	733,283

The daily number of workmen employed is therefore 52,377.

Besides this the number of persons employed on the lower Gunduck embankment is—

Men	55,730
Women	98
Children	274
Total	56,102

and the average daily number, 4,007, besides 17,300 workmen employed daily on the upper Gunduck embankment work.

Grand total daily number employed is 73,684.

The number employed on some of the works is very large in the Sudder sub-divisions; and Mr. Eckstien, Assistant Engineer, has been deputed to break up the gangs as much as possible, as it has been found in practice quite impossible to manage large masses. The Executive Engineer has also been requested to divide the labourers into able-bodied and light-labour gangs.

The number of tanks started has been increased, and work is provided in all quarters for all who are able to avail themselves of this kind of relief. I have received no complaints as yet that the labourers are unable to procure food in exchange for the pice received for their work, and all, except in the Ramnugger tract, are paid in money.

C.—Transport of Food.

I have nothing to report especially under this head. The contract for the transport of the district allotment of 50,000 maunds continues to work satisfactorily. The route through the Sarum district has been opened under the management of Messrs. Lethbridge and Gibbon.

D.—Storage of Grain.

The total amount of grain received into the district was, on the 21st March, 5,46,932 maunds. Of this 3,93,719 maunds had been stored during the fortnight; the following had been received:—

	Mds.
Bettiah sub-division	10,000
Sudder division	18,000
Ramnugger	Not received.

Several new sites for depôts have been selected and golahs erected.

E.—Advances to Private Persons.

The following sums were advanced during the fortnight:—

	Rs.
(1) For storage of grain	*Nil.*
(2) For assistance of ryots	65,576
(3) Land improvement	5,050

The total amount expended up to date on these three heads has been—

	Rs.
(1)	1,32,000
(2)	1,26,226
(3)	20,192

F.—Charitable Relief.

In Circle No. 4 (Bettiah) Mr. Samuells reports: "The scheme of charitable relief is now "complete, but the establishment having been only now appointed the exact results are not "known. Tuppah Manpore has been settled personally by me. Food will be furnished there "at their own houses to about 200 people, and a poor-house has been built, and now contains "a 100 persons, chiefly beggars from Ramnugger and Goruckpore. No residents of the sub-"division are found at present in the poor-house." A poor-house has also been established at Bettiah and will be open in a few days. Throughout the sub-division home relief is afforded to all, and complete lists of the number fed will be supplied hereafter. "No one however destitute "need suffer from want." Returns are not furnished at length in consequence of the absence of a regular paid establishment. This has been supplied and details will be furnished. In Circle No. 3 (Gobindgunge and Kessariah) Mr. Weekes reports that a site for a relief-house has been selected at Rajpore, and that the following members have been added to his sub-divisional committee:—

Mr. Carleton	(Sugrampore.)
„ J. Dixon	(Mokwah.)
„ J. Macdonald.	
„ M. Macleod	Peprah.
„ N. Macleod	Dainmutt.
„ F. G. Nicolay	Barah.
„ F. A. Shaw	Rajpore.
„ C. A. Shaw	Hosseinee.
„ F. Shaw	Bohurwa.
„ C. Shelverton	Assistant Engineer, Gunduck Embankment.
„ W. Stobie	Bohurwa.
„ J. Lamb.	
Baboo Gokool Chund	Kessariah.

The sub-division has been divided into circles, and each of the above gentlemen will take charge of the villages of his circle. This is the principle adopted in Circle No. 4 under Mr. Samuells and reported in a former narrative. In Circles Nos. 1 and 2 Sub-divisional Committees have been formed, and Mr. Oldham, C.S., who has lately been deputed to this district, has been put in charge of Circle No. 1, with his head-quarters for the present at Segowlie. These circles have also been divided similarly to Circles Nos. 3 and 4.

The arrangements in the Ramnuggur tract have been fully detailed in my letter No. 697 of the 11th instant, and need not be repeated here.

With reference to Circular No. 1,251—S.R., of the 5th instant, the following particulars are given :—

(1.) No. of Committees and Sub-Committees as yet appointed - -	District Committee - -		
	Sub-divisional Committees -	5	Ramnuggur Head-quarters of Circle - - No. 5 Bettiah ditto - „ 4 Sugrampore ditto - „ 3 Pattahi ditto - „ 2 Segowlie ditto - „ 1
	Sub-Committees - -	2	*Sub-Committees.* Bagaha, Bulthur Circle - No. 5
(2.) No. of Special Relief Sub-Divisions opened and officered - - -	5 as above.		
(3.) No. of regular Relief Circles opened and officered.			
(4.) No. of Relief Circles opened and managed by planters, &c.	Circle No. 1 not complete. „ „ 2—10 „ „ 3—10 „ „ 4—7 „ „ 5—1, Bugaha.		
(5.) No. of workhouses, &c. - -	Circle No. 1—2. „ „ 2—1 „ „ 3 „ „ 4—2 „ „ 5—2		
(6.) No. of men, women, and children on receipt of gratuitous relief.	I am able to give figures under this head for 2 sub-divisions only, viz. :—		

Circles Nos. 4 and 1.

Circle No. 4.	Persons relieved daily.	
Patjerwa - - - -	600	
Bettiah Town - - -	900	
Manpore - - - -	350	
Dokraha - - - -	200	
Lalsareah - - -	300	
Lohariah - - - -	1,000	
Pursa - - - - -	1,000	
		4,350

Circle No. 1.	Daily.
Gratuitously - - - - -	182
In return for light labour - - -	80
Motiharee Town - - - -	171

This does not include the relief afforded by the European residents. Both in this Circle (No. 1) and Circles No. 2 and 3, much relief has been given by these gentlemen whose houses are virtually relief-houses. Returns have been called for but have not been furnished as yet. About 5,600 persons have also received charitable relief through the officer in charge Upper Gunduck Division by instruction received from Sub-Divisional Officer of Bettiah.

The Ramnuggur report has not come to hand ; it will be forwarded on receipt.

Enclosure No. 4.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 30th March 1874.

READ—

The District Narratives of the Bhagulpore Division for the fortnight ending on the 21st March 1874.

The narrative for the Sonthal Pergunnahs was not received until Friday the 27th; the rest came in punctually.

2. *Monghyr.*—The supplies of grain appear to be generally sufficient, except in Buktearpore which now appears to be, rather than Jamooee, the worst part of the district. The numbers employed on the relief works continue to be comparatively small ; and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the Monghyr district will, thanks to the excellent rubbee crop, be well off, except perhaps for a time between the rubbee and the rains. The account given of the way in which advances for purchase of grain have been expended, and the amounts realised again invested in the purchase of fresh grain, is satisfactory. The account given of the distribution of charitable relief is also satisfactory, and the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to learn that Messrs. Campbell and Money are able to report that " very little distress exists at present in their circles."

3. *Bhagulpore*—The price of common rice at Mudheypoora seems now be very high, but in Soopole the supply of grain in the bazaars are sufficient. The Lieutenant-Governor desires that some account of the experiment in selling Government grain to the public may be given without fail in next narrative. The number of people on the relief works has risen to an average of 6,923, and of 16,577 on the works under the Court of Wards. The large number of people who are thus being relieved is creditable to Mr. Stevens and his assistants; but it is not clear why the numbers on the Government relief works are comparatively so small. The supply of grain already in store (273,000 maunds) should suffice to meet distress whenever it may come. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that Mr. Kirkwood will take full care to make works available to the poor whenever and wherever wanted. Nothing is said as to any private works being executed by zemindars. Next narrative *must* show more clearly and correctly the numbers in receipt of charitable relief; at present about 1,340 persons a day appear to be in the receipt of such relief.

With reference to paragraph 8, the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have a separate report upon the reputed deaths among Tirhoot immigrants into Mudheypoora. If they came by relief works and relief-houses, when in search of work, the two deaths may have been from disease.

4. *Purneah.*—Prices in the Purneah district seem to have varied little during the fortnight, though very high prices appear to have ruled for a day or two in parts of Kudbah and Arrareeah. The number of work-people on the roads has risen to 11,000. It should have been stated how much grain Mr. Rattray pays to his workmen, and next narrative should say what grain has been sold, and if Burmah rice, it should be stated at what rate, and whether it was acceptable to the people. The Lieutenant-Governor considers that the plan of letting a tank or a piece of road-work in contract to villagers, and paying them for it when it is done, is a very good way of preventing peculation, provided that the work is measured, and paid for by trustworthy people.

5. The grain transport arrangements appear to have worked very successfully; the cessation in the supply of grain at Caragola was due to the shortness of the railway despatches from Howrah, and it is hoped that this difficulty may not recur. Out of the 650,000 maunds to be carted from Caragola, Mr. Medock's note shows that 425,000 maunds had left Caragola by the 22nd March, and that grain was being sent forward at the rate of 9,000 maunds a day. At this rate, the full Purneah complement, as well as the 1¼ lakhs for Dinagepore, will have been sent forward from Caragola before the middle of May, and the whole should reach its final destination before the 10th June at latest.

The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to learn that the zemindars are coming forward, and that they had taken considerable advances for distribution to their ryots. He hopes the Government officers will verify, as far as they can, that the money really reaches the classes for whom it is intended. The account given of the charitable relief arrangements is not very clear; but it is satisfactory to find that several of the relief officers have their organization so far in train that he can advance and sell grain to head ryots, and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that very many more such advances will be given in the worst tracts. So far as the figures show, it would seem that 5,051 people were receiving charitable relief.

6. *Sonthal Pergunnahs.*—The price of food is as yet nowhere very high; the coarser grains are selling at 15 seers a rupee or even cheaper; and the supplies are not reported as having failed. Still a great number of people (up to 9,000 labourers in Godda alone) are coming upon the relief works, and Government rice is being sold to them. Decision has now been taken to send some Government grain to the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that by means of ample relief works, and advances to zemindars and Government ryots for land improvements, the people of the Sonthal Pergunnahs may be enabled to get through the present year. Sir George Campbell will be anxious to learn the result of Mr. Boxwell's visit to Benaguria, and to hear whether the Reverend Missionary's anticipations of early and grave distress in that neighbourhood are concurred in by the district officers.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

NARRATIVE of SCARCITY and RELIEF of the DISTRICT of MONGHYR for the FORTNIGHT ending 21st March 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

During the past week a deficiency of grain in the market at Bukhtiarpore being reported, a meeting of the District Committee was called, and it was resolved to sell grain from the Government golah under the prescribed rules so long as the deficiency lasts. This part of the country is the most isolated in the district. The soil and the inhabitants are equally poor, and the cartmen, who usually carry grain for the petty dealers at the lowest possible rates, have been unable to resist the more lucrative rates offered by the contractors of Monghyr carrying grain through to Soopool and Durbhunga in Tirhoot. Under such circumstances, the District Committee has availed itself of the permission to sell from the Government stores at the prescribed rates. I do not, however, anticipate any extensive sales of rice, but the cheaper Indian-corn will probably sell fast enough, as it is the favourite food of the lower classes.

The stock of old worm-eaten gram ordered to be sold was disposed of almost immediately it was offered for sale at twenty seers for the rupee. There was an immense influx of persons, some thousands, from the neighbouring parts of Bhagulpore, who were eager purchasers of small quantities, and they gave vent to their indignation in no measured terms, when the crowd became so dense that the Deputy Collector, being unable to deal small quantities fast enough, disposed of the residue wholesale, under certain restrictions, to petty dealers in the bazar. The appearance of these eager purchasers, however, was not famine-stricken, although all gave a forlorn account of themselves; and, indeed, in the most prosperous years grain offered for sale below the market rates would doubtless attract many purchasers.

As I have mentioned in former reports, there is not much rubbee around Bukhtiarpore, but what there is will soon come into the market, and, so long as this lasts, I do not anticipate any considerable sales from the Government golahs. When the rubbee grain is exhausted the people will probably apply again to our extensive stores.

Regarding the other parts of the district, supply meets the demand, but, with the exception of rice received for the higher classes, there is not much movement of private grain going on. During the week I paid a visit to the Jumooee sub-division, with a view to ascertain whether any deficiency in the Sekandra bazar is to be anticipated; but I found the shops well supplied, and the dealers, whom I called on to state exactly the position of affairs, agree in saying that they anticipate no difficulty in providing food for all those who have money to pay for it.

A large cargo of Indian-corn lately arrived at a ghat on the Ganges near Tegra. Baboo Bhola Nauth Dutt purchased a quantity of it at 16 seers per rupee with money borrowed from Government, and retailed it all to his ryots next day, much to their satisfaction.

From personal inquiries made by me at various bazars, I find generally throughout the district that rice is selling from 11 to 12 seers, maize at 14 to 15 seers, and peas and gram from 17 to 19 seers per rupee. It is currently believed in the district that these low prices are due to the presence of the Government golahs. The grain-dealers say there is no necessity for undue hoarding when there is the Government grain to fall back on in case their supplies fail. At Jamooee I found mahwa selling at 40 seers for the rupee. This article of food is largely consumed by the lower classes, who eat it with parched gram in the proportion of half a pound of gram mixed with four pounds of mahwa. The numerous mahwa trees in the district are covered with blossom, and there is every prospect of an unusually abundant harvest. Bears are very fond of mahwa, and the Sonthals in the south of the district, who are very partial to bear's flesh, shoot them in considerable numbers as they come out on moonlight nights to eat the blossoms falling from the trees.

The rubbee harvest is now general throughout the district. I calculate that 300,000 persons have found employment in the poppy fields, and at least 600,000 persons are engaged in cutting the crops. This will account for the small number of persons to be found on our relief works. During the past fortnight I have visited many villages in the distressed pergunnahs, and found them almost deserted by the poorer classes. Every man, woman, and child not actually bed-ridden has gone off to the fields, and it was a noticeable fact that on dropping my whip, whilst riding through the villages, I had to get off my horse and pick it up myself, an exertion I have never previously found necessary in this thickly-populated district.

It is quite a relief to miss the Mushirs, Dosadhs, Chamars, and Domes whilst visiting the Umrithu and Bisthazaree pergunnahs, but they will come crowding back again in time to gather the mahwa and plough the lands for the next bhadoi crop. Almost the only low caste people seen by me in a day's ride on Thursday last in Bisthazaree consisted of a family of Chamars, who had been detained in Girua Parsunda in consequence of a cow having died the previous evening. A busy circle of men were cutting up the flesh, and carrying it off; a number of half-starved dogs were sitting at a respectful distance; whilst a crowd of vultures formed an outer ring patiently waiting until the others had finished.

The condition of the people, as might be expected, has improved since the rubbee harvest commenced, but there is some difficulty in forming a reliable opinion whether the improvement will continue. Almost all, even those who should be best informed, give the most conflicting opinions, varying from great hopes that high prices will soon come to an end to the lowest despondency and alarm for the future. I think, however, unless some unforeseen calamity, such as another year of drought or excessive flood occurs, that except in isolated cases we need not fear actual famine in the district until the time of the bhadoi harvest. There must, however, be much distress amongst the poorer classes, who, from age, infirmity, or mistaken pride, are unable or refuse to take advantage of our relief works and the semi-Government relief works now undertaken by the zemindars in many parts of the district.

Every precaution is now being taken to feed the poor who cannot take advantage of our relief works; but under any circumstances these persons will have a hard time of it until the price of grain arrives at its normal state.

At present there is more distress around Bukhtiarpore than in any other portion of the district, but as large numbers of persons are being fed by Mr. Manson and Mr. Christian at Bukhtiarpore and Chapran factory, the people are kept from actual starvation. The Bhutia road and other works also afford work to the able-bodied. Mr. Roberts, the Assistant Manager of the Durbhunga estate, has been very actively employed in giving labour to all who require it under him; and on each occasion when I have brought apparently distressed tracts to his notice he has at once visited the place and made arrangements for giving relief. In a letter just received Mr. Roberts says: "There is not any fear of distress on this estate at present. Besides the vast irrigation "works at Karakpur itself, I have started the repairs of an old embankment at Marag, about "which you wrote to me. This will benefit the lands and enable the people to get food. I shall "start similar works at Gyghat, near Gungta, and other places, as necessity requires. The people "at Gyghat are employed by us at two annas a day in clearing the jungle, and men from other "villages are also employed, giving work to 150 people daily."

The action taken by the Manager of the Durbhanga estate forms a strong contrast to that taken during the present season by those who manage the neighbouring extensive estates of Rajah Lilla Nund Singh and his nephew. These persons are quite conspicuous by their apathy, and although I hope ultimately to persuade them to come forward, it is to be regretted that all such estates cannot be brought under the Court of Wards.

Mr. Wilkins at Begoo Serai reports much distress amongst those whom infirmity compels to subsist on charity. He is taking prompt measures to relieve such persons with the aid of Mr. Fearon, of the Birpur indigo factory.

I am glad to say that since writing the above the Dewan of the Rajah Lilla Nund Singh has come in and said that on behalf of his master he is prepared to open out relief works on his large estates in the district wherever necessary. I am very glad to get this information, and I think now that the zemindars generally are doing their duty great and general distress will be averted.

B.—Relief Works.

No new Government relief works have been opened during the fortnight. It has, however, been proposed to make or repair the road which is much used by pilgrims between Gya and Deoghur, part of which runs through the extreme south of this district. So far as Monghyr is concerned, this road will not afford much labour, the land lying high and dry, and the soil is so hard that a raised embankment is unnecessary. A gang of workmen, however, might be used to cut away the jungle on either side of the road, as a protection against wild beasts, which are common in the Chakai pergunnah. I have suggested to the zemindar, Sir Joymungal Singh, who is a sportsman, to organize extensive *battues* during the dry season as a means of relief, and ridding the jungles of tigers, leopards, and bears.

In the Begoo Serai sub-division a good deal of work is being given by the repair of village roads, generally carried out through the planters, and it is now under consideration what works can be advantageously commenced, if much labour is required after the rubbee is cut. There is, however, considerable difficulty in the matter, as the land lies very low and is regularly inundated by the Ganges. Embankments to keep out the floods are undoubtedly the best works where neighbouring zemindars do not object to them. The sub-divisional committee is now engaged in considering the best solution to the difficulty. The Tirhoot road has afforded a great amount of relief, but other works will probably be required. Mr. Wilkins has not reported much progress with the zemindars hitherto, but after the harvest I have no doubt that they will come forward. Similar remarks apply to the Furkya pergunnah, but considerable advances have already been made to zemindars in this part of the district. I have already mentioned that Mr. Roberts is providing ample work in the Durbhunga portion of Khurrukpore, where the rice crop failed. If all the estates in the district were equally well managed there would be little cause for alarm. The large estates in the district held khass by Government are chiefly dearas, and the crops are so unusually good that no relief works are required. I am, however, improving the water-supply in two smaller Government estates, Khero Praussur in Salemabad and Daudpur in Umrithu, by digging tanks, at a total cost of Rs. 3,000. These have already been commenced. A large tank, at a cost of Rs. 3,000, will shortly be commenced in the Jamooee sub-divisional cutcherry compound, and as there are works now going on all over the most distressed tracts south of the Ganges, I hope that everyone requiring labour will find it.

The wages paid by us averages 6 pice a day, and those who do piece-work and cut and carry a hundred cubic feet of earth-work earn as much as two annas. The zemindari rate for piece-work, however, is two rupees eight annas per hundred cubic yards, or a fraction under three pice per hundred cubic feet. This rate in times of scarcity is only sufficient to afford scanty food of the coarsest kind. Yet notwithstanding such miserable wages, the people generally appear content and happy. I have only been able to persuade some two hundred persons to emigrate and begin life again in Burmah under prospects which appear to be unusually favourable.

C.—Transport of Food.

The returns of the supplies of grain carried by the railway come in too late generally to be used in my fortnightly report, but the importations are not considerable. The exportations of rubbee are commencing, but they will not become general and extensive until the rains set in, when the Ganges will carry large cargoes of gram and wheat to Calcutta. I suspect that my former calculations were under-estimated, and that at least one-half of the rubbee crop now cut will leave the district during the next six months. The means of transport of grain have hitherto been found ample, and there has been no block that I know of. Mr. Thomas, the contractor here, tells me he has collected about 4,000 carts, and can carry away as much grain as arrives to Soopool. This gentleman is also, by Mr. Hankey's directions, carrying the remaining 30,000 maunds designed for Bukhtiarpore. The rivers on the road have been bridged with boats, and the arrangements under Mr. Hankey and Captain Grant appear to be as perfect as possible.

The Durbhunga rice is also being moved on as fast as it arrives, and a cargo of boats arrived during the week to carry grain up the Gunduk to Durbhunga. I am decidedly of opinion that when we have 50,000 maunds at Bukhtiarpore, no further supplies are needed, unless some unforseen calamity occurs. I paid a visit to Girnapersunda during the week and made arrangements for storing grain and making a good cart-track over the rice fields. The arrangements for the storage and guard of grain are generally ample and complete.

D.

As on former occasions I have mentioned the names of the places selected for storage, they need not be repeated. South of the Ganges I am of opinion that sufficient grain has already been stored, and as there is hardly any point more than 20 miles from the railway, there would not, I think, be much difficulty in increasing the supplies to any extent even during the rains, if necessary. North of the Ganges, however, the distressed portion of Furkya is almost inaccessible during the rains, and consequently a further supply of rice, making a total of 50,000 maunds, is being sent there. At the present moment there are 192,000 maunds of Government grain stored in the district. It will depend on the prospects of the bhadoi harvest, cut in September, whether more grain is required or not. There appears to be a general feeling of satisfaction and security throughout the district now that such large quantities of grain have been stored, and I have not heard of any grumbling, even amongst the grain dealers that their trade has been injured or interfered with.

E.

Rs. 56,800 have been advanced for the purchase of grain, and I hear that the grain so purchased has already been disposed of, and that the money-holders are preparing to purchase more with the money received from the retail sales. Rs. 33,790 have been advanced to zemindars for land improvements, and I have numerous applications under local investigation and report. No time is lost in making the advances, but, besides local investigation, the collectorate records have to be examined and the registration books, in order to ascertain whether the security offered is good. I have hitherto received satisfactory accounts of the way these advances are being employed. Nawab Ali Khan, of Hosseinabad, is employing nearly 800 men in digging tanks with the money advanced to him, and other zemindars in like proportion. The general complaint, however, is that labour is not easily procurable, and I tell the zemindars they can safely wait until after the rubbee harvest. I am certainly of opinion that the large sums of money now being spent on the various estates will be of great ultimate advantage to the district.

The loan of Rs. 5,000 obtained by the Monghyr Municipality is held in reserve until such time as its expenditure is required.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Most of the past week has been spent in getting the system of relief into working order. Fortunately, the rubbee harvest, having afforded relief to the poor, has also afforded time to the sub-divisional committees to perfect their arrangements. A meeting has been held at Jamooee and at Monghyr, at which simple rules for the guidance of superintendents were laid down. These rules provide, first, for the supply of grain in deficient markets, secondly, for affording relief, village to village. The superintendent and his assistant will be accompanied by pack-bullocks, and coolies if necessary, carrying grain and cotton, and relief, under certain restrictions, required to guard against imposition, will be afforded at each man's door. The system of visiting villages empty-handed and directing half-starved people to relief centres is not generally a good one. Some time ago I began this practice myself, but finding the people were likely to die on the road, I determined to abandon it as far as possible. Relief centres distributing cooked food are now established wherever necessary, and I annex a statement of the numbers fed. The committees, however, think that distress is not at present so great as to call for much distribution of food in villages; but great latitude has been left to the discretion of superintendents, who, being on the spot, can judge better than the committees can at head-quarters. The superintendents are fully qualified to carry out the committees' views properly, and the assistant superintendents are all young and active zemindars of great respectability, who are only anxious to show their zeal in the public service.

Mr. Money spends all his time in riding from village to village, relieving distress wherever necessary; and on Thursday I met Mr. Baillie making a similar tour on foot in his circle at Bisthazaree, pending the arrival of his horses.

Mr. Wright has joined at Luckee Serai, and Mr. Manson has been at work for some time around Bukhtiarpore. The superintendents will be particular in making advances of money to respectable ryots where necessary but I am anxious to make all advances as far as possible through the zemindars, who are much better judges than we can be regarding those persons really in want. One man applied to Mr. Currie for a loan of Rs. 500, and, on being pressed, acknowledged that he required at least half of it to marry his daughter with the *eclât* befitting his caste and position. Other applicants for advances have made similar confessions, and expressed some surprise when the advance was refused. Besides Rs. 36,000 advanced to zemindars for land improvements, I have advanced Rs. 11,300 for advances to respectable ryots, according to a list hereafter to be furnished. This money should keep a large number of people from starving.

Mr. Campbell and Mr. Money have recorded their opinions that very little distress at present exists in their sub-divisions or circles. This, however, is only what I expected, having been over the ground myself, and found the condition of the people much improved since January. I have warned these gentlemen, however, that the improvement cannot be expected to last, and that we must make unusual exertions to get everything ready to afford relief when the temporary effect of an abundant rubbee harvest has passed away, as I expect it will not later than May. I am of opinion that all that is necessary is being done, and that actual starvation has been hitherto averted by the various relief works and distribution of food, which has kept alive alike the able-bodied and those not capable of work.

I have been asked to collect a thousand rupees' worth of fodder at Chapran factory, near Bukhtiarpore, for the cattle carrying grain into Soopool. This will make a capital relief work, and Mr. Manson is supplying the tools used by grass-cutters, in order that women and children may cut grass and store it. This grass will make better fodder, I think, than rice or wheat-straw usually given to cattle.

No. 440—S.R., dated Bhagulpore, the 24th March 1874.

From V. T. TAYLOR, Esq., Collector of Bhagulpore, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Scarcity and Relief Depaatment.

I HAVE the honour herewith to submit my ninth fortnightly narrative.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. The Soopool sub-divisional narrative has not yet been received.

3. The Muddehpoora officer writes: "Supplies are not quite so easily procurable as they were " at the time of my last report. Grain, too, is somewhat dearer. Rice is selling at about " 13 seers small weight (64), and murwa 16 per rupee." The prices given are those for the Muddehpoora bazar only, and Mr. Martin has been instructed to furnish information in future of the prices ruling at several of the markets in his sub-division; those at his head-quarters only do not give a correct idea of the price of food-grain here and there in his sub-division.

4. The Banka officer reports: "The supply of food-grains can be easily got everywhere " according to the wants of the people." The price of rice at Banka and Umurpore has been stationary during the fortnight, but it has risen in other portions of the sub-division; the price of wheat has fallen by 2 seers in the rupee; and new barley is being sold at 21½ seers at one place and 19 at another. The Deputy Collector further remarks that, from what he can ascertain, he believes that paddy and rice is in the possession of every ryot, trader, and zemindar, according to his circumstances, for consumption, trade, or distribution to private servants and workmen.

5. At head-quarters prices remain the same for all grains excepting wheat, which is getting cheaper daily.

6. The rubbee crops are now being reaped, and the outturn will be very good in pergunnah Chye; a bumper crop is almost certain; and over other parts of the district it is put down as 6 annas to 12 annas, but this, from what I have myself seen, is below the mark. Cheena is *still* being sown, and this crop alone will give a heavy outturn this year. In one portion of the district a severe hailstorm, over an area of from 20 to 30 square miles, has done damage to the rubbee to the extent of 4 annas, as well as to the mango trees. This storm passed over a strip of pergunnah Narradigur and pergunnah Harrawuth. There have been a few drops of rain here and there during the fortnight, not sufficient to do either harm or good.

7. The mango crop so far promises to be exceedingly good, and the *mowah* crop in the south promises equally well.

8. Mr. Martin remarks that several starving persons from Tirhoot came to him a short time ago, and he sent them all to the Muddehpoora relief centre. Out of some 30 persons, only three availed themselves of the food supplied. He adds that a Mr. Mason had reported to Mr. Kirkwood, special relief officer north of the Ganges, that *several* persons had died of starvation; that on hearing this from Mr. Kirkwood he at once made personal inquiries, and it turned out that Mr. Mason could only speak to two persons who were supposed to have come from Tirhoot, not inhabitants of this district, and that he, Mr. Martin, was unable to ascertain whether the men died from disease or really from starvation; but these men would have had to pass over places where works were in progress, and through the Soopool sub-division, where there is any amount of work and relief at hand, before getting to Singhessur, three and a half miles from Muddehpoora, where they are said to have died.

9. Neither in the head-quarters nor in Banka is there as yet any real distress, notwithstanding the high prices; and now the reaping of the rubbee crops is giving occupation to so many, and the harvest being so good generally, matters will go on smoothly I hope for some time to come.

10. As soon as the rubbee crop is gathered and housed, rain will be anxiously looked for for the completion of all cultivating operations, and the final preparation of the lands for the murwa crop.

11. The following statement gives the difference in prices of some of the food-grains now and at the corresponding period of 1866 :—

—	Rice, 1st sort.		Rice, common.		Murwa.		Indian-corn.		Wheat.	
	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.
	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.		S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
Soopool - -	—	9 10	—	10 0	—	13 0	—	—	—	11 0
Muddehpoora - -	—	8 0	—	8½ 0	—	14 0	—	—	—	9 0
Head-quarters - -	10 11	10 11	12 8	11 5	—	—	15 2	15 2	10 1½	15 2
Banka - -	—	10 8	14 0	12 8	—	—	18 0	13 12	—	12 8

12. The theft and robbery return for March will be forwarded with the next narrative.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

13. The annexed statement shows what is being done on this head.

14. I annex also a statement showing the total number of labourers employed on raj Durbhunga works in Soopool sub-division for the week ending 14th March; no later statement has reached me.

15. The District Engineer has not submitted the report showing fuller results of the sale of Government grain, but as no more rice has been indented for, I presume the experiment has not been very successful, but I have instructed him to give me the results for the next narrative.

C.—TRANSPORT OF GRAIN.

16. At the Bhagulpore railway station the total exports for the fortnight have been 8,516 maunds, against imports amounting to 9,172. Of the former, 5,873 maunds were grain and 1,419 wheat for Howrah, 333 maunds barley also for Howrah, and 345 maunds were rice up for Patna, Jamalpore, and Beeheea. Of the imports, 1,995 maunds were grain and 1,863 wheat from the usual up-country stations; 1,718 maunds were rice from Howrah, 2,029 maunds Indian corn from up-country, and 1,214 maunds were paddy, possibly seed-grain; the rest various other grain in small quantities. The returns from all the other stations show but little trade.

17. There is very little, if any, private exportation going on from the south of the district. Rice is being brought to Bhagulpore, while new barley and peas are being taken to the south from the rubbee tracts near Sooltangunge.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

18. The following statement shows the places of storage in the district, the amount sanctioned for each, and the quantity stored as far as is known; the errors in the previous fortnightly have been corrected:—

Muddehpoora Sub-Division.

		Already stored.
	Maunds.	Maunds.
Muddehpoora	50,000	29,117
Bhowanipore	25,000	9,640
Kamp	50,000	10,000
Soneburss	12,980	12,980*
Patterghat	2,614	2,614
Byjnathpore	15,000	—
Salpore	10,000	5,562
Total		69,913

Soopool Sub-Division.

			Actually stored.
Soopool		130,000	104,220
Chandail		10,000	—
Rutowli		8,000	—
Hurdee		10,000	—
Nowabakker		30,000	16,000
Dugmurrah		30,000	15,200
Roshwar		40,000	11,950
Nurgo		20,000	6,000
Chandpeeper	Court of Wards	12,000	—
Bhaptiahi		12,000 about	3,000
Baharra		6,000 ,,	5,000
Peepra		20,000	—
Pertabgunge		30,000	12,760
Bhulwa		20,000	—
Simrahi		40,000	—
Nathpore		10,000	—
Bheemnuggur		5,000	—
Arjellee Dulgaon		8,000	—
Ekar		60,000	14,000
Patchgachia		20,000	—
Semani		20,000	—
Nohutta		10,000	—
Burgaon		5,000	—
Bungaon		30,000	15,000
Muheshi		10,000	—

Sudder Sub-Division.

Permeshurpore	1,000	1,000

Banka Sub-Division.

Dhoorya	2,250	2,250
Kutooria	4,773	4,773

19. The rice lying at Jugdees Chuk has all been removed, and Phoolout is also cleared of all grain. Rice has not been coming in as fast as I should wish, and has not kept up to the transport power. The Monghyr contractors are carrying up the grain direct to Soopool and for

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* Stored at Soneburss and Phoolout. The Phoolout grain will be taken hereafter to Soneburss.

golas south of Soopool. The Bhagulpore contractor is carrying grain direct for Kamp and Rajnathpore at present, and I believe the old route *viâ* Phoolout is going to be abandoned. I regret this, as the transport has got into such good working order, and we shall now lose a large number of carts.

20. The Soopool sub-divisional officer is removing the rice from Soopool to the northern golahs, and during the fortnight there has been a full lakh stored; more has possibly been stored than I have shown.

21. A third contractor contracted to take, I believe, a lakh up the Coosy, and his first essay of 4,400 maunds are stuck hard and fast; if possible, this quantity will be taken to Phoolout and sent up from there. I understand boats of too large a size have been used, but the river must be lower than when I tried it with smaller boats and failed.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

22. List of persons to whom loans under Act XXVI. of 1871 have been granted by the Collector of Bhagulpore up to—

Names of Persons.	Amount advanced.	Purpose for which the Advance is taken.	Name of Mouzah or Village where the work will be carried on.
Pergunnah Mulnigopal.	Rs.		
1. Kishore Narain Singh - -	200	For a bund - -	Pursurmah.
2. Oogur Narain Singh - -	1,000	For excavating a tank - -	Hatwaria.
Pergunnah Ooturkhund.			
1. Laljeet Singh - - -	1,000	Ditto ditto - -	Patchgachia.
2. Bulit Jha - - -	150	For clearing an existing tank -	Tola Mowhura.
3. Bickram Khawas - -	200	Ditto ditto -	Patchgachia.
Pergunnah Kubkhund.			
1. Imam Buksh - - -	200	Ditto ditto -	Aoria Romoti.
2. Ami Chand - - -	1,000	For excavating a tank - -	Nohutta.
3. Jhummun Singh - - -	400	For clearing an existing tank -	Monohurputtee.
4. Sheik Mann and Sheik Asgur -	200	For erecting a bund - -	Koonda.
Total - - -	4,350		

Advances made to Zemindars for the purpose of helping their Ryots, under Government Circular No. 4,020, *dated* 18*th December* 1873, *up to date.*

Names of Zemindars.	Place of Residence.	Amount advanced.
		Rs.
Mr. James Hennessy - - -	Narainpore - - - - -	5,000
" John Christian - - -	Bongaon (Soopool) - - -	10,000
Baboo Troloke Narain Singh - -	Tituria " - - - -	1,500
" Rooder Narain " - -	Pachgatchia " - - -	7,000
" Ajoodhia Pershad " - -	Bajidpore " - - -	1,000
" Mohant Buldeb Doss - -	Karheo " - - -	500
Barey Lal Patuck - - -	Chyenpore " - - -	900
Luchmun Sahoo - - -	Nathputtee " - - -	1,500
Baboo Harbullub Narain Sing - -	Sonebursa (Muddehpoorah) - -	10,000
	Total - -	37,400

Six applications for Rs. 33,500 have been forwarded to the Commissioner for his sanction.

23. Rs. 18,600 have been advanced during the fortnight to trustworthy residents for purchase of food-grain, and Rs. 400 to petty shopkeepers of Soopool, making a total of Rs. 67,800 since the commencement of operations. One application for Rs. 4,000 has been sanctioned by the Commissioner, but the amount has not yet been disbursed, and another application for the same amount has been forwarded to the Commissioner for his sanction.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

24. The district north of the Ganges has been made into circles, as mentioned in my last narrative, but a few corrections being necessary, the information is again given this time. Muddehpoorah sub-division.—The distressed portion has been made into two circles—the Kamp circle, comprising the golah stations at Kamp, Sonebursa, Patterghat, and Byjnathpore, and the Bhowanipore circle, comprising the golah stations at Bhowanipore, Muddehpoora, and Lalpore.

25. Mr. Heysham has been appointed Superintendent of the Bhowanipore circle and has joined.

26. Mr. Davis has been appointed Superintendent of Kamp Circle vice Mr. Inman, and has been directed to join at once.

27. There is one sub-divisional committee already appointed, and a committee for each circle Superintendent will be appointed as soon as possible.

Relief centres for feeding the poorest classes are open at Muddehpoora, Gummuria, Byjnathpore and Petterghat at Byjnathpore; those coming for relief are employed in making rope for the golahs. The total number of men fed at all these centres amounts only to 40 persons.

28. The Soopool sub-division has been sub-divided, and a second sub-division called Simrahi sub-division has been made for relief purposes.

29. The Soopool sub-division will be supervised by the present sub-divisional officer, and contains the Soopool circle, comprising the golahs at Soopool, Chundail, Rutowli, and Hurdee, and the Ekar circle, comprising the golahs at Ekar, Patchgachia, Simani, Nohutta, Burgaon, Bungong, and Muheshi.

30. The Simrahi sub-division will be supervised by Deputy Collector Baboo Ram Sanker Sen, who has already left Bhagulpore to join his post; it will contain the Simrahi circle, comprising the golahs at Simrahi, Peepra, Pertabgunge, Bhulooa, Nathpore, Bheemnugger, and Arjillee Dulgaon; and the Narradigur circle, comprising the golahs at Nowabakkhur, Dugmurrah, Roshwar, Nurgo, Chandpeeper, Bhaptiahi, and Burhurra (the last three being the Court of Wards' golahs).

31. The *Soopool* circle is under the direct charge of Mr. Fanshawe, who has already joined.

32. The *Ekar* circle is officered by Mr. Wilson, who has joined that portion of this circle in which Mr. J. Christian is interested, and will be under his supervision, he having kindly consented to the arrangement.

33. The Simrahi circle will be officered by Deputy Collector Baboo Dwarkanath Sen, who will leave Bhagulpore immediately. The Naradigur circle is already officered by Mr. P. Duff, who is thoroughly acquainted with the raj property in this district, with an assistant already on the spot, Mr. D. Browne, posted at Dugmurrah.

34. The list of members for *each* superintendent's sub-committee has just been received.

35. To the charge of these two sub-divisions as special relief officer working directly under me, Mr. T. M. Kirkwood, C.S., has been appointed; he has only been in the north a few days, and I have no doubt he will be of great assistance in seeing that the superintendents of circles really do their duty and are constantly on the move. All these officers will make a regular village to village inspection, and find out, report on, and assist any and all who are really in distress.

36. Arrangements are being made that rice shall be sold to the public from the golahs of Bhowanipore and Ekar as an experiment at 12 seers the rupee, and the effect of such sales will be very carefully watched.

37. I regret I cannot give a detailed statement showing the number of persons relieved at each centre in the Soopool sub-division. Mr. Smith remarks that on examining the several returns from the village committees, he has found them so confused and incomplete that any statement compiled from them would be practically useless, but that he makes out that 1,300 men, women, and children have been daily relieved at 26 centres. Mr. Kirkwood has been asked to see if he cannot make some arrangements on the spot which will ensure correct returns.

38. Fifty maunds of cotton have been sent to Muddehpoora and Soopool sub-divisions, and a further supply of 80 maunds have been purchased and will be despatched at once.

39. The statement required in Circular No. 1251—S.R., of the 5th instant, is given below. With reference to column 2, the officer for the special relief sub-division has, as above mentioned, started for his post; with reference to column 4, a portion of the Ekar circle, comprising Bungong and Maheshi golahs, is being managed by Mr. J. Christian of Bungaon factory.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Number of committees and sub-committees as yet appointed.	Number of special relief sub-divisions opened and officered.	Number of regular relief centres opened and manned by special officers.	Number of relief circles opened and manned by planters, zemindars, and other residents.	Number of workhouses on centres for the distribution of food and gratuitous relief.	Number of men, women, and children in receipt of gratuitous relief shape through the charitable relief organization daily.
9 Two more have to be appointed.	1	4 The officers for the other two have been appointed and will join at once. One of the above officers has been specially appointed by Durbhunga Court of Wards.	Part of one, see above.	Four in Muddehpoora, twenty-six in Soopool.	Information still very incomplete, but about 1,340 daily.

Since commencing this the Soopool narrative has reached.

The sub-divisional officer remarks:—"Grain is procurable in all the hâts and bazaars in " quantities sufficient for all ordinary requirements.

"The price of rice ranges from 9¼ to 12 seers per rupee, the general rate being a little above " 10. The prices to the north are easier than they are to the south, and the highest rates " prevail in the western portions of Kubkhund. Murwa is to be had pretty freely at from 10 to " 13 seers per rupee.

"The hailstorm on the 9th instant fortunately extended over a tract of country where there " was not any great extent of rubbee.

"The rubbee crops are now being harvested and promise well."

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

Mr. Smith writes:—"I have no information as to any extensive importations, but grain of all " kinds in small quantities is finding its way into the sub-division from the Monghyr " direction."

The transport service is now working very satisfactorily, and Mr. Smith has between 4,000 and 5,000 carts working independently of the Monghyr and Bhagulpore contractors.

The remainder of Mr. Smith's narrative is entered in its proper place.

No. 1332 F, dated Purneah, the 23rd March 1874.

From W. KEMBLE, Esq., Magistrate and Collector of Purneah, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I BEG to forward herewith my fortnightly narrative for the period ending Saturday, the 21st March 1874.

A.

Private trade still continues active; prices vary; but the very coarse rice was procurable yesterday in the Purneah bazaar at 13 seers for a rupee; the less coarse at 11 and 12 seers, according to quality.

Down at Caragolah and at all the hâts in the south of the district the general price is 12 seers.

At Kusba, to which place rice is now imported from Purneah, the prices are—coarse rice (not the coarsest) 11¾, better kind 10½ seers, wheat 12½ seers.

The markets to the north are now being in a large measure supplied from Purneah.

At Arrareah prices are said to have risen considerably, but when I visited the hâts here last week I found rice selling at 10 seers. Mr. Rattray reports that it had fallen as low as 7 seers for a day or two.

Mr. Craven, from Kissengunge, reports that prices at one time rose very high owing to the difficulty of procuring carts, but that recently the difficulty had been overcome, and that all the markets were supplied by pack ponies and bullocks. The last price-current showed rice at 11 seers.

In the Bulrampore thannah, which I consider as much distressed as any part of the district, grain is procurable in the local market at 9 and 9½ seers per rupee.

At Kudba the prices have risen a little. Mr. Wyer reports that rice was last week sold here at 11 seers, janera 13 seers, makai 13 seers, kalai 14 seers.

At Belgachi, where rice had been a few days before as dear as 9½ seers, Mr. Wyer on the 12th found it selling at 11 seers, and potatoes at 20 seers, for a rupee.

I also hear that considerable quantities of seed-grain are being brought into the district from the south of the Ganges and from the north. I have lately been making special inquiries and visiting the villages myself in order to find out what supplies of seed-grain the people have; in every village I find that all the better class of ryots have a store, but not sufficient for the wants of the poorer classes who, I have directed, shall be helped, in cases where their landlords refuse to help them, by the Relief Committees and Relief Superintendents.

I am glad to report that the zemindars are now beginning to come forward. This morning I received a visit from Aga Saifulla Khan, who, in partnership with Nuckched Lall, is the largest landowner in Purneah, and whose zemindaries extend over the worst of the distressed tracts. I was informed by this gentleman, who has lately returned from Mecca, that he had sent orders for seed-grain to be advanced in all his villages, and that Baboo Nuckched Lall had joined him in this. I trust that this good example, set by a man in his position, will be followed by others.

Condition of the People.

I have not seen or heard of any cases of actual starvation, but the number of cases of distress is increasing, and would have been much larger but for the relief afforded by the Government roads and by Relief Committees.

For the last week or ten days the rubbee harvest has in most parts, especially in Arrareah and in the south, afforded employment to a large number of people; men, women, and children get paid one seer in every seven seers for plucking linseed and grain and reaping wheat; the men get employment also in ploughing for the early rice sowings, especially in bringing up the Government rice.

I consider that the employment given to carters, coolies, and owners of cattle by this last-named means, even had the carts only brought up stones, has been of immense benefit to the people.

In Dhurumpore they are certainly quite as well off as in ordinary years, as they have had a bumper rubbee crop.

From Bulrampore, Kusba Amour, some parts of Kudba and Bahadurgunge, and Arrareah, the number of persons coming on the works with their women and children shows that distress is being more acutely felt.

Mr. Rattray reports that in Arrareah a heavy hailstorm (subsequent to that mentioned in my last report) caused considerable damage in the villages of Hingna, Kupari, Purmanpur Aurahi, and Ahmudpur; assistance was being given to the people here. The rain, however, in other parts had done good; it would be of benefit to the kauni and cheena already sown, and help the sowing of murua and dhan. In Bulrampore the early "boro" dhan has been sown, but not, I think, in very large quantities; it will, I hope, make up for the want of rubbee, of which there is little in this thannah.

The mango crop continues to promise well.

The number of grain-thefts reported this fortnight amounts to 37; the value of the property stolen is Rs. 251-12-0.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received returns from Domur Hât, and find that at each market the quantity of dhan brought to market is about twice as much as was brought at this time last year. This is probably all for seed.

B.

The progress made in the Public Works Department road work, shown in the annexed report, during the last fortnight I consider very satisfactory.

The regular beldars are now drafted off from the roads in the more distressed parts of the district—Kudba, Kusba Amour, Dengra, up to the lower Koosee road, which is in Dhurrumpore, where there is no distress, and to the big north road, where the work is more important, and where there is little distress; it must be noted that on this north road but few women and children are as yet working.

The remark of the District Engineer with regard to the children on the Dengra and Turkeli is receiving attention; it is here that by far the largest number of persons have come for employment. The work has been going on for some time, and at first only a few persons could be induced to come on it. I have frequently been over this ground, and I believe that the people working now could not have been induced to handle a kodali by high wages or regular payment, and that not even the sale of grain at twelve seers per rupee would have brought them to work if they had not been in distress; without relief works in this neighbourhood the distress would have been very great; when more work is wanted here I shall repair the old Darjeeling road between Kusba Amour and Kusba. On the next road, Dengra to Bhopla (Dinagepore frontier), the arrangements are exactly the same, but the number of labourers is far less here; the distress is evidently less on the other side of the Mahanuddee at present. Further south the number of labourers on roads Nos. 7, 9, and $\frac{36}{8}$ show that they run through distressed parts of the district and afford relief. The system of payment now adopted answers well: a gang from a certain village take a tank, or two or three tanks, for which they get an advance as the work goes on; they are paid up every second day, or on completion; the same persons need not, and do not, work all day or every day, but come and go just as they please; as they appoint their own duffadar in this way, far more persons get relief from the roads than are actually shown on the returns.

The overseers tell me that those who have never before used kodalis soon learn their work, and take contract labour instead of daily wages. The order for issuing kodalis, referred to by Mr. Cordner, was passed a month ago. The total daily average on the Public Works Department roads is 7,612.

2. The second table annexed shows the number of labourers employed on roads not under the Public Works Department. These are the ordinary roads of the district, which are annually repaired by planters and Sub-Divisional Officers, and a few new roads opened in distressed parts of the district under villagers, planters, and others, as stated in the form. The total daily average of labourers on these roads is 1,258. Besides these all the Sub-Divisional Relief Officers are making numerous small village roads all over the district, which will be noticed hereafter; no returns of daily labour are received from them, but with these I should say the total daily number of persons employed cannot fall short of 11,000.

Government grain is sold everywhere on the roads, and the arrangements with the moodies work very smoothly.

Mr. Rattray pays his men in grain, and all parties prefer this mode of payment. The rate of wages has not been changed since my last report.

C.

I have ascertained from the books of Messrs. Bird and Co. that 13,303 maunds of grain have been brought into the districts *viâ* Caragolah alone since the 1st of this month by private traders.

The merchants complain of the high rate they have to pay for carts, but not of the difficulty in procuring them. In fact, in every village carts and cart-wheels are being manufactured as fast as possible.

The traffic by mean of pack-ponies, from the less accessible ghâts on the River Ganges, and from the north of the district, is still active. I annex Mr. Mulock's report on the transport of Government grain.

The stoppage of supplies at Caragolah is unfortunate, but will lead, I hope, to no bad results. Carts have been employed as far as possible in carrying grain from Purneah to out-golahs, and many of the cartmen have gone home stating that they will be glad to get a rest for the cattle; we can get as many carts as we require at a day's notice.

The main Ganges and Darjeeling road has, of course, been much cut up, but Mr. Anley has been directed to increase his agency for the repair of the unmetalled part which is most used by the carts, by putting on parties every 10 miles. This will also be a good relief work.

All along the relief roads, which are also used for transport of grain, special gangs of men are engaged in keeping open alongside the banks where new earth is thrown a passable track for the carts. This was especially required along the roads into Dinagepore,

D.

Mr. Mulock's note under head C. gives, with the fortnightly return already submitted, all the information about storage. The amount of grain sent out up to date is as follows:—

	Mds.	S.	C.
To labourers on road	4,280	20	0
To relief officer	373	26	15
	4,654	6	15

I consider that the stocks which we have already received, and which we are to have, are quite sufficient for all Government purposes, as well as for sale, under certain restrictions, to the public.

Mr. Mulock's Note.

In the past fortnight 10,891 carts have left Caragolah for the interior, carrying 62,456 bags, or nearly 1,24,912 maunds. This is an average of 777 carts carrying 8,922 maunds a day. Our average would be very much higher had the railway kept pace with our cartage, but Mr. Munro writes on the 20th to say that he has not got more than 60 bags at the ghât; at our present rate of transport we could have finished our 5th lakh well before the end of March. Our whole transport system has received a rude check by the supplies running short at Caragolah. It is very hard to pay demurrage at Caragolah to thousands of carts; and though there is an ample supply of fodder there collected by us, Mr. Munro says that the men will not stay even at the liberal demurrage rate of six annas a day without fodder, and four annas a day with fodder. I am taking advantage of this opportunity to give employment to as many carts as I can, by carting every grain stored at Purneah to out-golahs.

Mr. Hankey's new system of paying carters at Caragolah will come into operation at once. Mr. Munro has been supplied with Rs. 50,000, and I have requested him to begin final payments at Caragolah as soon as he can. He will have now to make large payments as demurrage to the carts waiting for a load at the ghât.

Up to the evening of yesterday we have carted away from Caragolah 4,24,749 maunds; of this up to the 14th, the latest date we have information of, we had sent 39,636 maunds to Dinagepore from Kissengunge, and up to yesterday 15,741 bags, or 31,482 maunds, from Dengra to Dinagepore. We have, therefore, almost completed the Dinagepore allotment of 75,000; it will certainly be completed by the 25th, when I have ordered carting to Dinagepore to be put a stop to. I have warned Mr. Lowis that his carts will be returned empty after that date.

Three new golahs have been ordered in, one at Azimgunge in Kudba, Hooti in Kissengunge, and Rudaba in Bulrampore. Golahs are being hastened on and will all be finished before the middle of April. I find it very hard to get good golahdars who understand accounts and the submission of returns, and it is very hard to get on with what we have got. I have got the golahdars at Toorkeli, Kudba, Kusba Amour, Kissengunge, Bulrampore, and Dengra to give security, but the majority of the storekeepers are mohurirs, whose maximum of remuneration should not exceed Rs. 10. They are the only men procurable in Purneah, and so we must do as best we can.

E.

The advances to zemindars for assisting their ryots with seed-grain made this fortnight are as follows:—

	Rs.
To Meer Mohamed Kazeem, zemindar	5,000
To Lalla Rukhairam	2,000
Total	7,000

To this must be added—

Amount advanced from Relief Fund to zemindars for assisting their ryots—

	Rs.
By Mr. Craven	5,500
By Mr. Wyer	14,700
Total	20,200

This latter amount was by mistake debited to the Relief Fund, but will be entered in its proper column next fortnight. This does not include advances made to ryots, of which I have not yet received a regular account.

F.

Relief officers have now arrived and have been stationed as follows:—

1.—*Sudder Sub-Division.*

Sub-Divisional Officer	Mr. Wyer.
Relief Superintendents	Mr. Perry, at Kudba. Mr. Gouldsbury, at Kusba Amour.

2.—*Bulrampore Sub-Division.*

Sub-Divisional Officer	Mr. Meikeljohn.
Relief Superintendents	Captain James, Bulrampore. Lieutenant Thornton, Dengraghât.

3.—*Kissengunge Sub-Division.*

Sub-Divisional Officer	Mr. J. A. Craven.
Relief Officers	Mr. Bertelsen, Bahadurgunge. Babu R. N. Chatterjee, Kissengunge.

4.—*Arrareah Sub-Division.*

Sub-Divisional Officer	Mr. Rattray.
Relief Superintendent	Mr. Quillet.

All these officers have joined except Babu R. N. Chatterjee, who only got his orders to-day.

Mr. Wyer, working the sudder sub-division, submits the following report:—In the course of the past fortnight the whole system of relief superintendence has been re-arranged. The Sub-Divisional Officers have now to submit their reports to the District Officer instead of the Relief Officer, and the elaborate accounts, which were issued by the Central Committee, have not now to be kept up. Before this arrangement was established I visited, as Relief Officer, the following relief centres:—Kusba Amour, Kilpara, Dengrabghât, Ranigunge, Nakah Bulrampore, Barsoe, Kudba, Mohinderpore, Belgatchi, Mahtour, and Bissenpore, and on Friday last went through ten villages along the north-east boundary of the sudder thannah. I made careful enquiries in one, and found no cases of starvation. Distress is most felt in Bulrampore and Kusba Amour thannahs, but up to the present time that is sufficiently met by the people finding employment on the relief works. In the sudder thannah the Assistant Superintendent has visited most of the villages in the Mohinderpore circle; he found that the people of those villages had been relieved by the distribution of rice at Mohinderpore, and by being employed on relief works. The people wanted seed, or money to buy seed with. Mr. D. Cruise has been granted Rs. 2,000 to distribute to them in small sums for buying seed. In the villages of the sudder thannah which I visited I found only four persons to relieve gratuitously, but in two of them—Sudbeli and Bissuntpore—Babu Mohesh Lall, at his own expense, had been relieving 42 persons since February. I lent twelve ryots 84 maunds of rice, to be repaid in Baisakh after the tobacco crop had been cut, and another, a jeth ryot, 20 maunds, to be paid for within six months. In Kusba Amour, Mr. Gouldsbury, the Relief Superintendent, visited 25 villages; he found little or no distress in any of them except one, Satta. Mr. Gouldsbury will repair an old road going from this village to Dulalgunge. Mr. Gouldsbury has started a relief centre at Arrareah, four miles north from Kusba Amour, under charge of a jeth ryot; he will station his assistant at Nundiah, a place about eight miles north of the thannah, and wishes to have another assistant to look after the villages between the Kunkai and Mahanuddee. He sent 20 maunds of rice to Ropahât, and this was eagerly bought up; he has sold rice to jeth ryots at 13 seers for the rupee, to be re-sold by them at 12 seers, but he has not sent in an account of the quantity so sold. I have been unable to obtain any assistant for Mr. Gouldsbury, but will be able to send him one on the 26th, on the return from Patna of Tejnarain, who is a candidate for the post, and who is now in for his examination for the Subordinate Civil Service. I have received no account from Kudba. Mr. Perry has been there only a few days, and so cannot be expected to furnish one. From what Babu Rojoninath tells me, and from what I saw myself, I do not think there is, or will be, much distress in this circle. I have appointed Gean Chand Mookerjee, an abkari darogah, who knows Kudba well, as assistant to Mr. Perry. The accompanying returns will show the number of people who were relieved during the past fortnight. Besides this a few seers of cotton for spinning have been distributed, and I have given out to 21 ryots, in sums varying from Rs. 20 to Rs. 100, Rs. 760 for the purchase of seed, and sent 94 maunds of rice to 14 ryots who have engaged to pay for it hereafter. I have started cleaning out a tank at Semulgachi: this will cost about Rs. 200; another tank is being cleaned out at Mohinderpore: half the cost of this will be borne by Mr. F. Cruise, the rest by the Relief Fund. I have told the Assistant Superintendent of this circle to clean out two other tanks in Bhoga and Piluaheah. No relief measures are necessary in the southern part of the sudder sub-division, since the people there continue to be well off.

F. Wyer.

In consequence of a deficiency of supply in the local markets, I authorised Mr. Gouldsbury to sell at Kotihât and also in villages where he found much distress. I authorised him to sell a supply to the villagers, giving it to the charge of the jeth ryots in the presence of the others. Mr. Gouldsbury has made a mistake in giving it to them one seer in the rupee cheaper: these terms only apply to traders. When Mr. Wyer says he has received no account from Kudba, he refers only to Mr. Perry. Babu Rojoninath Chatterjee, who has been stationed here since December, has sent in a report showing that the distress in this thannah has been relieved by him most effectually wherever it appeared. Besides the Department Public Works roads, which run right through the thannah, he has opened two other roads and distributed thread and cotton for weaving and spinning; distribution of rice on the ticket system has also been opened and a native doctor sent out who had opened a hospital. In the neighbourhood Babu Ram Chund Setya, agent for Rai Lutchmeeput Singh, has also been distributing relief in both cooked food and uncooked rice. In Bulrampore all cases of distress have hitherto been relieved by Mr. Burke, in charge of the Department Public Works roads, and Gean Chund Mookerjee, an abkari darogah, who are deputed to the spot; both these men have been visited during the fortnight by Mr. Wyer.

The roads in the sudder sub-division opened for relief, in addition to those mentioned under head B., are—

(1) Doolmalpore to Ekumbah, under Mirzah Mahomed Hussein.
(2) Kilpara to Kotihât, under Babu Hem Chunder Rai.
(3) Kudba to Laifgunge.
(4) Sirsee to Belah, under Mr. Pyne.
(5) Mahtour to Belgatchi, under Mr. Cauty.
(6) Bishenpore to Karah, under Mr. Wodschom.

Mr. Rattray, at Arrareah, has been giving village relief largely; he reports over 5,000 persons receiving it. I have warned him to be careful to see that the persons to whom his committees give their relief are proper objects of charity. He has opened a large number of village roads and tanks—41 of the former covering 96 miles, and 16 of the latter. This I consider a capital method of distributing relief. For other roads, some of which I have seen, he has advanced Rs. 975, and for the tanks Rs. 325, and estimates that 1,000 persons are relieved by this means; cooked food had begun to be distributed at Chilhunia and Toorkeli. I have visited both places; about 20 people a day are fed. They are mostly of the beggar class, who here, as well as in the other parts of the district, would die if not relieved. Mr. Craven, at Kissengunge, reports that the people will not take cooked food; he works entirely by the village ticket system, but has only relieved 335 persons, and has 147 miles of village roads under him; there is not so much distress in this part of the district, but Mr. Craven says that he is satisfied that some of the persons to whom relief was given would have died had they not been relieved.

No. 93 Ct., dated Camp Barhait, the 24th March 1874.

From J. Boxwell, Esq., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honour to submit a narrative for the fortnight ending Sunday, 22nd March 1874.

2. I am sorry to seem to be constantly making excuses. I can only state the facts, and let the inferences be drawn.

3. At 3 A.M., on Friday last, I got a telegram from the Commissioner, on which I left this within an hour and reached Bhagulpore in the afternoon.

4. I met the sub-divisional officers of Rajmehal and Godda in Bhagulpore, also summoned by the Commissioner.

5. Most of Saturday and Sunday I spent with the Commissioner; and part of the time Messrs. Grant and Stewart were with me.

6. I have now got narratives of Rajmehal and Deogurh and a report and some returns from Dumka; but I have not the Godda narrative.

7. I am, with the Commissioner's permission and orders, leaving Barhait immediately to visit the south of the district where distress has been reported.

AI.

8. Supplies have not been reported as having failed anywhere. I append an extract from the price-current:—

Place.	Wheat.	Rice, best.	Rice, common.	Bajra.	Maize.	Gram.
Dumka - - -	12	10½	11	16	16	12
Hiranpur - - -	14	12	13	22	21	20
Deogurh - -	12	11½	12½	—	16	16
Karon - - -	12	13–5	15	—	20	14
Rajmehal - - -	13	10	11–5	16	16	12
Sahibganj - -	14	11	13	17	18	15
Barhait - - -	12	11	13	16	17	—
Godda - - -	—	8	11½	15½	15	10

II.

Prices are almost stationary. The rise and fall nearly balance each other. The cheapest rice is 15 seers at Karon in Deogurh. The cheapest food is 29½ seers of bajra at Pakour.

III.

I have no information to give.

IV.

Rain with wind and thunder and a little hail has been reported from Deogurh. The rainfall at Dumka for the week ending 21st is ·31. A few drops fell here last night.

From Deogurh, it is said, the barley will not exceed three-fourths of an average crop as the ears are small. The harvest is beginning.

As I have not heard from Godda, I can add nothing to what I have already reported. There can be no change except that the harvest has also most likely begun there too. There may be some news about the cheena which was very young.

Along the Ganges I have just seen some fair wheat, barley, and ruhar. The people were hard at work reaping. I imagine, in the Bhagulpore district, there is ten times as much rubbee in an equal area, say of 50 square miles on the bank of the Ganges, as there is in this district.

The mohowa crop is said to be very bad in Dumka; it is fair in other places. The mango crop will be good; in a very few days it will be out of all danger from fog or rain.

The people all look well everywhere. Here in the Damun they are very independent and do not care to work except on their own terms.

I have heard of no misery or starvation anywhere. Grain-thefts seem not to be increasing; but a rather unusual number of bullock and goat thefts has been reported from Deogurh. Mr. Wilmot says in most cases the animals were stolen to be eaten; but he makes no mention of the nationality of the thieves.

I have no report of my own to make about any special tract, bnt I have heard uneasy rumours from the south of Sultanabad, and I have had a letter from Mr. Boerresen of Benaguria in the next pergunnah. I am going there as soon as I post this.

B.

I submit a statement of works on roads on a separate sheet. It is necessary to give a description as well.

The most important relief work now going on is the Godda and Barahat road; often mentioned as running through the heart of Manihari.

3. Mr. Grant told me on Saturday that his last day's count of persons reached 9,000, including the workmen on four tanks near the road. He did not give me closer figures. These people buy rice from the Government store at Doi. Mudis' shops have been established along the road wherever work is going on. The mudi buys from the goladar at Doi; sells to the people for coppers, with which he pays for his own quantum of rice; and the workpeople are paid with these coins; which thus run round a circle and act as counters.

4. I am urging Mr. Grant to open work on more and more tanks inside the Damun boundary. The work is of the best and most useful kind. Our greatest difficulty is to find men able to keep count of labourers.

5. Mr. Stewart reports having opened work on two tanks in his elaka, and being nearly ready to open two more. The Burhait and Sahebgunj road is going on now under his care.

6. I am myself giving work on three bandhs and two tanks in this neighbourhood. My plan is this: I collect a good number of the men of any village, with their manjhis or mustagir as they always call him. Sometimes they have chosen the site, sometimes I have. They are generally very eager to have the work done, and not very unwilling to do it themselves. I explain to the villagers that I am giving the manjhi an advance for the work, that he will pay them, and that they are to do the work. They agree; they seem to have great confidence in their manjhis. I believe in most cases the manjhis would not try to cheat them, and that he would find it very hard to succeed in doing so.

I have paid Rs. 190 in advances up to this. The work is going on well. There is not the least doubt about the workmen getting their pay, and I don't think the work will turn out very dear. There are about 60 people on each of three of the works. I don't know how many there are actually engaged on the other two. I have a few more than 200 altogether. There is no rush or anxiety. I have 8 more works marked down in this neighbourhood. Possibly there may be people at work on them all before long. In the Damun the workmen live on their own stores and what they buy from their neighbours. They are also coming a little more into the bazar than heretofore. The manjhi pays the workmen a rupee a week, and trusts to measurement afterwards to square the account. The general rate is Rs. 1-14 per thousand cubic feet; but I have promised Rs. 2-4 for a bandh where the ground is stony and the lead long. I have put a premium on this one because I want to have it done whether relief is necessary or not, and the men had left it saying the work was too hard for the pay.

8. Up to this the labourers have supplied their own tools, but I am going to get Government tools for them if I can. Their kodalis are not good enough.

C.

Mr. Wilmot reports 222 maunds of food-grain imported by the loop line between the 28th of February and the 7th of March. The private import into the district is insignificant, except to Sahibgunge for passage to the north of the Ganges. Our means of transport are sufficient for what we want.

D.

RAJMEHAL.

Our list of selected sites for storage is—

1 Patna, 2 Barhait, 3 Taljhari, 4 Bario, 5 Sahebgunge, and 6 Banjhi.

GODDA.

1 Doi, 2 Muraro, 3 Mohagama, 4 Barkope, and 5 Godda.

Golas will be finished at all these places by the 6th of next month. The gola at Doi has got most or all of its store of rice, is in charge of a goladar, and sales are being made. Golas are nearly ready at Patna, Mohagama, and Godda.

E.

The zemindar of Manihari, Babu Girindra Ghose, applied for a loan of Rs. 10,000 to spend on a multitude of petty works on his estate.

I explained to his amla that his proposal could not be accepted; but I had drawn up a modified proposal to spend Rs. 5,000 on a very much smaller number of individually larger works, and asked for the Commissioner's approval. The Commissioner directs me to stick to the rules and insist on a separate application for each work.

F.

Enclosure No. 5.

RESOLUTION.

Scarcity and Relief Department.

Calcutta, the 30th March 1874.

Read—

The fortnightly narratives of the districts of the Rajshahye Division for the period ending Saturday, 21st March 1874.

1. *Moorshedabad.*—Prices are again easier in this district, and supplies still continue ample, being augmented by the coming into the market of wheat, gram, and other rubbi grains. The early rice crop, reaped in May, is very promising; and on the whole the state of this district is not now one to cause much anxiety. The number of labourers on relief works, as given in the narrative, was from 4,100 to 4,300, all in good condition and able easily to procure food. The figures given in last narrative (2,270) were apparently incomplete. It would be convenient if the Magistrate gave the total daily average number on relief works for the fortnight instead of a long and sometimes incomplete list of works. Since last narrative four relief sub-committees have been formed in Rampore Haut, making 21 in all for this district. As yet only the old, infirm, and beggars have required gratuitous relief. The Magistrate has not reported, as he should have done, the total daily average number of persons receiving charitable relief; apparently 13 is the number at present, and the amount spent up to date on this account has only been Rs. 104-8-3. Particular attention must be given in this and other districts to the orders contained in letter No. 1251—S.R., dated 5th instant, regarding giving full information on certain heads.

2. *Dinagepore.*—The Magistrate's report is an excellent one, and on the whole re-assuring. It seems to show that there is every prospect of successfully overcoming the great difficulties which beset this district. As Mr. Lowis observes, relief measures were begun in time, and work being offered in an acceptable form, has so far sufficed to keep off starvation. The present narrative confirms the former accounts of the fast approaching exhaustion of stocks, but the sale of Government grain was authorised by Sir Richard Temple in thannahs Raneesunkoil, Hemtabad, Kaliagunj, Gungarampore, and Goraghat. The Magistrate has since been compelled to order the stores to be opened in Patiram and Patnitolla, where there has been a sudden rise in prices and alarming symptoms of approaching scarcity had shown themselves. The Magistrate is paying attention to the question of seed-grain, but believes enough will be forthcoming at the proper time. The numbers on relief works are daily increasing, being, by latest accounts, over 56,515, among whom are large numbers of women, whose coming is taken to indicate not only the pressure of scarcity, but also growing confidence in the management of the works. The way in which large works have been successfully managed without waiting for public works officers is very creditable to the administration of this district. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to believe this. Mr. Lowis is requested to state whether any other class of women have come on the works save those accustomed to field labour. The transport arrangements are working well, and the subsidiary golahs being rapidly stocked. It is satisfactory to learn that the Burmah rice meets with much acceptance. Charitable relief has as yet been hardly called for, but signs are not wanting that it will be more extensively required shortly. The circles, 14 in number, have now been laid out, and 12 circle officers are at their posts. The subordinate staff is also being fast completed. But the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that much use may be made of local volunteer agency, and that zemindars and munduls will give ready and efficient aid in relief work. The total number of persons receiving charitable relief must be given in each narrative as above ordered.

3. *Bogra.*—Prices are rising, but rice is still procurable at over 11 seers a rupee; and the Magistrate is still hopeful that actual famine may be escaped. Sir Richard Temple has raised the district allotment of grain to 2,40,000 maunds, and arranged that seven relief circles should be formed under sub-committees and special officers. The number of labourers on works at the close of the fortnight has increased to 9,686, of whom 5,436 were women and children. 660 persons are reported as in receipt of gratuitous relief in Bogra thannah alone. The returns on this point are otherwise incomplete.

4. *Rajshahye.*—The pressure in this district is gradually becoming more marked; but the want is not so much in the actual food-supply as in money among the labouring class. The roads are attracting increasing numbers, the average daily number for the first week of the fortnight being 2,414 and 5,361 in the second. It is still believed that charitable relief will be required only for those helpless poor who cannot work. Three poor-houses are open, but the numbers relieved, though not given, are said to be small. Transport arrangements are now working smoothly and well.

5. *Maldah.*—Things continue much the same here. The *boro* dhan and mango crop, if not injured by storms, are expected to do much for the people in a large part of the district. The condition of the special tract in the north-west, which is really suffering at present, has grown worse. Three relief circles have been formed there under Sir Richard Temple's orders, and regular house-to-house inspection been started. The measures taken will, it is hoped, prevent actual starvation. The average daily number on the relief works in this tract was 1,704, the number for the whole district being 3,159. They are said to be increasing fast. The average number of persons getting charitable relief was 280 per diem.

6. *Rungpore.*—Supplies at high prices show no signs of failing, save towards the south of this district. No very precise information as to the condition of the people is given in the report. It is said to be "better in some places and worse in others." Eight relief circles have been organised, of which seven are manned. Over 4,000 persons are said to be getting relief at *annochutters*, while only 3,465 are working on roads. The report is very meagre and wanting in information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

NARRATIVE of SCARCITY and RELIEF in the MOORSHEDABAD DISTRICT for the Fortnight ending Saturday, the 21st March 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

1. *Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazar.*—There is but little change to report since the last narrative with regard to the supply in the head-quarters sub-division, the markets being still supplied with sufficient food-grains for the daily wants of the people, but the stock is said to be decreasing. As heretofore, there is an abundant supply in the Lalbag sub-division. The new wheat and barley as also new grain have come into the market. The sub-divisional officer of Jungipore reports that the supply of rice in the bazar seems to have been a little augmented in consequence of the late rains and the favorable prospects of winter crops; but that this has had little effect in lowering the price of rice. In the Rampore Haut sub-division the supply is abundant in the market of Nulhatee, but scarce in the markets of Pulsa, Rampore Haut, and Khurgram.

2. *Kind and price of grain selling at one or more specified principal marts.*—The average price of common rice in the sudder sub-division is rather over 12¾ seers per rupee; it is cheapest at Nowadah, where the price is 15 seers, and dearest at Khagrah (Berhampore), where it is 12 seers per rupee. This shows a slight fall in price during the fortnight. Wheat averages 14⅓ seers per rupee, and gram is cheaper owing to the new crop coming into the market, the average price being 16¼ seers per rupee. The price of kalai, pulse, and other food-grains are all somewhat lower owing to the harvest of the rubbee crops being nearly over in some places. In the Lalbag sub-division coarse rice is selling in the city of Moorshedabad at 12 seers per rupee, but at Bhugwangolah "purbi" rice (rice from Dacca and other eastern districts) is sold at 13 seers per rupee. In the Jungipore sub-division the price of new "hoimonto" rice ranges from 11¾ seers at Mirzapore to 13 seers per rupee at Shumshergunge. The bhadoi and Dacca rice is sold at 13 and 12 seers per rupee, respectively, at the latter place, while the last-named rice is selling at 13¾ seers at Shumshergunge. Wheat is selling at 20 seers per rupee in this sub-division. In the Rampore Haut sub-division the price of fine and coarse rice is shown as under:—

	Fine Rice.	Coarse Rice.
	Seers.	Seers.
Pulsa	10	12
Rampore Haut	11	13
Khurgram	$10\frac{2}{16}$	$11\frac{13}{16}$
Nulhatee	12	14

The amun paddy of 1874 is selling at the market.

I annex a statement showing the prices of common rice in some thannahs in various parts of the district during the corresponding periods of the past three months:—

	December 19th.	January 20th.	February 20th.
Sujagunge	14	12	11¾
Goas	13½	12	12¼
Kuliangunj	14	12	12
Bhurtpore	18	12½	11
Gokum	13	12	12
Nowadah	15	13	14½
Assanpore	12½	12	11
Shumshergunge	15	13½	12½
Rampore Haut	16	14	13¼

It will be observed that in the case of thannah Bhurtpore only has there been any marked increase of price during this period. The average price of rice is, as before remarked, somewhat less than that shown in the narrative of the 9th instant, and a good deal less than in the narrative of 23rd February.

3. *Any information obtained regarding the amount and kind of grain believed to be in stock in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others.*—In the head-quarters sub-division the stock of food-grains in the hands of zemindars, mahajuns, and others is said to be about the same as in last narrative, *viz.*, 5½ lakhs of maunds, but as was then remarked this is purely conjectural. No accurate estimate of the outturn of the rubbee crops can be given, but it has been better than was expected a short time ago. The sub-divisional officer of Lalbag reports that no fresh information has been obtained on this matter, and that his opinion remains the same as before,

especially as regards the ryots. He asked a shopkeeper one day in a village in thannah Assanpore whence he got his rice from, and he said "from Kuliangunj," a thannah supposed to be one of the worst off in the district, and in which the failure of the "amun" rice crop was probably greatest. The sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut states that there is little in store in the hands of zemindars, mahajuns, and well-to-do ryots in his sub-division. I have some doubts, however, as to the accuracy of this information with regard to the well-to-do part of the population.

4. *Rainfall, if any.*—The total rainfall throughout the district during the fortnight is given below:—

Head-quarters - - - - - -	·23
Lalbag sub-division - - - - -	·9
Jungipore sub-division - - - - -	·7
Rampore Haut sub-division - - -	1·44

The rain fell on the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 17th instant. It was rather heavy in some parts of the district on the 9th and 17th, and accompanied by hailstones, which have done some damage to the fruit trees and the rubbee crops. The rain has benefited the "boro" rice crop as well as indigo and mulberry. It will also lead to more early sowings for the "aous" crop. In the Jungipore sub-division, near the Ganges, I observed sowings for the "aous" crop going on last week, and these would be more extensive were it not that the cultivators are afraid that the young plants may be scorched by the hot westerly winds.

(5.)—STATE OF THE CROPS.

The early rice crop is in a promising state, and is expected to yield a good outturn. I have seen some very fine fields, and in some the plants have come into ear. The yield of this crop in a good year is heavy, and I trust that the supply of rice in the district will be considerably supplemented when this crop is reaped in May. Indigo, mulberry, and vegetables are all in good condition, having been benefited much by the rain. The sub-divisional officer of Lalbag reports that the rubbee crops, wheat, gram, barley, moshuree, and arahar are being cut and promise a fair outturn. He saw a great deal of very fine barley being cut about Akhrigunge some days ago. In the Jangipore sub-division the spring harvest has begun; wheat is being cut. The outturn is expected to be a good one. In thannah Mirzapore, where little or no "aous" rice used to be grown in former years, some patches of "hoimonto" rice lands have been sown with this kind. The sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut reports that the late rain has done much good to the rubbee crops and "bora" paddy in Khurgram thannah, and has assisted the cultivators to plough the land for the coming sowings. The outturn of "bora" dhan will, it is expected, be fourteen-sixteenths of an average crop in this sub-division. From what I have recently heard, I believe that the outturn of the cold weather crops in the east of the district near the Ganges has been far better than was expected, and the prices which now prevail for wheat would seem to show that a good harvest has been reaped. On the whole, the prospects of the crops are very fair and promising, and it is a question whether the slight damage done to the blossoms of fruit trees by the late rains and hailstones is not rather a blessing, as in the event of a full harvest it is very likely the branches of trees would have broken down with the weight of fruits, or that the fruits themselves would not have been of good quality owing to their very abundance.

(6.)—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

There is little or no change to report in the condition of the people. The high prices of food no doubt press heavily on the poor, and in places the people of the lower classes are said to be reduced to one meal per diem. This, however, is, I think, by no means general. Mr. Dinson, of Furreedpore Filature, in the Jellinghee thannah, informs me that no relief works are necessary at present in this part of the country, the people being busily engaged in cutting and housing their "choitallee" crops, and that he cannot even get sufficient coolies for the road repairs. In the Jungipore sub-division the harvest is giving employment to a large number of agricultural labourers. During the sub-divisional officer's tour in Thannah Sooty, he learned that a mahout in a village called Bazitpore had been unable to find a sufficient number of hands to re-excavate a tank for him. Similarly on inspecting a tank last week in the Bhugwangolah Thannah, on which I had caused work to be started, I found only nine men working, and was told that there had only been a few men at work for some days, as so many labourers were engaged in harvest work. In Thannah Mirzapore and in the north-eastern portion of Thannah Sooty, where the demand for labour continues active, the relief works started in the neighbourhood have tended to alleviate the distress of people. The sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut states that the people that appear to be in want of food are principally the old, the infirm, and beggars. The Relief Sub-Committees since formed in this sub-division will, I hope, be able to meet and relieve cases of distress. Works have been started in the Rampore Haut and Nulhattee Thannahs for the labouring class of people, and other minor relief works will very soon be started in the Pulsa and Khurgram Thannahs. For Khurgaon the repairs of the Kandee road up to its junction with Badshahee road would afford employment for a good many, but the number of persons resorting to this work is by no means considerable. The necessity of starting relief works where required has been impressed on the sub-divisional officer of Rampore Haut.

7. *Actual facts as to any* known *cases of misery and starvation.*—No such case has yet come to notice.

8. *Grain thefts or robberies.*—There were ten cases of petty theft of grain in the head-quarters sub-division, which is a slight increase over the previous fortnight. None of the cases call for any particular notice. Two cases of grain theft occurred in Thannah Dewauserai, in the

Jungipore sub-division, during the fortnight. In two other cases of theft of other property the defendant pleaded poverty. In the Rampore Haut sub-division there have been three petty cases of grain theft. The sub-divisional officer of Lalbag reports of no grain theft. A crime statement is annexed.

9. *Condition of any special tracts.*—The only thing calling for notice under this head is the prevalence of small-pox and cholera in some of the villages of the Bhurtpore thannah. Cholera pills as usual are supplied to the police station and outposts for distribution to the people. Small-pox still prevails in Thannahs Shahanuggur and Assampore, and there have been some cases in Thannah Bhugwangola. In the first two thannahs Government and municipal vaccinators are at work, and application has been made for vaccinators for Thannahs Bhugwangola and Bhudreehaut. The disease still continues in Rampore Haut and Khurgram Thannahs, and the vaccinator who is employed for this sub-division has been unsuccessful in vaccinating the people owing to prejudice on their part. In both these thannahs the Hindus largely outnumber the Mahomedans, and the former are always more bigoted and obstructive in such matters.

(B.)—RELIEF WORKS.

Road from Panchgaon to Jeebuntee Bridge.—From 750 to 800 persons have been employed daily on this road; rice is obtainable in small quantities; the men are in good condition, are paid regularly at the rate of 3 annas per 100 cubic feet. Kodalies and pickaxes are supplied by Government.

Road from Radah Ghât to Gokum.—From 40 to 50 men have been employed daily on this road; rice is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid at the rate of 2 annas 6 pie per 100 cubic feet; they bring their own tools.

Road from Kasim Bazaar to Dowlut Bazaar.—From 15 to 20 men have been employed daily on this road; rice is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid at the rate of 2 annas 6 pie per 100 cubic feet; they bring their own tools.

Old Calcutta Road.—About 30 men have been employed daily on this road; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid at the rate of 2 annas 3 pie per 100 cubic feet; they bring their own tools.

Kishnaghur Road.—Three hundred men were working at the commencement of the fortnight on this road, but since the Chetinee embankment work has been started the number fell to 70; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid at the rate of 2 annas 3 pie per 100 cubic feet; they bring their own tools.

Road from Suktepore to Ramnuggur.—About 540 men have been employed daily on this road under Mr. Malcolm; food is easily obtainable; the men are in fair condition, but have to depend on the relief works for their livelihood; they are paid in cash at a rate of 2 annas per day; they bring their own tools.

Barromassia to Jellinghee Road.—About 50 coolies have been employed daily by Mr. Lang on this road; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid in cash at a rate of 2 annas per day; they bring their own tools.

Hurreehurpara to Barooeepara Road.—From 600 to 700 coolies were employed daily on this road during the first week of this report; the earthwork being completed as far as the old track existed, the men had only dressing of slopes to do; the number in consequence dropped to about 80. It has, however, risen again to 185; the men object to this kind of work, as they do not earn as much as in ordinary excavation. The men are in good condition; can obtain food easily; are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 6 pie per 100 cubic feet; the men bring their own tools.

Katlawaree to Akhrigunge Road.—About 80 men are employed daily on this road by Mr. Rogers; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas per day; they bring their own tools.

Jellinghee to Doomdapara Road.—About 70 men are employed on this road by Mr. Lang; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas per day; they bring their own tools.

Chitnee Embankment.—From 400 to 500 labourers have been employed daily on this work; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid regularly at the rate of 2 annas 6 pie per 100 cubic feet; the men bring their own tools.

Jungipore to Khamra Road.—From 80 to 100 coolies have been employed daily on this work; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 3 pie per 100 cubic feet; they bring their own tools.

Dewanserai to Jeeagunge Road.—From 40 to 50 men have been employed daily on this work; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 6 pie per 100 cubic feet; the men bring their own tools.

Joroon to Nowada Road.—About 60 men have been employed daily on this work; the supply of food is scarce; the men are in good condition; are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 6 pie per 100 cubic feet; they bring their own tools.

Dewanserai to Khamra Road.—About 20 coolies have been employed daily on this road; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 3 pie per 100 cubic feet; they bring their own tools.

Aurungabad to Pakour Road.—About 100 coolies have been employed daily on this work by Mr. Graham near Aurungabad; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas per day; they bring their own tools, *Azimgunge to Radha Ghât Road.*—About 90 coolies have been employed daily on this road; food is easily obtainable; men are in good condition; are paid at the rate of 2 annas 6 pie per 100 cubic feet; they bring their own tools.

Azimgunge to Sagordighee Road.—About 20 coolies are employed daily on this road; food is easily obtainable; men are in good condition; are paid at the rate of 2 annas 6 pie per 100 cubic feet; they bring their own tools.

Bhagirutte Embankment.—From 90 to 100 coolies have been employed daily in jungle-cutting and repairs of the embankment; food is easily obtainable; men are in good condition; are paid at the rate of 2 annas 6 pie per day; they bring their own tools.

Kandee to Badshahee Road.—About 170 coolies have been employed daily on this road; food is easily obtainable; the men are in good condition; are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas 6 pie per 100 cubic feet; the men bring their own tools.

A statement showing the expenditure on relief works carried on by the Public Works Department is annexed.

Work is going on on the Itoor tank under the Meshipore State. The re-excavation of a tank at Nobogram from funds of the Paikpara estate has also been commenced. From information received from the manager a few days ago, it appeared that there were about 150 coolies working on this tank by the preceding week's report, up to which Rs. 1,096 had been expended. Work is also going on at eleven other tanks, and on various village roads, under the supervision of residents and of sub-committees, but these works will be referred to under the head of "Charitable Relief."

In the Lalbag sub-division 89 extra coolies have been employed daily by the municipality on relief works during the fortnight, at a cost of Rs. 156-1, and the total cost up to date for relief works to the municipality is Rs. 981-12. The relief works undertaken by the municipality are clearing jungle, making a road from Topkhanna to the Himam Munzil, repairing roads about Dahapara, and excavating tanks at Amaipara, Beliapukur, and Ram Lal Akra. The municipal rate is Rs. 2 per 1,000 cubic feet of earth-work. Most of the tools are supplied by the municipality. The condition of the labourers is good. There are some further relief works under consideration.

It was intended to take up the road on the right bank of the Bhairub as a relief work under the sub-divisional relief committee, but the Executive Engineer has advised that nothing be done to this road until the question of the Bhairub embankment is settled. The sub-divisional officer has made over Rs. 20 out of the road-cess allotment at his disposal to the head constable in charge of the Burhamgunge outpost in order to erect a cutcha bridge at Nishestabagh. He has also out of this allotment had the bridge over the Bhairub at Hurrirampore repaired.

In the Jangipore sub-division the work on the Mirzapore and Monigram road is going on. The average number of persons employed daily on this road during the fortnight is about 32 The Banshabati and Hilora road was started on the 13th instant with 6 labourers, on the 14th the number of labourers rose to 50, on the 15th to 95. The Sub-Deputy Collector attached to the sub-division is superintending the work. No information has been received as to the number of labourers working on the Monigram tank. Other relief works going on in this sub-division have been noticed before.

In the Rampore Haut sub-division the road from Nulhattee to Khanpore has been marked out; about 200 coolies have been employed on this work during the 16th, 17th, and 18th instant; cash payments are regularly made at the rate of one anna nine pie, one anna three pie, one anna to each man, woman, and boy respectively. The rate of wages appears to be low as regards the men. The sub-divisional officer states that much difficulty is felt owing to the want of kodalies, for which he has made an indent. As, however, the people employed about Rampore Haut have been in the habit of bringing their own tools, there seems to be no reason why these men should not bring theirs, and his request has not at present been complied with, as the example would be a bad one. If, however, the supplying of tools appears to be really necessary they will be sent. Work has commenced on the road from road along the railway near Rampore Haut to Rampore, a Sonthal village; about 496 coolies have been employed during the past week. The labourers are paid by contract, and they earn about two annas per diem. There is no difficulty in the way of their getting supplies of food. The tools are brought by the labourers. The labourers seem to be in good condition and health. The work on the road to Naraynpore was recommenced on the 20th instant. Only 6 coolies were engaged on this work, but the number will doubtless increase soon. The deepening of a large tank in Murshidpara, Thannah Pulsa, has been commenced by Baboo J. C. Roy, and about 150 coolies are daily at work there. The work will be completed soon.

(C.)—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

The Sub-Deputy Collector attached to the Jangipore sub-division lately proceeded to Mooraroee to collect statistics regarding the export of rice from that sub-division through the Mooraroee railway station. He has ascertained from the records of the station that 16,627 maunds of rice were exported in January 1874, against 24,660 maunds in January 1873, and 7,183 maunds 13 seers in February 1874, against 24,726 maunds in the corresponding month of the preceding year. This shows a considerable decrease in the exports of the current year; but considering the scanty produce of the year, such exports naturally tend to keep up prices. It appears that 9,324 maunds of food-grains have been sent out of the Rampore Haut sub-division, and 1,035 maunds of food-grains imported during the week ending the 28th February 1874, by the East Indian Railway. It is impossible to arrive at an approximate account of private food supplies which come into the district unless regular inquiries are instituted, and even then it is doubtful whether an approach to the truth would be obtained. Judging from observations and inquiries in the district, and from the sufficiency of supply in most of the markets, there can be little doubt but that importation is going on in a more or less degree.

(D.)—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

Indent for 500 maunds of Government rice has been made for the Jungipore sub-division, and it has, I believe, arrived at Moorarooe. The rice will be stored in the Jungipore sub-divisional house.

(E.)—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

There have been 36 applications up to date in the Sudder sub-division under the Land Improvement Act. In 21 cases inquiries are being instituted; in two cases applications have been ordered to be filed for want of sufficiency of security or other reasons; in one case the application has been withdrawn, and in the remaining twelve cases orders for payment have been made on production of registered bonds, and in four cases out of these advances have been actually made to the aggregate amount of Rs. 788–13–4, half the amount applied for being advanced in one case, and one-third in three cases. The works will be inspected and further instalments given as they may be required. No advance has yet been actually made on account of purchase of grain, as the proprietors of the Aurungabad concern have not yet executed the bond for Rs. 10,000. In the Jungipore sub-division advances to the amount of Rs. 2,275 have been made to nine parties for the re-excavation of tanks, and of Rs. 450 to one party for importing grain from beyond the distressed districts. In the Rampore Haut sub-division the sum of Rs. 490 has been actually advanced for the deepening of tanks. Thirteen applications for advances have been received by the sub-divisional officer during the fortnight under report, and he will require more funds to meet these applications. In the Lalbag sub-division no advances have yet been made.

(F.)—Charitable Relief.

There is little further to report on this head as regards the Sudder sub-division than what was stated in the previous narrative. The total amount of private subscriptions raised up to date is given below—

Donations - - - - - -	Rs. 22,272
Monthly subscriptions - - - - - - -	„ 403

The amount of donations includes the sum of Rs. 1,000 paid by Messrs. R. Watson and Company, and a similar sum given by Moonshee Zillah Ruhman of Talibpore. The work of repairing the village roads of Bhurtpore has been started by the Branch Relief Committee there, and 185 persons on the average daily worked from the 12th to the 16th instant. The Branch Relief Committee of Suktipore has started work in the repair of the village roads of Suktipore, and during the nine days from the 8th to the 16th, an average of 129 persons has been employed on them. The Gokum Relief Sub-Committee has commenced the work of re-digging a tank at Rangamatty. Rs. 100 have been paid by Messrs. J. Lyall and Company, on whose land the tank is situated, towards this work in addition to what has been paid out of the Relief Fund. The repairing of the village roads at Gowas is going on under the supervision of the Gowas Sub-Relief Committee. A road is being repaired by the Sub-Committee at Katlamaree, and 40 men were at work on this road on the 16th instant. About three persons on an average daily received gratuitous relief at the hands of the Nobogram Sub-Relief Committee during the fortnight.

In the Lalbag sub-division the subscriptions have not yet all been collected, and only one member has as yet sent in a list of persons to whom relief might properly be given. A meeting will soon be held there.

In the Jungipore sub-division gratuitous relief in pice and doles of rice is given in the court-house to old and infirm people. The able-bodied are relieved by the Committee by means of wages for spinning jute, at the rate of an anna per every kutcha seer of jute spun. From the 6th to the 19th instant, 91 persons, including men, women, and children, were relieved by the Committee out of the local subscriptions; and 40 by receiving wages for spinning jute. The average daily number of persons relieved would, therefore, be about 10. Arrangement has been made for the establishment of a Relief Sub-Committee at Aurungabad in this sub-division. I have paid out of the relief fund a sum of Rs. 100 for re-digging a certain tank in thannah Sooty, and another sum of Rs. 25 for a similar purpose in another place in this thannah. In both cases I visited the villages and obtained local subscriptions. A sum of Rs. 25 has also been paid out of the relief fund for repairing a certain road in Bajitpore in this thannah in aid of the same amount subscribed locally.

The following is a statement of sums raised, realized, and expended on account of private subscriptions in this sub-division:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Monthly subscriptions promised up to date are -	69	8	0
Donations promised up to date - - - -	766	8	0
Subscriptions realized up to date - - - -	51	0	0
Donations ditto ditto - - - - - -	328	7	0
Total sum realized -	379	7	0
Spent in charitable relief up to date - - -	104	8	3
In making purchases of jute up to date - - -	53	0	0
Total sum spent - -	157	8	3

In order that relief works might be more extensively carried on in this sub-division the district relief committee have paid a sum of Rs. 500 out of the funds at their disposal for the above purpose, promising to give more in future.

Since the submission of the last fortnightly narrative four relief sub-committees have been formed in the Rampore Haut sub-division. The sum of Rs. 257 has been already realised up to the end of the present fortnight as donations for relief purposes. Places and sites at which the necessary godowns may be required were selected some time ago. The sub-divisional officer states that he does not anticipate that much will have to be done in this sub-division in the way of distributing charitable and gratuitous relief, or of establishing relief-houses for the distribution of food.

No. 477—S.R., dated Dinagepore, the 23rd March 1874.

From E. E. Lowis, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Dinagepore, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I have the honour to submit my Narrative for the fortnight ending 23rd March.

A.—State of Country.

There was a good fall of rain during the fortnight under report, which has done much good to the boro rice already planted, and has been favourable for the bhadoi.

There is no great feeling of uneasiness amongst the people generally, for the efforts made by Government to avert the calamity are patent to all, and confidence in the power of the "Sarkar" is unbounded. Prices, however, are everywhere rising slowly but surely, plainly indicating that the supply of grain is becoming exhausted. Every preparation, however, has been made to meet the scarcity; rice is coming in rapidly, and is being distributed throughout the distressed tract at selected sites where golahs have been erected. It is worthy of note that many of the mahajuns, who but a short time ago were sure that prices would not rise, and that there would be no famine, have lost their confident tone, and are forced to admit that scarcity seems impending; these men are also providing for the anticipated period of high prices, by buying in dhan, or unhusked rice, which they will probably keep in reserve till the demand for seed-grain arises: their purchases will undoubtedly be profitable to themselves hereafter, and will be also of general benefit; for dhan now purchased by villagers is generally consumed. At one or two places, more particularly in the direction of Patiram, the rise in price has been rather sudden, and had confidence not been inspired by the sight of the timely precautions taken, there would, I am sure, have been a panic. From all I can learn it appears to me that surplus stocks are coming to an end, and the beginning of April will find us, as I predicted in my earlier narratives it would, with a portion of the inhabitants at least, looking to Government stores for their rice supply. The necessity for commencing sales of rice from Government stores was discussed with Sir Richard Temple, and he was pleased to sanction the proposal. It will be seen that his view of the gravity of the situation has been fully justified by the events of the last week. Considering the high price of grain, there is wonderfully little distress visible among the people, but then it must not be forgotten that relief measures were started here at an early date, and have been in operation in different directions ever since; and it is now well known that anyone in want of work can get it. Officers, too, have been stationed throughout the distressed tract, who have brought the requirements of their localities to the notice of the authorities, and have convinced the villagers that Government is both ready and willing to help. Villagers are, I am happy to say, getting quite accustomed to the idea that relief works have been opened for their benefit, and not, primarily, with the object of making roads; and many have joined our works before having exhausted all their resources, and have therefore a small reserve at home, in the way of jewellery, to fall back upon for the purchase of seed-grain, though they now earn their daily subsistence by working as coolies. The soundness of the policy pursued by Government in sanctioning works being opened without reserve is becoming more and more convincingly demonstrated; and it is beyond question that the commencement of relief operations and consequent diffusion of money throughout the country as soon as there was any apprehension of scarcity has enabled the people to meet it with confidence and vigour. Throughout Hemtabad, Ranisonkoil, and Kaliagunge rice sells at prices varying from 8¼ to 10 seers per rupee; in Peergunge, towards Dinagepore, it sells at about Rs. 3-10 to Rs. 3-12 per maund; at Gungarampore about the same; at Patiram it has risen to Rs. 4 per maund; and in the Bhaduria or Ghoro Ghat Circle it is much the same. The largest rise in price has been at Patiram, where, hitherto, rice has been cheaper than almost any other place in the distressed tract, and where the mahajuns, a very short time ago, were almost derisive in discussing Government importations. The question of how labourers on our relief works may be enabled to attend to their cultivation was alluded to in a former narrative, and it has since engaged my attention. From inquiries made among the relief officers it was evident that our labourers include a very large proportion of small cultivators, and that many of them being dependent on the wages earned for subsistence will be unable to leave when the time arrives for sowing and planting out the winter crop. Men of this class require help, and to ensure that, assistance must be afforded to those who really require it. I suggested a plan to Sir Richard Temple which he was pleased to approve, and which I have under his directions ordered the relief officers to carry out. Each officer will enquire among his coolies which of them wish, but are unable, to leave work in order to cultivate their land. In his capacity of relief officer the relief officer is already in communication with mundals and other respectable villagers; he will have no difficulty then in discovering whether any particular coolie has land; whether he really has no one to attend to his cultivation; how long such cultivation will engage his attention, and whether such person is to be trusted to repay any advance made to him. If favourable answers are elicited, the relief officer may permit any coolie to absent himself from work for a certain period, being paid as if he were present, any money so paid being considered an advance which the ryot has to repay out of the proceeds of the next harvest. The likelihood of the supply of seed-grain being sufficient, or insufficient, for the requirements of the coming harvest, is another subject regarding which particular enquiries have been made. The general opinion seems to be that seed-grain will fetch high prices, but that it will be forthcoming in sufficient quantities. A ryot who has obtained any return from his fields will keep a reserve of seed-grain under any circumstances, but there are also many ryots who have had no return to fall back upon; for their benefit, mundals, zemindars, and mahajuns will lay in, and are laying in, stocks of seed-grain, from which they can be supplied. All ryots will not have money to purchase it is true, but those who have not will probably be able to borrow at high interest from their zemindars and others. If any remain who can neither borrow nor buy, an expansion of the system whereby they obtain the means of subsistence to enable them to cultivate their fields may well be provided to enable them to obtain money to purchase seed. The sufficiency or otherwise of seed for the bhadoi sowings will be some guide in determining whether the seed for the hoimantee crop will be forthcoming, and on this point enquiries are being made. I do not myself consider that any reason exists for Government action in the matter, as I believe that seed-grain will be procurable though it will command high prices. The sale of Government rice will certainly tend to keep seed-grain out of the market, for unhusked rice is now generally sold like cleaned rice for purposes of consumption. There will be no necessity to part with it, however, on easier terms, owing to competitions of Government stores, for the holders of unhusked rice are safe in holding back, feeling sure that a time must come when seed-grain will fetch its price, quite irrespective of the rates for cleaned rice. The purchase of stocks of seed-grain by Government is beset with many difficulties, and is a course that should not be adopted unless the necessary supplies cannot be obtained in any other way. The ryots themselves are fully alive to the importance of the subject, and the mahajuns and others are not likely to let slip so favourable an opportunity of making money.

B.—Relief Works.

Our numbers are daily increasing; by the latest accounts Mr. Jones has 21,000 persons at work, Baboo Huri Mohun Chand employs over 9,000, Mr. Scanlan 12,000, Mr. Finucane 5,000, Sub-Inspector of Patnitollah 3,000, Baboo Poorno Chunder Goopto 2,200, Baboo Hura Kalee Mookerjea 2,000 and the three Public Works Department Overseers 2,615 more; of these a large proportion are women, who now flock to our works in numbers. It was some time before their prejudices could be overcome, but at last a few women came, found they were treated with kindness and consideration, and soon the report spreading others were induced to come forward, and now hundreds are employed. When the scarcity first began it was confidently predicted by natives, as well as Europeans, that women would not come to work under any pressure of want. It says much for the existence of scarcity that they have come; it also says something for the tact and management of my relief officers. The work of digging out and cleaning tanks has been commenced in some places, and now that Sir Richard Temple has authorised our taking such work in hand, whether subscriptions are raised or not to defray the expenses, many more works of that nature will be put in hand as soon as roads now under construction are finished. Task-work is being introduced wherever it is possible, in order that any one desirous of obtaining extra pay, by working overtime, may be enabled to earn more than 10 pice per day. Some ryots wish to try and earn enough to lay by a little for purchase of seed, &c.; and to enable them to do so, and in order to equalize the rates, I have directed the following rates to be allowed: 4 annas per 100 cubic feet for stiff soil, and 2½ annas for sandy soil. These are much the same rates as are paid by the Public Works Department, and I calculate that by them a man might earn as much as 4 annas a day.

C.—Transport.

With the exception of Government rice, none is brought into the district from outside, although the internal trade by means of paikars and beparees is still brisk enough. Rice, I am told, is not now coming in from Cooch Behar, and that accounts for the rise of prices and scarcity of grain in the Rani Sonkoil direction; the supply is evidently running short, and the Government stores have only just in time been thrown open. I have little doubt that these bebarees, finding it difficult to obtain rice elsewhere, will soon take to getting their supplies from us, and distributing among the hâts in the interior; these men might be supplied with rice at 13 seers per rupee, on condition of their supplying their customers at 12. The plan has been tried of selling rice to moodies at 13 seers, who engage to sell to the coolies at the roadside at 12, and it has been found to answer admirably. I hear of the plan having been introduced by Mr. Scanlan and Baboo Poorno Chunder Goopto. One moodie was caught by Mr. Scanlan selling at over the stipulated rate; he has been punished by not being allowed to get any more Government grain to dispose of. Mr. Scanlan has tried his coolies with Burmah rice, and finds they like it very much, and are quite willing to eat it. Mr. Jones also tried the experiment with a like result. The petty dealers are being encouraged to buy from Government stores. In two days 50 maunds were disposed of at the Nekmurd Golah to small purchasers. Carts are still coming in for employment, and are being now sent on to the Godagaree line, as many as are required having been supplied for the Maldah and Dinagepore line. Manik Chuck has been abandoned as one point of receipt, and Maldah substituted in its place. Our supplies for Dinagepore and Tamboolee are now taken on by cart from Maldah, and our supplies for Raigunge partly go by boat from the same place. An effort has been made to send some carts to help Mr. Reily, in his transport from Hyatpore; there has been some difficulty, however, in persuading the carters to work out of their own district and on an unknown route. Complaints of want of fodder are heard from Raigunge, but measures have been taken to purchase and send straw for the use of Government carters. Rice is flowing in from every direction. Mr. Scanlan is getting it in from Kishengunge almost faster than he can prepare golahs for its reception. Cholera, I regret to say, broke out among the carters at Ghoraghat and some of them ran away. The native doctor at Gungarampore, whose presence was not required at that place, was at once ordered to proceed to the spot; there have been no more cases, and confidence appears to have been regained by the carters. I find that the Bogra Magistrate experiences difficulty in maintaining the transport service to Ghoraghat. Some carts have been sent to his help, and more will, I hope, follow.

D.—STORAGE OF GRAIN.

Grain is being distributed to the subsidiary golahs as fast as possible, so that grain may be on the spot should any emergency arise. The surplus stocks in the district are, as I have said, apparently getting low, and the run on our Government golahs may commence any day, so it is well to be prepared. We have not yet been supplied with scales and weights, but I believe some sets are coming. I have noticed above that sale of Government stores has been commenced to the great relief of the inhabitants of certain tracts; it has been noticed that many of the four anna and eight anna pieces paid in exchange for rice have holes bored in them, showing that they have been used as articles of jewellery. I am informed that the Bengal rice is all clean and good, that the Rangoon rice is also clean, but that the Moulmein and Akyab rice is much mixed with unhusked rice, and the China rice has more husk than any. The circle officers have been directed to employ women in husking the uncleaned rice, thereby affording congenial employment to persons in distressed circumstances.

E.—ADVANCES.

Since I last wrote, one zemindar, by name Girija Moyee Debya, has applied for an advance of Rs. 5,000; her petition has been forwarded to the Relief Commissioner for sanction.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

As I mentioned in my last report, the sum of Rs. 100 was, as a preliminary measure, sent to each relief officer, to be expended in relieving cases of distress. At first there were very few applicants, all who were able to work being on the road, and the sick, infirm, &c., being either supported by relations or subsisting on the charity of individuals. Within the last week, however, there has been a change; the enhanced price of rice and falling off in the supply have induced people to be more sparing of their liberality, and the consequence has been that more applications have been made to the relief officers. The numbers up to the latest date were very trifling, but an apprehension exists that relief operations will soon be more widely extended. We are now, I am happy to say, in a position to meet any further demands that may be made, our arrangements being now complete. A district relief officer has been appointed, who, under orders of the Magistrate and Collector, will have special charge of this department; the district has further been divided into fourteen circles, each under a separate officer, who is responsible for his own division, and who will look after all relief operations therein, whether making of roads, digging of tanks, gratuitous distribution of rice, &c., and who will report once a week to the district relief officer, who in his turn has to report to the Magistrate and Collector all that goes on. Each circle officer is instructed to obtain the unpaid aid of village munduls and respectable inhabitants in carrying out his operations; he has also the assistance of two or more inspectors who are paid by Government. Some of these inspectors have already been appointed; twelve circle officers have also arrived and been sent to their respective posts. I append a map* of the district showing the circles and the name of the officer posted in each. It may be that the operations under this head will be more extended than I at present calculate; in that case, the size of the circles will have to be reduced, and the number of officers increased. I may add that when Sir Richard Temple was here, I agreed to appoint ten inspectors, leaving the rest to be appointed elsewhere. I have, however, been obliged to appoint more than my stipulated number in order to enable all the officers to proceed to their circles and start work. We shall not have too many men if all the officers come that Sir Richard Temple arranged to have sent, even though I have exceeded my stipulated number. The high price of grain is causing some distress among the professional beggars and others to the north of the district; the distress, however, does not appear to be greater than private charity can deal with. I learn that Baboo Syámá Sunkar Chowdhry, the zemindar of Jaigunge, mentioned in a former narrative, has opened dharmasálás in two places, and affords gratuitous relief to some 140 persons daily.

* Forwarded under separate cover.

G.—FINANCIAL RESULTS.

The total expenditure up to last fortnight was Rs. 4,84,604-5-11.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received a letter from Mr. Finucane, circle officer of Patiram, the purport of which I consider it advisable to communicate at once. Mr. Finucane writes on the 22nd to say that the sudden and unexpected rise in prices is causing considerable distress, that the number of persons seeking charitable relief increases, and that the symptoms of approaching famine are daily growing more alarming. A most significant fact is also noted that the sale of ornaments, stopped some time ago by the opening of relief works, has again begun. Mr. Finucane also says that he hears that parts of Putnitola are in a bad state. I have written to Mr. Finucane authorising him to commence selling from Government stores, such sales not having been formally sanctioned for that division, and directing him to give employment to any one seeking it by opening out any suitable work. As no officer has yet been appointed for

Putnitola, I have, with the consent of the Relief Commissioner, ordered Baboo Hurrish Chunder Ghose, who had been deputed to assist in the distribution of charitable relief under the officer in charge of Gungarampore, to proceed at once to Putnitola and take temporary charge pending the appointment of some European. The state of things at Patiram is not unexpected, and finds us prepared with stocks of rice on the spot and agency to meet the difficulty. I am confident that distress, as it arises, will be met effectually, Mr. Finucane being a very intelligent active officer. I have thought it proper, however, to add this note to my present narrative instead of waiting till another falls due.

E. E. Lowis,
Officiating Magistrate.

No. 929F, dated Maldah, the 24th March 1874.

From F. J. Alexander, Esq., Officiating Magistrate-Collector of Maldah, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

In continuation of this office letter No. 768F. of the 10th instant, I have the honour to submit herewith fortnightly Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in this district for the fortnight ending with 21st instant.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Maldah District for the Fortnight ending 21st March 1874.

A.—State of the Country.

Supplies fluctuate and are not as abundant as they were, but are reported equal to the local demand at all the principal markets in the district. The wants of the central and western tracts in the way of rice continue to be chiefly supplied from the large marts of Rohunpore and Neetpore, supplemented by importations from the eastern districts *viâ* the Mahanuddy. In the north-western part of the district, large importations from Sahibgunge *viâ* Hyatpore, brought in both by ryots and local traders, have helped to meet the demand which otherwise would fall short.

Prices continued generally steady throughout the greater part of the fortnight. Towards the close of last week, however, there was a rise of 1 to 2 seers, viz. from 13 to 11 at head-quarters, owing to the run in the local importations.

In the north-west tract prices remained unchanged, viz. 10½ to 10 seers.

In the south-eastern and south-western tracts they continued fairly favourable.

In the north-eastern tract there was a tendency to rise.

The following are the latest prices of paddy and ordinary rice at the under-mentioned principal markets in different parts of the districts.

Central part of the District.

At Bulbulchandi.

Paddy	18 seers per Re. (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice	11 ditto ditto.

At English Bazar.

Ordinary rice	11 seers per Re. (80 tolahs).

North-east of the District.

At Bamongolah.

Paddy	21 seers per Re. (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice	13 ditto ditto.

At Gazole.

Paddy	20 seers per Re. 80 (tolahs).
Ordinary rice	10½ ditto ditto.

North-west of the District.

At Chançhal and Abadpore.

Ordinary rice	10 seers per Re. (80 tolahs).

At Toolsigunge and Shumshi.

Ordinary rice	10½ seers per Re. (80 tolahs).

South-west of the District.

At Turtipore, Seebgunge, Kaliachuck.

Paddy	19 to 19½ seers per Re. (80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice	12 to 2 ditto ditto.

South-east of the District.

AT ROHUNPORE.

Paddy - - - - -	20¼ seers per Re. (10 tolahs).
Ordinary rice - - - - -	14 ditto ditto.

NOTE.—At Rohunpore, on the last market day, 2,600 maunds of paddy and 1,600 maunds of rice are reported as brought for sale.

The local stocks of grain at Rohunpore and Hoojropore Nawabgunge, both large marts on the Mahanuddy, are believed to be as follows:—

AT ROHUNPORE.

Paddy - - - - -	1,500 maunds	(80 tolahs).
Ordinary rice - - - - -	6,500 maunds	

AT NAWABGUNGE.

Cleaned rice - - - -	7,000 maunds (80 tolahs).

Rainfall.

There was a smart shower of rain on the night of 9th March, 0·44 inches being recorded. After which the weather set in fair for several day with westerly winds. On the 16th the weather was again threatening, but it cleared off with only a few drops of rain. Since then it has been fine with first westerly and latterly south-easterly winds. The mornings keep remarkably cool for the time of year; the days are getting perceptibly warmer.

State of the Crops.

The cold weather crops, wheat, barley, &c., are now being cut, and a full sixteen-anna crop in some places is being reaped. Taken all round, these crops have turned out very well, and on an average there will be a full twelve-anna yield.

The cheena (millet) crop, which will also shortly be reaped, also promise a full average yield.

The reports of the "bora" dhan are generally favourable. More rain is needed for this crop in some places where the supply of water for irrigation is falling short; but as a rule the plants look excellent and promise a plentiful yield.

The mango crop is also expected to be a good one.

A severe hailstorm is now the only danger to be feared for the bora dhan and the mango crop.

There was slight hail on the 7th to 9th March, but it was not sufficient to do any injury to the crops.

The sowing of the bhadoi dhan lands has commenced.

Condition of the District.

Small-pox is still reported in places; otherwise the general health of the district continues good.

No cases of starvation are reported from any part of the district, and the state and prospects of the people generally remains much the same as reported in the previous fortnight. A great deal depends on the "bora" dhan and the "mango" crop; if these turn out well, as it may be confidently expected they will, there will I think be no cause for immediate anxiety regarding a large portion of the district. The people themselves look to the mango crop here as an addition to the food supply in a greater degree than any one unacquainted with the district would be led to suppose. No special increase of thefts.

Condition of any special tract.

Distress so far is localized to the north-west of the district (thana Khurbah and part of Gorgoribah) bordering on Purneah and Dinagepore, to which all along our special attention has been directed.

Mr. Reily, in his latest reports, received yesterday, writing of that tract, says as follows:—

"The inhabitants of the villages to the west and north of the district have begun to show signs of distress. I caused a house visitation to be made by competent persons; Lieutenant Kelly and myself taking a number of villages ourselves, so as to be able to check the reports made to us, and found that in many cases families had been reduced to one meal a day. A large number of fresh relief works will have to be set on foot, and task work done away with. I have made a list of the distressed families in these quarters, and have made arrangements to place all who are unable to work either from old age or sickness on to the charitable relief lists."

It is clear from the above that we must be prepared to have a very large proportion of the population of this tract in our hands for several months to come. So far the relief roads, which we have started throughout the distressed tract, have afforded ample occupation to those who needed it; but these roads are now almost completed. The tanks which are being dug in several places will still afford occupation for the next two months, but more tanks must be started, and village roads; and if needs be we must fall back on the old bed of the Mahanuddy and clear that out.

I am sending Mr. Reily two Inspectors, so that a thorough weekly visitation of the villages in the distressed tract may be made, and the District Committee have allotted Rs. 5,000 from the general charitable relief fund for the Chanchal circle, to meet the case of those who are unable to work from old age, sickness, &c.

Mr. Reily continues to distribute grain to his tenants in the more distressed parts, and up to date 2,081 maunds have been thus advanced. He continues also to sell to outsiders (not tenants of the estates) from the grain he has purchased from the loans granted him.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

During the fortnight work has been going on in the north-west tract under Mr. Reily on nine relief roads and six tanks. The total number of persons employed during the fortnight ending the 21st March being 18,950 men, 3,968 women, and 955 children.

It will be seen that the numbers employed have largely increased since last fortnight, and Mr. Reily anticipates that double the present numbers will require relief next month.

One of the above roads is completed and most of the others are approaching completion, and village roads and additional tanks will now have to be started to afford relief to those who need it.

Shops, where Government grain is sold at Rs. 4* per maund, have been established at all relief works under Mr. Reily, where the nearest rice shop is over one mile. The total sale of Government grain up to date at such shops is 89 maunds.

Work is also going on on the ordinary district and municipal roads, and on the other relief works noted below, irrespective of tanks which have been undertaken in several localities by private individuals.

The total daily average of persons employed on all works for the fortnight is as follows:—

—	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
On ordinary district roads	1,087	172	39	1,298
On municipal roads and tanks	56	25	4	85
On relief roads	864	110	34	1,008
On relief tanks	551	178	39	768
Total	2,558	485	116	3,159

Statement showing Total Number of Persons employed on Road and Relief Works during the fortnight ending 21*st March*, 1874.

Roads and Relief Works.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
District roads	15,231	2,413	558	18,202
Municipal roads and tanks	795	354	60	1,209
Relief works	—	—	—	—
North-western tract.				
On nine relief roads	11,236	1,465	408	13,109
On six tanks	7,714	2,503	547	10,764
Eastern tract.				
On two relief roads	877	—	107	984
South-eastern and central tracts.				
On three roads	263	75	15	353
Total	36,116	6,810	1,695	44,621

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

Private trade continues fairly active; paddy and rice in considerable quantities finding its way by the Mahanuddy from the larger rice marts to the smaller markets and bazars.

The transport of Government grain progresses. The allotments for this district and Dinagepore having been considerably increased at the suggestion of Sir Richard Temple, in consultation with the local officers, viz., Malda from 100,000 to 150,000, and Dinagepore from 1,000,000 to 1,200,000, every effort will be made to increase the carriage to meet the additional amount of grain to be transported.

The grain return prepared up to Saturday, 21st March, shows 360,310 maunds "received into the district," of which 321,656 maunds 2 seers had passed through the district, or was in transit for Dinagepore, and 26,741 maunds as "stored in the district."

By the Hyatpore route the average daily despatches since the 9th March have been 1,500 maunds. On that route Mr. Reily has 350 carts at work, and between 350 and 400 pack-bullocks, and he expects 500 carts in a few days from Dinagepore. He will then be able to carry away 65,000 to 70,000 maunds a month.

On the Manickchuck and Neemaserai route Mr. Westmacott has 542 carts at work, and his average daily despatches are 1,469 maunds.

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* Sir Richard Temple's instructions, since received, to sell at 12 seers per rupee, will now be attended to.

2.—*Gazole Relief Circle.*

	Number of persons relieved.
Gazole	93
Bamongola	6
Total	99

The expenditure was 3 maunds 12 seers 4 chittacks of rice.

3.—*Maldah Relief Circle.*

	Number of persons relieved.
At Maldah	42

The expenditure was 21 seers of rice and 3 pie in cash.

4.—*Nawabgunge Sub-division.*

Nowabgunge	9
Gomastapore	16
Kansat	166
Seebgunge	19
Shirshee	8
Total	218

The expenditure was 2 maunds 28 seers 14 chittacks of rice and 14 annas 3 pie in cash.

5.—*Sudder Sub-division.*

	Number of persons relieved.
English Bazar	511
Kaliachuck	324
Total	835

The expenditure was 9 maunds 23 seers 15 chittacks of rice 1 rupee 5 annas and 6 pie in cash.

The total number of persons relieved for the fortnight is thus 3,920, at an average of 280 per diem.

	Rs.
The total amount of local subscription up to date amounts to	6,842
Add Central Committee's grant	10,000
Total	16,842

At a meeting of the District Committee, held on the 21st instant, it was resolved to allot the Central Committee's grant as follows:—

	Number of persons relieved.
To Chanchal Relief Circle	4,000*
„ Gazole ditto	1,500
„ Maldah ditto	1,500
„ Sudder sub-division	1,000
„ Nowabgunge sub-division	2,000

Mr. Livesay, C.S., having joined, has been placed in charge of relief operations under my general superintendence.

No. 1,799, dated Bauleah, March 1874.

From W. H. D'OYLY, Esq., Collector of Rajshahye, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my narrative for the fortnight ending the 22nd instant.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

The markets still continue to be well supplied. I have only heard of a deficiency at one market, viz., at Keshore in the Tannore police-station, but there has always been a sufficient supply in the neighbouring markets. The complaints I have heard are not of a want of rice, but of want of money with which to buy it. Pressure is chiefly felt in the thanahs of Godagaree, Tannore, the north-west of Bagmara, and in the east of Singra. The people are flocking in large numbers to the road works in Tannore. I have lately visited this part of the district, and I found the men working on the road in good condition. In some places in Tannore, Bagmara, and Godagaree, ryots have been selling their cattle, but I have generally found that they keep their plough-cattle.

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* The district officer has since deemed it advisable to increase the grant to Chanchal to Rs. 5000.

Wherever there is mulberry cultivation no distress is anticipated; the coming *bund* is a very promising one. The bora dhan crop is also looked forward to as a great stand-by; it has been very extensively cultivated this year, and with great success. The road works now in hand, and those kept in reserve, will, I trust, prove sufficient to enable the ryots to pull through till the rubbee and bora dhan are harvested.

The only persons for whom charitable relief will be necessary are the helpless poor who cannot work. I am glad to say that several zemindars are now coming forward to help their ryots with advances. Prices are rising a little, as will be seen from the following quotations, viz.:—

	Rice.		Dhan.	
	S.	C.	S.	C.
Bauleah	12	0	22	0
Nattore	12	12	22	0
Singra	16	0	30	0

There have been no cases of starvation, and no cases of robbery or dacoity. The whole of the increase in crime is in petty offences.

B.—RELEIF WORKS.

In the Tannore jurisdiction the number of workmen has greatly increased. The old track from Bauleah to Mandah is is good order, and is being used for the transport of rice to Putneetolla. We have therefore not been able to do much earthwork on it; but from Nowhatta it takes a sudden bend and runs eastwards along the Baralooee, and crosses this river at Nukrazee ghat. This is the only water to be crossed between Bauleah and Mandah; the ghats have been improved, and I have had to put on two boats, as the ferrymen took away their boats (it was a zemindary ferry).

To make the road shorter and better we have made a new road from Nowhatta to join the old one, about 5 miles north of Nowhatta, and this is the bit of work that has attracted over 4,000 labourers. Wherever scarcity of water is complained of along this line, I have had wells sunk; and where there are hollows near the line of road, they have been improved and made into small tanks. The villagers are delighted at this. The Executive Engineer is now going to mark out work on the feeder road from Tannore, and this will give employment to a very large number of labourers when the five miles of road above referred to are completed. For the distressed portion of the district in the Singra thana, near Koegaon, Runbagha, and Kathoom, I have directed the Deputy Magistrate of Nattore to commence work at once on the part of the Bogra road passing through those villages.

C.—TRANSPORT OF GRAIN.

The means of communication by which grain is brought into and through the district have been better than I at first expected. The Baralooee river has been the saving of a great portion of the district. Running from the Tannore beel past Nowhatta, and thence westwards right through the centre of the district, it joins the Attrai near Bagsur (seven miles north-east of Nattore). This river is open still for large boats, and the gunges all along it have been well supplied with constant importations. The cart-traffic has been almost altogether monopolized for the transport of Government rice.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

From the statement annexed it will be seen that the transport of Government grain has much improved. We can forward 10,000 maunds daily from Godagaree. The Railway returns, I am afraid, do not show total receipts and despatches up to date, but only for a period. I have asked the several storekeepers to report on this.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

	Rs.
Advanced up to the date of last narrative	29,600
Advances in course of last fortnight:—	
Under Land Improvement Act	7,950
For advance to ryots	3,700
For purchase of grain	2,600
Total	43,850

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Mr. Manisty has established three poor-houses at Separa, Chowbeesnuggur, and Tannore, but only the infirm and helpless poor are fed gratuitously, and of these I am glad to say the number is yet small.

No. 9, dated Rungpore, the 23rd March 1874.

MEMORANDUM by E. G. GLAZIER, Esq., Officiating Magistrate, Rungpore, forwarded to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL.

NARRATIVE of SCARCITY and RELIEF in RUNGPORE DISTRICT for the Fortnight ending 21st March 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

The supplies of rice have become somewhat less plentiful towards the south. At Kalligunge the falling off is supposed to be temporary owing to the prevalence of adverse westerly winds, but down in Govindgunge direction it is feared that the Dinagepore and Bograh supplies may be coming to a close, and prices have risen to Rs. 4-8 a maund, 80 tolahs' weight. Mr. Damant has taken charge of his relief sub-division there, and will commence selling the Government stores if occasion arises. I have allotted 50,000 maunds for that thannah, and there will be reserves of 15,000 maunds at Gyabunda, and 50,000 maunds at Kalligunge, to be drawn on as necessity arises, if my allotment of the three lakhs of maunds meets approval. The supplies elsewhere are well maintained, and imports come freely from Cooch Behar and Julpigooree. Mr. Khan, relief officer, made some enquiries lately in Kamargunge thannah, Swaruppore pergunnah, and found one jotedar who had 20,000 maunds of paddy in store. He rode over a fine rice plain, where there had been a full crop even last season, and it is said that a lakh of maunds was harvested, half of which is still in the hands of the people. The rest is in Hubrah, the head-quarters of the zemindary, and this rice comes back to us for sale in the markets from that place. I do not see any cause to anticipate any failure in the continuance of supply anywhere, but possibly in the south-west corner of the district; but organised enquiries as to the amount of importation are being set on foot to get more definite information regarding importation in all the principal markets, and the results will be from time to time reported. New pulse and kawn have come into the market at Sundergunge, and mustard-seed is still freely brought for sale in places. Except down at Govindgunge and Pirgunge, the prices are somewhat easier, ranging from Rs. 3-6 to 3-12 along the eastern half of the district, and Rs. 4 to 4-8 along the western border, all of 80 tolahs' weight. The local price is very little criterion of the state of the people; for at Swaruppore, where the large stocks I have referred to are found, the prices ruling are 6 to 7 pice a seer, or Rs. 3-12 to 4-6 a maund.

The following are market quotations:—

		Seers.	Chittacks.
		of 80 tolahs.	
Mahigunge Nowabgunge	per rupee	10	14
Bhowanigunge	„	12	13
Nisbetgunge	„	10	10
Polashbari	„	10	9
Molung	„	10	0
Sundergunge	„	10 to 10-8	
Dimla	„	12	11
Olipore	„	10 to 10-8	

No rain has fallen since the heavy hailstorm on the night of the 7th instant, which damaged the tobacco crop in places. The condition of the crops is good throughout the district. The potato crop, especially to the north, has been a bumper one, and people are freely resorting to it as a food-supply, and nearly half of our *annachatra* doles consists of this kind of food. Tobacco is being gathered, and, despite partial damage by hail, is fully up to the average; wheat is everywhere favourable, and is being harvested; so is kalai. Cheena and kawn are progressing well. The aus rice is being sown everywhere on the loamy lands, and in many places is sprouting well and is being weeded. No deficiency of seed has been reported in any direction. The red clay lands in the west and south-west of the district have not yet been broken up, and operations on them will be considerably later. The condition of the people is better in some places and worse in others. The Deputy Magistrate of the sub-division has visited Kamdiar Hat, and reports the condition of the people there as somewhat worse, though the price of brass utensils and silver ornaments in the markets has risen. The numbers at work on the road there went over 400, but have fallen again lately according to latest returns. Mr. Damant has now charge of Thannah Govindgunge as a relief sub-division, and I have given him instructions on the subject of making advances, adverted to in paragraph 6 of the Government Resolution on the last fortnightly report. A commencement will be at once made. Eight relief divisions in all have been organised in consultation with the Commissioner and under instructions of Sir Richard Temple, of which seven have been manned. The state of Molung remains much the same; the Relief Officer has it well in hand. Sundergunge is better, and Borobari very much so. In the latter place the people come more freely to the road works than anywhere else, there being nearly 700 working on one road. The people who come are the cultivators, who will work hard one day on the road from dawn to dusk and the next on their own fields, or will do their own field work first and finish up by a good day's work on the roads. The explanation, I think, is that they are Rajbungshis, and take more readily to this kind of work than the Mahomedan cultivators of the rest of the district.

The condition of Mahigunge Thannah is less favourable. The most distressed portion has been taken in hand and sufficient relief afforded, but the jurisdiction is very extensive and distress is spread very much over the whole area. I intend to work through it myself this week, and I shall see that sufficient assistance is given to the Relief Officer to enable him to overtake the whole work. There was a report received of a death from starvation in one part of this thannah, and I went to the spot two days ago, but the case was that of an old woman of 80 years of age who died of disease, doubtless in some measure aggravated by privation, for numbers have now to content themselves with one meal a day. The Relief Officer also found two women who were much reduced by starvation; he relieved them and they recovered.

No grain-thefts are reported.

B.—Relief Works.

The number of relief roads sanctioned has been increased to 49, but all are not opened yet; some are kept in reserve to be taken up as others are finished. The labourers at work remain much the same in number. The return of the roads is given at the close.

Very little of the Government rice has been disposed of to the coolies, as the local prices are generally under the rate of Rs. 3-12 a maund. Sales are made at Pirgunge, and have commenced at Govindgunge. The labourers are paid regularly.

C.—Transport of Food.

The imports of 2,000 maunds of rice are reported up the Teesta and Dhurlah, and 3,500 maunds on account of Maharani Swarna Moyee have been stored at different places. Transport is proceeding without block. The number of carts continue the same, but they are being collected now from all parts of the district to bring up the increased allotment, and pack-bullocks will probably be employed.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

Maunds 3,00,000 have now been allotted to this district. It is proposed to be thus distributed to the relief division:—

	Maunds.
Govindgunge	50,000
Pirgunge	25,000
Sadullapore	15,000
Sundergunge	10,000
Molung	40,000
Mahigunge	30,000
Kamargunge	5,000
Durwani	5,000
Borobari	25,000
Chillakhal	20,000
Rungpore	10,000
Gyebunda	15,000
Kalligunge	50,000
Total	3,00,000

A complete list of the golah sites will be furnished later.

Accommodation is ready for 1,25,000 maunds, and the provisions of the remaining accommodation will be pushed on with vigour.

The following is the account of receipts and despatches:—

Receipts.

	Maunds.
Previously received	79,401
March 8th—By country boats from Naraingunge	410
Ditto Ditto steamer *Prince of Wales*	20,855
Total	1,00,666

Despatched during the Week.

Chillakhal	3,000
Kooreegram	*Nil.*
Panialghat	7,003
Koolaghat	5,000
Rungpore	1,000
Gyebunda	1,010
Pirgunge	1,040
Naldanga	1,190
Gobindgunge	420
Pairabund	*Nil.*
Kamdiar Hat	1,410
Sundergunge	1,000
Sadullapore	450
Molung	320
Alaikoori	830
Total	23,673
Previously sent	65,007
	88,680
Balance	11,986
Grand Total	1,00,666

Besides the above about 5,000 maunds are being unloaded from the Dacca boats, and about 24,000 from the steamer *Prince of Wales.*

The amount stored in golahs amounts to 59,604 maunds. The grain golahs at Mahigunge have been burned. Last night a large fire occurred in the Mahigunge town, and there was a high wind blowing, so that the flames leaped from place to place over great intervals of space, and the grain golahs caught. The amount stored is 5,500 maunds of Government rice and 1,260 maunds belonging to the Relief Committee. I was at the place this morning. It is still burning, and, as far as I can see, very little, if any, of the rice will be saved out of heaps of burning refuse. A special report will be sent. Some 1,000 to 1,500 maunds will be saved.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

A large number of advances has been taken by private parties:—

	Rs.
For purchase of grain	7,500
To zemindars for advances to their ryots	55,700
To jotedars and others	600
Add advances sanctioned but not yet taken out	30,000
Total Rs.	93,800

Other zemindars are coming forward with applications. It is generally understood now that the Government expect the zemindars to take advances for their ryots, and the best proof I can give of that is the article translated from the *Amrita Bazar Putrika* in this week's report on native papers, where a zemindar writes complaining that I am forcing the zemindars, rich or poor, *nolens volens*, to take the advances. The Kakenah zemindar has taken 15,000 for his ryots, and many of the largest zemindars are advancing large sums without having recourse to Government loans.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

The number relieved at *annachatras* is now over 4,000. I cannot give exact figures in this report, but by the next I hope to have regular returns from the Relief Officers.

At Rungpore there are four private *annachatras* and one Government one. One case of keen distress has been referred to above, and many cases of unrelieved want are found by the Relief Officers on their inspections, and supplies of food are given to last a fortnight at a time. More details will be given in next report. Forty-eight maunds of cotton have been given out in spinning relief, which have relieved about 1,900 women.

	Rs.	A.	P.
The total subscriptions realised up to date are	10,023	0	0
Government subscription	8,500	0	0
Total	18,523	0	0
Expenditure	8,562	10	0
Balance	9,960	6	0

No. 1208, dated Bogra, the 23rd March 1874.

From C. A. KELLY, Esq., Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Bogra, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honour to submit the Fortnightly Narrative as follows:—

NARRATIVE of SCARCITY and RELIEF of the DISTRICT of BOGRA for the Fortnight ending the 23rd March 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Prices are rising, and at some of the marts have risen so high that I may probably soon open some store-houses of Government rice for sale to the labourers on relief works. This rise in price may be taken as indicating a certain amount of scarcity in supplies. Ordinary rice at Bogra was selling on the 21st at 11 seers 4 chittacks of 80 tolas per rupee. At Sultanganj 12¾ seers, and at Dupchanchia 11 seers 8 chittacks:—

	Maunds.
At Sultanganj	1,500
,, Dupchanchia	10,000
,, Hili	7,000
,, Burigunge	4,600
,, Kichak	3,600
,, Bogra	1,100

has been reported as in the hands of traders and petty dealers up to about the 21st instant. No rainfall this fortnight at the Sudder Station. The cutting of the mustard crop has been finished, and a 13-anna or 14-anna outturn has resulted. A 12-anna or 13-anna crop of sugarcane, which has not yet been completely reaped, is estimated. Other cold-weather crops, such as matar, khesari, in other parts are reported as fair. My remarks in the last Narrative with respect to the condition of the people may be taken in the main as repeated now. I still trust, without wishing to express a too confident opinion, that we may escape actual famine, but no doubt the condition of the people requires careful watching, a plentiful supply of labour as near at hand as possible, and charitable relief to a certain extent. Steps have been taken to attain these objects. The relief meeting referred to in my last Narrative was held on the 18th, and Rs. 1,190 was subscribed and promised. We have also received a liberal grant of Rs. 5,000 from the Central Committee at Calcutta, and are thus well supplied with money, for the present at any rate, especially with the double aid afforded by Government. I am aware of no cases of misery or starvation calling for special report. Help has been given to incapable persons in need. Seven grain-thefts reported during the fortnight. Among our bad tracts may be specially mentioned a large part of Bogra thanah, the country about Dupchanchia, and from it to Shanamukhi, Khetlal thanah, and the country in the north near Hili. Mr. Nugent, the new Assistant Magistrate, is now at Bogra thanah, and the Sub-Inspector is, and has been, doing good work. A Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Govind Kant Bidyahbushan, is in charge with instructions at Dupchanchia, and an intelligent Inspector* is in charge of Khetlal; and instructions have gone out to another Inspector with regard to the country in the north. Money has also been supplied. I have lately visited Khetlal, Panchbibi, and Badalgachi. In the latter thanah, which is almost all poli land, people seem to be doing very well. I trust that the Railway Engineers will, as soon as possible, prosecute the road between Dupchanchia and the railway referred to in my last Narrative. I have not yet heard of this measure having been taken. I have to-day, March 23rd, heard that the construction of this road will be at once proceeded with.

* He will look after Seebgunge also for the present.

B.—Relief Works.

I annex a list of lines of relief roads, with the number of labourers on the 21st March 1874 on each:—

——	Men.	Women.	Children.
1. Shariakandi road	43	150	224
2. Sultangunge „	886	1,140	228
3. From Seebgunge towards Ghoraghat	100	—	—
4. Matidali road	200	128	41
5. Seebgunge road	708	—	—
6. Nungola „	23	107	391
7. Nasipur „	573	—	—
8. Dupchanchia road	425	1,006	187
9. Serpur „	240	92	80
10. Dinagepore „	602	773	803
11. Burigunge „	150	—	—
12. Shonamukhi „	229	17	23
13. Tank at Fuldighi	71	—	46
Total	4,250	3,413	2,023

Lines of road have also been laid out between Sultangunge and Nasipur and Shonamukhi and Dupchanchia. We are now authorised to work on tanks also—a seasonable measure. One tank is already being worked upon. I have already referred to high prices in certain parts in the bazaars whence labourers are supplied, and we may probably soon have to sell to the labourers in Bogra and Khetlal thanahs. I need not report any further as to the tool supply. 3 annas 6 pie per 1,000 cubic feet for men on hard and dry land, 3 annas for men on ordinary land, 2 annas for women, and 1 anna for children, are being paid.

C.—Transport of Food.

The reports received show importation of 12,500 maunds of rice from Pubna, Dacca, and Mymensing district, by way of the Daokoba and Bangali rivers; 300 maunds of rice and 400 maunds of paddy from Rajshahye by carts. I have already mentioned in my previous Narrative that we want as many carts and boats as possible from Rungpore and Dinagepore, in order to send on the Ghoraghat supply of rice. I am aware of no block on the transport routes.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

Places of storage previously reported upon. It may be mentioned in addition, however, that orders have been given to secure a large amount of storage-room at Shariakandi, and for a new store-house at Gohail. Amount of Government food-grain received up to the 21st March 1874 is 30,009 maunds rice and 16,200 bags (quantity not yet reported). We have not yet used any of our food-grain.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

Two loans of Rs. 500 each have been made to respectable persons willing to assist their tenants. Another loan of Rs. 400 has been made to-day, the 23rd. A few other applications of a similar nature have been received and will be disposed of when the necessary requirements have been fulfilled. Some more such applications have since been received and will be disposed of.

F.—Charitable Relief.

As previously reported, relief on the private system has been carried on, but we now require more extended operations. I have already mentioned that I held a meeting on the 18th, and that our resources have been considerably strengthened by the Rs. 5,000 sent by the Central Committee. The amount we may reckon as at present at our disposal, including anticipated doubling by Government, amounts to above Rs. 14,574, which is sufficient, so far as can be seen at present, for our operations for some little time to come at any rate. A report of our meeting is being sent up. Aid will be given to persons unable to work on the relief works by cotton and jute spinning. This, indeed, was previously done to a certain extent in Bogra thanah. Officers are being put in special charge of the worst tracts and supplied with money. Village visitation will be undertaken, and help afforded according to the circumstances of the case. Should circumstances appear to demand such a step, we will start relief houses; but it was considered in the Committee, with my entire concurrence, that as far as possible village relief was preferable to the system of bringing people away from their homes into poor-houses. I am going to send up a few additional Committee names to the Relief Commissioner.

With reference to No. 1251—S.R. of the 5th March 1874, I may remark that members of the Committee have been chosen in each thanah. Those resident in out-thanahs may be considered as members of Sub-Committees, and those resident in Bogra thanah as members of a Central Committee. On this principle (for we have no sub-divisions) we may be considered to have one Committee and seven Sub-Committees.

Statement showing the Progress of Charitable Relief in the District of Bogra.

No. of Committees and Sub-Committees as yet appointed.	No. of special Relief Sub-Divisions opened and officered.	No. of regular Relief Circles opened and manned by special Officers.	No. of Relief Circles opened and managed by Planters, Zemindars, and other Residents.	No. of Workhouses or Centres for the distribution of Food and gratuitous Relief.	No. of Men, Women, and Children (with total) in receipt of gratuitous Relief in any shape through the Charitable Relief Organization daily; this should include People employed or relieved by the Relief Committees or Relief Officers under any of the Heads "Instructions."
One committee and seven sub-committees.	- - -	Four - - -	None - - -	None as yet - -	660 persons are reported from Bogra thanah. I hope to give information on this head more fully in future Narratives. We have only started Government relief very recently.

I may mention, with reference to blank heading No. 2, that we have no sub-divisions; but money has been sent out for relief purposes to all the thanahs. Under No. 3, I have entered the four bad tracts above referred to put in special charge of officers; under 6, the total number that I have obtained with regard to Bogra thanah. This heading is imperfect this time, and I am afraid it will be difficult to fill it up very completely in future Narratives. I shall, however, take steps to obtain information on the point. It will be seen that the number of labourers employed on relief works has largely increased, and a still further increase may be expected. I am anxiously hoping for a fair supply of rain in April, which no doubt would be of great service. Common rice was selling at 12 seers yesterday, March 22nd, at Bogra,—a slight improvement.

Sir Richard Temple and Mr. Robinson have visited the station, arriving on the night of the 18th and leaving the next afternoon. I met them in the interior, and relief matters were discussed. I may mention in conclusion that a bad report has been received from the officer in charge of landing arrangements with regard to a consignment of 5,000 bags of rice recently received from Calcutta, some of which were found half empty and containing husks as well as rice, and some rat-eaten. Mr. Toynbee has been addressed on the subject. All this rice should be carefully examined before it is sent to us from Calcutta.

Enclosure No. 6.

RESOLUTION.

Scarcity and Relief Department.

Calcutta, the 30th March 1874.

Read—

The fortnightly narratives for the Burdwan Division with the Commissioner's covering letter No. 328, dated 25th March, being for the period ending March 21st.

1. *Hooghly.*—Prices have again fallen in this district, and common rice is nowhere dearer than 12 seers a rupee. There would seem to be good deal of pinching among the poorer classes, but there is as yet no great rush in search of employment on roads. The number of persons for whom work is found by Government is 1,920, while 9,244 are employed by private persons. Among these are, however, included 1,100 brick-makers at Kotrung and other brick-fields. Charitable relief is given to 346 persons daily in some shape or other, and the number of

destitute persons is said to be increasing. The three deaths at Serampore have been separately dealt with.

2. *Burdwan.*—It seems now to be tolerably clear that Boodbood is the worst sub-division of this district, and distress has already shown itself there. The people are unwilling to go far from home to work on roads. The Collector should see if he cannot get zemindars and others to undertake more tank work, and he must himself start a sufficient number of roads. He ought not to have waited for formal sanction to a further grant of funds before beginning works really required. The daily average of labourers in the district is now 2,097. The accounts given of what is going on in the way of charitable relief, and for the help of the weaving class, are interesting and satisfactory.

3. The Accountant-General will be directed to propose some reasonable relaxation of the Sub-divisional Treasury Rules to meet the difficulties described in the Commissioner's 14th paragraph.

4. With reference to paragraph 17 of the Commissioner's letter, and to paragraph 8 of Mr. Whinfield's Burdwan narrative, it seems necessary to state precisely how matters stand. The Magistrate-Collector reported that the dealers were charging " in some places prices very much in excess of the market rates," and he recommended that 4,000 maunds of rice should be imported " for sale at market rates " in certain tracts, and he explained that such action would " tend to bring the modees (grain dealers) to their senses." When forwarding the Magistrate-Collector's letter, the Commissioner observed that " the natural effect of the Government intervention is to discourage the operations of regular traders in grain." At the same time the Commissioner presumed that the Magistrate-Collector's indent would be forwarded to the central committee for orders. On this the Lieutenant-Governor remarked that the relief committee's proceedings did not make it clear that they wished to purchase grain, that it would be in direct contravention of Government orders for the Magistrate-Collector to import and sell Government grain with the view of " bringing the dealers to their senses ;" at the same time the Lieutenant-Governor said that if the Burdwan relief committee desire to buy rice for themselves in the Calcutta market they can do so.

With reference to what is now urged by the Magistrate-Collector, the Lieutenant-Governor would point out that, if the people in Boodbood and the tracts thereabouts are badly off and are in distress because they cannot afford to buy food at its present price, then there is a clear case for the intervention of the relief committee. The committee can, acting under " Instructions for Relief Committees," either advance grain on loan, or sell it at favourable rates to indigent people, or distribute it gratis or in return for light-home labour, or they can distribute cooked-food. But unless the operations of ordinary trade in Boodbood are absolutely at a stand still, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot consent to Government officers selling Government grain to the public of that tract. If for some reason or other, such as the failure or absence of local capitalists or difficulties of transports the local grain trade is very dull, the Lieutenant-Governor would be ready to sanction advances for the purchase and importation of grain into Boodbood. It is difficult to believe that at a place on the Grand Trunk Road only two or three miles from a railway station there are no local capacities for the development of a private grain trade.

5. *Howrah.*—Mr. Grant's report consists only of a few lines saying, things continue as before, and there is every hope of there being no distress in this district.

6. *Beerbhoom.*—There is no present sign of starvation, but 2,237 persons are on the roads, and 680 are daily receiving charitable aid, the latter being chiefly beggars and such like.

7. *Bancoorah.*—Here a large number (2,650) of persons have come on the roads somewhat suddenly, and it seems clear that in Moheshra this form of relief was postponed too long. The Lieutenant-Governor begs that the Commissioner will see that enough facilities for work are now being given wherever required. About 320 persons are on charitable relief.

8. *Midnapore.*—The narrative for this district was received very late, with a separate covering letter from the Commissioner. It appears that special enquiry in the Jungle Mehals has shown that there is no present want of food there, and that supplies are coming in from Singhboom. There is some distress among the weaver villages transferred from Hooghly, but the relief committee is meeting this. The Lieutenant-Governor did not contemplate sending out prisoners from the jail to teach jute-weaving, and this cannot be allowed. Some villages are said to be suffering from fever, and gratuitous relief may be required there, but this should come from the Fever Fund and not from famine subscriptions, if it be true that there was no actual failure of crop in these villages.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 328 T, dated the 25th March 1874.

From C. T. Buckland, Esq., Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

In continuation of this office No. 238 of 11th instant, I have the honour to submit the district narratives for the fortnight ending 23rd instant. As the narratives are sent in original, I have to request that they may be returned, or that printed copies of them may be sent to me.

2. *Hooghly.*—The Collector commences his report by explaining the arrangements which he has made for engaging the Magistrate of Howrah on the public works to be executed in the

Howrah portion of the Hooghly and Howrah road cess district. The result of this arrangement will be seen hereafter.

3. *Prices.*—There has been a further fall of half a seer or more in the price of rice in every mart except Boidyabatty, where the price had previously fallen to 14 seers for the rupee.

4. The Collector, in paragraph 7 of his letter, has given some information as to the stocks and imports of grain, but it seems to me doubtful if the inquiries which are being made on this subject, apparently through the police, are not in excess of the inquiries permitted under Circular Order No. 90 of 20th December 1873, and the information furnished is so indefinite in some respects that I think it would be best to dispense with it.

5. In paragraph 10 the Collector gives the numbers of persons in several thanas who are stated to be suffering from want. The expression is vague, and it is not explained how this information is obtained.

6. A special report is submitted with my No. 319 T, dated 24th instant, regarding the three cases of starvation reported in paragraph 15. The conduct of the Barrackpore authorities in sending moribund persons over to Serampore will doubtless form the subject of an inquiry by Government.

7. The number of persons employed on relief works]in the Hooghly district appears to be as follows:—

On Government road works - - - -	1,920
On private works - - - - - -	9,244
Total - - -	11,164

8. The persons employed at jute-mills are rightly excluded from the above enumeration, and I think that the 1,100 brickmakers ought not to have been included, especially at Kotrung, where the Calcutta municipal brickfield is situated. It is very satisfactory to (see how much the number of persons employed by private individuals exceeds the number of those employed on Government road works.

9. With reference to paragraph 23 the Collector will be instructed to obtain the figures of imports and exports of grain at the several railway stations from the officers of the East Indian Railway Company.

10. The figures given by the Collecter under the head of "Advances to Private Parties" require to be explained. He has apparently included in the head advances not made under Act XXVI. of 1871. The advances made under that Act appear to have been Rs. 11,031 during the fortnight.

11. Under charitable relief, the Collector has omitted to send the statement required by the orders 1251 of 5th March, and he has been called on to submit it. The sub-committees are giving relief to a daily average of 43 men, 127 women, and 70 children; while the police are giving relief to an average of 70 persons. Thirty-six other persons were relieved from serais. This statement is not sufficient. Persons relieved by the police should be made over to the nearest sub-committee, and it should be arranged that each serai should be under the management of a sub-committee. No information is given as to the daily, weekly, and fortnightly expenditure on charitable relief.

12. *Burdwan.*—In this district I regret to say that distress is showing itself in a portion of the Bood-bood sub-division, especially in the angle formed where the lines of the East Indian Railway diverge at Kanoo Junction. The Collector reports that in some villages rice was sold last week at 10 seers for a rupee, but I am informed that the price has since fallen there. In Cutwa the reports are more favourable, and in Culna there is only an apprehension of distress. In Jehanabad the sub-divisional officer reports that even beggars get a seer of rice a head every day. In Raneegunge the sub-divisional officer reports that there will be distress among the very few weavers who live there "by-and-bye." In the Sudder sub-division the report is that the supply of rice is abundant.

13. Relief works have been carried on extensively in the district roads, but it appears that there is only a daily average of 2,097 men thus employed under the officers of Government. In some places there is no demand for works, and in Bood-bood the people are reluctant to go to any distance from their villages to obtain work.

14. Under the heading "Advances to Private Persons," I beg to call attention to the Collector's remarks regarding the difficulty caused by the rules of the Accountant's Department in obtaining payments of advances at sub-divisional treasuries. When I was at Burdwan about two months ago I noticed the delay in making these payments, and I instructed the Collector to place Rs. 3,000 at the disposal of each sub-divisional officer to enable him at once to make payments for advances under Act XXVI. of 1871, which the sub-divisional officer can sanction under the revised rules, up to the amount of Rs. 250 in each case. I found the Raneegunge sub-divisional officer entertaining scruples about the rules of the Accountant Department, and hestitating to make these payments; and thus it turns out that payment has been delayed. The sub-divisional officer is empowered by Government to sanctioned advances up to Rs. 250. I authorise the Collector to supply the sub-divisional officer with a sum proportionate to his requirements. But the Accountant's rules interfere, and payment cannot be made until a bill has been sent to be enforced by the Collector, who must necessarily depend on the signature of the sub-divisional officer for the validity of the document.

15. Under the head of "Charitable Relief" much more has been done than is to be inferred from the Collector's report. Five food depôts have been opened and are at work in the Bood-bood sub-division, including an *annochatra* which the Rajah is establishing at Bood-bood. Charitable sub-committees have been organised in the Bood-bood sub-division, ten in each thana, and the sub-divisional officer promises to send in their names to-morrow. The reports from the sub-committees organised in the Sudder sub-division have been laid before me by Baboo Bogalanund Mookerjee

to-day, and my special assistant has gone out to make inquiries in a village where complaints of distress are made, but which are not believed to be well founded. Sub-committees, ten for each thana, have been organised throughout the district, but the other sub-divisions have not yet sent in their names. The sub-divisional officer of Cutwa is remarkably energetic in his efforts at providing reproductive charitable relief, and his proceedings are thus very economically conducted. He has obtained a quantity of paddy, and given it out to be husked by women who do not appear in public, and this system is succeeding well; but the Collector does not expressly refer to it. Altogether Rs. 1,075 has been advanced for food depôts, and 1,250 to the weavers, and more money has been given yesterday and to-day. It will be seen that the weavers are bringing in the produce of their work. I have advised the Collector to have their manufactures priced reasonably and sent down to Calcutta for sale, as there is much reason to believe that if the tussur cloth is well made and sufficiently cheap, it will obtain a sale in the Calcutta market.

16. In paragraph 7 the Collector states that he had intended to start work on more roads in Bood-bood, but the district fund was exhausted, and *he thought it better* to apply for another grant of Rs. 50,000 before doing so. If I were inclined to be critical, I could show that the Collector was wrong in allowing his funds to be exhausted before applying for more; but as no serious harm has come of it, and as much harm is caused by censuring officers who are working to the best of their capacity, I will only observe that the Collector has been informed that he had been previously directed to apply for whatever funds he needs, and it is certain that the further supply of Rs. 25,000, which was instantly granted when asked for, has sufficed for his present wants, and it is his own fault if he does not send in timely applications for more money.

17. With reference to paragraph 8, I have only to repeat what I have already said, and I agree with the Collector that it is not necessary to make advances by Government to enable persons who have property to pledge to procure grain. If they have any property of real value it is always possible to raise money on it, and if the value of the property offered as security is fictitious it would be best for them to take charitable relief at once. As the Government has expressed so strong an opinion on the Collector's indent on behalf of the charitable relief committee for 4,000 maunds of Government rice, I am not disposed to advocate a repetition of the indent. Rice can be procured in the local markets at 14 seers for the rupee, and it is generally reported that the Government imported rice is not procurable at that price. It is, however, necessary to remember that rice has been sold in the Burdwan district for less than 10 seers for the rupee, and it is reported in the public newspapers that Government rice is being sold at 12 seers for a rupee in Behar. I regret to have to refer to a newspaper report, but the newspapers receive the Government special narratives which have not yet been sent to me or to the district officers, although the information would apparently be of the greatest value to us.

18. The Collector has submitted a copy of the proceedings of the last meeting of the district charitable committee, with his fortnightly narrative, but it will be separately reported.

19. *Howrah.*—The report of the Covenanted Deputy Collector is brief and promising, and calls for no remarks.

20. *Beerbhoom.*—In this district, although prices are easier, the Collector anticipates further distress, although there is as yet no sign of starvation or misery. The daily average number of persons employed on the roads is 2,237, and the number of persons relieved from charitable subscriptions is 680 per diem.

21. *Bankoora.*—The only part of this district which causes anxiety is pergunnah Moheshara. It is evident that if the Collector had not been stimulated to action when I was at Bankoora the distress in this part of the country would have been severe. Even under the mitigated form in which the Collector represents the fact that some persons put off going to the relief works too long, and are now fed gratis, it is to be feared that there has been unnecessary distress. The Collector states that if the roads already commenced in pergunnah Moheshara are not sufficient "we are prepared to commence other roads as need may arise;" but no intimation of any such works has yet reached me, and he will be requested immediately to submit his projects.

22. The number of persons employed daily on public relief works is 2,650. The number obtaining charitable relief is 320, of whom the most part are said to be beggars by profession, still continuing to ply their avocation.

23. *Midnapore.*—The report of this district has not yet arrived, but will be forwarded when received.

No. 573, dated Hooghly, the 21st March 1874.

From F. H. PELLEW, Esq., Officiating Collector of Hooghly, to the COMMISSIONER of the BURDWAN DIVISION.

I HAVE the honor to submit the narrative for the fortnight ending the 21st March 1874.

2. Adverting to instructions given in your Circular No. 216, dated 9th March 1874, on the Government Resolution of the 25th February 1874, I have the honor to state that the Executive Engineer has been instructed to forward to the Magistrate of Howrah, on the same day that he forwards the progress reports for the whole district to me, an extract containing all particulars of roads in progress in Howrah. I have also constantly informed Mr. Grant that whenever he thinks a relief work necessary it is incumbent on him to report to me to that effect, stating whether he wishes to carry it out himself, or through his committee, or by some influential gentleman resident on the spot, or by the Executive Engineer. I have also supplied him with the list of works at present known to be available for relief works in Howrah, and have repeatedly

invited him to propose additions to that list, and I have also promised at once to comply with any proposal he may make. As Mr. Grant has as at yet proposed no further relief works than those already ordered, I presume he does not consider them required.

3. In reference to paragraph 7 of the Resolution, I have given in this report the daily average number of labourers on relief works and the daily average number of recipients of charitable relief.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

4. A list of the principal markets and gunjes [wholesale storing places] was given in last narrative; in none of these is there any scarcity of rice or other grain. Bolagur hât is now plentifully supplied.

5. I give below the kinds and prices of grain selling at the following principal marts in the district:—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Number.	Names of principal Marts.	QUANTITIES PER RUPEE BY THE SEER OF 80 TOLAHS				
		Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, best sort.	Rice, common.	Gram.
		Seers.	Seers.	Seers.	Seers.	Seers.
1	Baboogunge - - -	12	—	10, 10½	12, 12½, 13	12, 13
2	Chinsurah Khorooahbazar -	12	—	10, 10½	12, 12½, 13	12, 13
3	Balore - - - -	12	—	10, 10½	12, 12½, 13	12, 13
4	Jhikrapottagunge - -	13	—	10, 10½	12½, 13, 13½	12, 13
5	Serampore - - - -	12	20	8, 9	12, 14	13, 14
6	Chunditollah - - -	—	—	11½	13	12
7	Boidyabatty - - - -	12	22	8	14	13½
8	Bhuddressur - - -	14	18	12½	14½	15

6. It appears that a further fall of half a seer or more has occurred in every mart except Boidyabatty, where it had already fallen to 14 seers before the commencement of the fortnight. It is much to be hoped that the price will remain as low as it is now. The police reports have noticed a fall in price in the fortnight in all the markets throughout the district.

7. With regard to the amount and kind of grain in stock in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others, as already reported, there are no large stores of grain. In thannah Bansbarya private persons are reported to be still buying and storing grain. In Pundooah some villagers have been obliged to part with their grain, as they were in want of funds to till their lands or for other purposes. Baboo Joykissen Mookerjee has imported 400 maunds and stored it at Dwarbasnee. In the twenty-one villages of thannah Hooghly 16,000 maunds are reported to be stored, and many private persons have grain in store for one or two months' consumption. In Krishtonagore thannah eight persons are named as having 2,628 maunds, and the District Superintendent states that in this thannah and Huripal it is the practice of mahajuns to lay in stocks before the rains when the roads become bad. In the town of Serampore 5,374 maunds of paddy and 12,829 maunds of rice are now reported to be in store. In thannah Dhaniakhally 58,200 maunds of rice are found to be in possession of 158 zemindars and rich people, besides a good deal in the hands of cultivators. In Huripal importations are reported from Selimabad and Jamalpore in Burdwan, and from Ampta in Howrah, and five zemindars are said to have laid in good stocks in case of scarcity. In Balagurh one-third of the cultivators and almost all the upper classes have sufficient grain in store; but the police have yet not found any stocks in the hands of zemindars, &c. In Chunditolla it is stated that but little rice is imported as the people have plenty in stock, but on the other hand, 1,093 maunds, in addition to 1,595 previously reported, have been imported and stored by a zemindar.

8. Rainfall ·81 at the sudder station; somewhat more is believed to have fallen in the south of the district.

9. Boro rice and jola rice are growing in patches; the rain is said to have injured the flower of the former. Throughout the district the lands, softened by the rain, are being got ready for the aous crop. In Pundooah it will be sown on the first good shower. The rain has benefited the young sugarcanes, as well as all kinds of vegetable crops. Til sown on 100 beeghas in Bansbarya, 400 beeghas in Pundooah, 40 beeghas in Dhaniakhally, 400 beeghas in Huripal, and 150 beeghas in Balagurh, will yield in August next a crop worth Rs. 8 per beegha. If there be a few good showers at the proper time, *i.e.*, during the next month, the aous cultivation will be half as extensive again as in ordinary years.

10. As regards the condition of the people: In Bansbarya 441 persons, in Hooghly about 100, in Krishtonagore 548 persons, in Huripal 376 persons, in Balagurh 155 persons, in Chun-

ditolla 72 persons, and in Boidyabatty 42 persons, are stated to be suffering from want. In other thannahs no definite numbers are given. On the 16th instant the District Superintendent attended the great bathing festival at Tribeni Ghat, where about 5,000 persons were assembled He could find no distress amongst the crowd. Amongst the beggars at the ghat, nine only were occasionally in receipt of relief from the police. The District Superintendent also visited thannahs Boidyabatty, Bansbarya, Chunditolla, and Serampore: he states he could find no great distress.

11. It will be observed, however, that the number of destitute persons reported by the police is increasing. In Krishtonagore the larger number than in other thannahs is explained as being owing to the fever, which still lingers about this thannah, though in a mild form.

12. The number of people wanting employment, whether labourers or cultivators, has not increased. This is no doubt owing to the favourable condition of the land for ploughing. The cultivators are in most parts assiduously preparing the lands for the aous crop.

13. The condition of things is on the whole much the same as in the last narrative. On the one hand, the easier prices have given confidence, and on the other, a few more people have come to the end of their savings and require to be supported.

14. If the aous crop is got in as well as is hoped, and prospers, I think the cultivators will obtain assistance from mahajuns which will render their position safe. If it is a failure the mahajuns will refuse to advance, and there will be difficulty.

15. Three cases of death from starvation are reported. In two cases the persons were sent across by the Barrackpore authorities to the Serampore hospital, and died there. In the third case a starving women was picked up at a ghat in Serampore by the municipal police and sent to the same hospital. The case is under inquiry. The District Superintendent went to the spot immediately, and if the police are to blame they will be punished, but there is reason to believe that the the woman had only arrived the night before she was found, from Calcutta. On the old Benares and Grand Trunk Road, and in Serampore, serais are established to prevent such cases.

B.—Relief Works.

16. The following works are in progress in the district. I have been obliged to change the order of the roads from that shown in last month's report, in consequence of the returns not all arriving on the same day. The roads taken up for supplying labor are stated in the column of remarks, they are village roads. As stated above, the rain softened the earth, and people who wanted work a fortnight ago are now ploughing, hence I have not set on foot any more works during the fortnight, though as many as may be required are ready to be taken up at a moment's notice.

Sudder Sub-Division.

NAME OF ROAD.	Number of Coolies.	Supply of Food.	Condition of Labourers.	Mode of Payment and rate of Wages.	Arrangement for Tools.	REMARKS.
Dhanyakhalee Road	251	By purchase in bazar	Good	3 to 4 annas per 100 cubic feet, 2 annas khoraki given daily. Women 2 annas 6 pie, and children 2 annas daily wages.	Party supplied by department	No local coolies
Dwarbasnee Road	27	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Nearly completed, 18 local coolies.
Muggrah to Tribeny	60	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	All local.
Shahgunge to Tribeny	13	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Pandooah to Culna	200	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	130 not local, rest local.
Grand Trunk Road	45	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	All local.
Tribeny to Gooptiparah	48	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Muggrah to Bhastarah	50	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Kooluparah to Nischindpore	124	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	All local; the road was taken up to give labour. The people belong to the class of petty cultivators; they do full work.
Dukchara to Panchparah	69	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto ditto.
Bhastara to Gooroop	60	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto ditto.
Ditto to Dhanyakhalee	10	Ditto.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto just commenced.
	957					

N.B.—The Bhastara to Boinchee road shown in last return is completed. New roads taken up in the fortnight are Bhastara to Gooroop and Bhastara to Dhanyakhalee roads.

Serampore Sub-Division.

NAME OF ROAD.	Number of Coolies.	Supply of Food.	Condition of Labourers.	Mode of Payment and rate of Wages.	Arrangement for Tools.	REMARKS.
Sheakhalla Road	80	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	16 local.
Old Benares Road	66	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Nearly all foreign.
Chandernagur to Bhola	44	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Nearly all local.
Connugur to Jonye	52	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	20 local.
Bydebatty Feeder	38	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Contractor supplies	Moulders partly local.
Chunditolla Road	8	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Partly by department, partly by contractor and coolies	Nearly completed; all coolies local.
Tarkeshur Road	25	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Contractor supplies	All local.
Joyne to Bora	18	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Supplied by department	This work was taken up to give labour; all coolies are local; and of the cultivating classes, 47 worked on the last day of the fortnight; they do full work.
	331					

N.B.—The branch Grand Trunk Road and Bydebatty Strand Road shown in last fortnight return have since been completed. The Jonye to Bora Road has been taken up in the fortnight.

Howrah and Mohesraka Sub-Division.

NAME OF ROAD.	Number of Coolies.	Supply of Food.	Condition of Labourers.	Mode of Payment and rate of Wages.	Arrangement for Tools.	REMARKS.
Old Benares Road	104	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Supplied by contractors	50 local coolies.
Doomjor Road	320	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto		118 local.
Branch Grand Trunk Road	20	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto		All local.
Juggutbullubpore Road	59	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto		56 local.
Ditto to Moshat Road	23	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto		17 local.
Ampta Road	99	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto		All local.
Andool Road	7	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto		Ditto
	632					
	1,920					

17. The following is a statement of labourers employed on private works undertaken independently of any Government assistance:—

Thannahs.	Number of Coolies.
Bansbarya	824
Serampore	2,509
Balagurh	369
Chunditolla	1,372
Pandooah	895
Dhanyakhalee	890
Bydibatty	1,187
Hurripal	459
Hooghly	435
Krishtonagar	304
	9,244

18. This excludes 2,509 labourers at jute-mills, but includes 1,100 brick-makers at Kotrung in Serampore. The owners of the jute-mills at Serampore have promised to employ every able-bodied man, woman, or child sent to them as a hand, or at extention work, and this is a great convenience to Serampore municipality.

19. In Hooghly and Chinsurah municipality 30 tanks are now being re-dug at the expense of the owners. This gives employment to 297 male and 227 female labourers,—in all 524 paid at full market rates.

20. In Serampore 10 tanks, giving employment to 170 labourers, are being re-dug.

21. These works are taken up after notices from the municipal authorities.

22. The following works are in progress under the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, in this district. The works at the head of the Kana Nuddee are in Burdwan:—

——	Number of Coolies.	Remarks.
Canal to connect Kana Nuddee and Sursutty	278	All foreign coolies.
Ordinary embankment repairs, about	250	Ditto ditto.
	528	

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

23. 4,117 maunds of paddy and 2,233 maunds of rice and 600 maunds of kolye, are stated to have been imported into thannah Bansbarya; 18,652 maunds of paddy and 5,897 maunds of rice and 103 maunds of dâl into Serampore; 3,000 maunds of rice and 250 maunds of dâl into Hurripal; and 1,093 maunds of rice into Chunditollah during the fortnight. The roads are all in fair order. The Executive Engineer reports that he saw some carts of rice going from Balagurh to Pundooah station. I think this must have come from Culna or Santipore, or perhaps Govindgunge. Eastern Bengal rice is still largely sent up-country from Muggrah and Chandernagore.

24. There is no Government grain stored at relief works.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

25. The following is a statement of advances made to private parties:—

	Rs.	Rs.
Up to commencement of fortnight		32,880
On 12th March to Baboo Joykisshen Mookerjee	9,000	
On 12th ditto to Lala Matuklall	400	
On 13th ditto to Dwarkanath Bannerjee	300	
On 14th ditto ditto and others	481	
On 18th ditto to Hurro Chunder Chuckerbuddy	250	
On 20th ditto to Sumboo Chunder Chuckerbutty and Hurry Nath Chuckerbutty	600	
Total		11,031
Grand Total		43,911

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

26. Forty-three men, 127 Women, and 70 children are shown as the average daily number in receipt of relief from the sub-committees. Of these 27 men and 93 women are working for the sub-committees in their own homes. The police relieved an average number of 70 daily from the thannahs, but they have not stated how many were men, how many women, or how many children. Twenty-nine men, 6 women, 1 child relieved from serais on old Benares road.

No. 1008, dated Burdwan, the 23rd March 1874.

From E. H. Whinfield, Esq., Officiating Collector of Burdwan, to the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

I beg to submit the fortnightly narrative due to day.

State of the Country.

2. The Bood-bood Deputy Collector reports that the supply of rice is abundant at Mancoor and Sonamookhy, but deficient at Gooskarrah; that best rice sells at the bazars at 12 seers 11 chittacks, and common rice at 13 seers 9 chittacks per rupee (but in places in the interior it is only obtainable at famine prices, viz., 10 seers the rupee, and even less); that rain fell on the 15th and 18th; that the crops now on the ground are sugarcane, teel, cotton, safflower, linseed, and vegetables; that bamboos have flowered and yielded a grain which is eaten by the poor; that no grain robberies or thefts have occurred; that the sugarcane and rubbee crops in some parts are flourishing, and in other parts the reverse. In his last report the Deputy Collector mentioned that he had heard of deaths from starvation in certain villages in the country lying north-west of Khanoo Junction, and between the Chord and Loop lines. He has now reported the results of a personal inquiry made by himself in these villages, which prove that there is much distress in that quarter. The two or three deaths reported at Joykistopore and Poorunderghur were deaths of persons who had been suffering from fever, but the Deputy Collector thinks it possible that their deaths were hastened by insufficiency of food. Baboo Bogolanund Mookerjee has visited some of these villages, and his report is to the same effect. There is no doubt that Bood-bood is the most distressed part of the district.

The Cutwa Deputy Collector says that boro dhan is forward, and urhur has done well, but the other pulses and the mango blossoms have been injured by rain; that the price of rice has slightly risen; that the supply is abundant in Cutwa itself, but somewhat restricted in the interior; that importation on a small scale continues; that no rain fell during the fortnight; that more work is wanted, especially in Ketugram and North Cutwa.

The Culna Deputy Collector says that the price of rice is lower, owing to continued importations; that at Culna and Nadunghat best rice (dohunagra) sells at Rs. 3-2 and Rs. 3-1 a maund, and common rice (bada) at Rs. 2-12; that considerable stocks of coarse rice, aus, and rashi are still held by mahajans and others; that ·58 inch of rain fell in the fortnight; that the outturn of the cold-weather crops is estimated at four annas, and that of potatoes at fourteen annas; that there has been some "apprehension of distress" in parts of Montessur and Poorbasthali, and that employment is wanted there; that allegations of distress have been made in the Native papers, but they are untrue and emanate only from persons "fishing in the troubled water of the time."

The Jehanabad Deputy Collector says that there is no deficiency in the supply of rice; that coarse rice is selling at an average price of 13½ seers the rupee; that the quantity of grain in store is not inconsiderable; that the rainfall in the last fortnight has been ·51 inch; that the condition of the people generally is fair; that even beggars get a seer of rice a head every day; that no grain robberies have occurred; that the weavers in Hajeepore and other places cannot get advances from their mahajuns, and are in need of employment. I consider that there is not the least occasion for anxiety about the condition of people in Culna and Jehanabad. Extravagant assertions that no rice is to be had, and that people are dying in parts of these sub-divisions, are appearing in the Native newspapers, but on investigation invariably turn out to be baseless, and it is worthy of note that most of these statements seem to emanate from the places which have least to complain of, such as thanas Culna, Gangoor, and Selimabad.

The Raneegunge Deputy Collector says that the supply of rice is less plentiful, but still sufficient; that imports from Midnapore have decreased; that prices have continued to fall slightly; that best rice (ramsal) sells at 11·5 seers to 12·55 seers, and coarse rice (Midnapore lali) at 14·2 to 14·5; that partial showers of rain have fallen during the fortnight; that the outturn of what small rubbee crops there are is from 12 to 14 annas; that there is no distress at present, but that the dearness of food is gradually telling on the poorer people; that one slightly distressed traveller from Manbhoom was discovered; that there are very few weavers in Raneegunge sub-division; and that there is no need for anxiety about their condition at present, though there will be distress amongst them "by-and-bye." This is certainly vague, as you have very justly remarked on previous statements in similar terms, but a certain quantum of vagueness is inevitable in all prediction of the uninspired kind; and, considering the excessive difference of opinion as to the condition of the people which manifested itself at the recent charitable relief meeting at Raneegunge, I think the Deputy Collector exercises a wise discretion in not venturing to fix the precise date on which distress may be expected to commence in his sub-division.

Of the Sudder sub-division the District Superintendent writes that the supply of rice in all the bazars is abundant; that the price of coarse rice varies from about 15 to about 12 seers the rupee; that a considerable quantity of grain is in store; that the late rains have done good; that teel and cotton are doing well; that there are no grain-thefts; that some of the poorer people are only getting one meal a day owing to the high prices; and that there have been no deaths from starvation.

Relief Works.

3. In Bood-bood earth-work is being done on four roads,—the Burdwan and Sooree road, the Mancoor and Dignagore road, the Bood-bood and Sonamookhy road, and the Burdwan and Bankoora road. The second is nearly completed, and more work will then be provided. The

health of the laborers is reported to be good, and they each earn two annas a day or more. The great difficulty here and elsewhere is that people will not go far from their villages to get work, and the amount of road-work that can be provided within a reasonable distance of each village is limited. Works are also going on at Sonamookhy and Patrosar.

In Cutwa work is going on on the Cutwa and Bhulpore road *viâ* Billessur, the Strikhund and Shambazar road, and the Udhanpore and Noliapore road, all in thana Ketugram and the northern part of thana Cutwa; also on the Karjona and Moorshedabad road in thana Munglecote. The Burdwan and Cutwa road is finished. The health of the laborers is said to be generally good, though they are weak. Another road will be at once taken in hand.

In Culna work is going on on the Burdwan and Culna road, and on the Boinchee and Buddipore road. On the latter there is said to be great difficulty in getting laborers. The Maharajah is excavating a tank in Culna itself, and repairs to the municipal roads are progressing.

In Jehanabad works are going on on the roads of four chowkedaree unions, but labourers are said to be procured with difficulty. It is also said that private persons find it difficult to obtain coolies.

In the Sudder sub-division work is going on at the Kanna Nuddee, and there again it is said that there is no local demand whatever for employment, also on the Burdwan and Sooree, and Kurjona and Moorshedabad roads. Moreover, the Maharajah is digging some tanks in Burdwan.

In Raneegunge work is going on on the Raneegunge and Munglepore road under the charge of the sub-divisional officer. I directed the rate of wages to be raised on this road, but the number of laborers is still very small. Work is also going on on the Searsole and Domohanee, and Assensole and Domohanee roads, under the charge of the Executive Engineer, on the Raneegunge and Sooree road under the charge of Mr. Phillips, Manager of the Equitable Coal Company, and on the Seetarampore and Purulia road under the charge of the Executive Engineer of Manbhoom.

The annexed Statement A. will show all particulars of these works at a glance.

TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

4. Importation from Midnapore and Cuttack into Bood-bood still continues; likewise from the Sunderbunds into Culna, from the south into Jehanabad, and from Midnapore into Raneegunge. The total export by rail during the first and second weeks of March was 18,566 maunds, and the total import 8,751 maunds. These figures show a great decrease on the figures for the previous months. As might naturally be expected, the extreme activity of trade which prevailed just after the reaping of the amun crop has now subsided.

ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PERSONS.

5. The amount of advances that will be eventually paid will be very small in comparison with the amount applied for, as in a very large proportion of the cases it is found to be impossible to make the advances consistently with due regard to the interest of Government. Payments might be a little accelerated if the new sub-divisional treasury rules were relaxed so as to allow of bills for the amount of advances being cashed by sub-divisional officers without previous enfacement by this office. At present every bill has to be enfaced here before it can be paid. The Accountant-General objects to bills being enfaced for the whole amounts granted to each sub-division for tuccavi advances. Another cause of delay is the necessity of serving notices on zemindars, but this is unavoidable. In accordance with the permission contained in your No. 751, dated 17th instant, I have appointed two temporary sub-deputies for Jehanabad and Cutwa to assist the sub-divisional officer in completing these tuccavi cases, and in visiting the works in progress and completed. The tabular statement of progress made in tuccavi cases is annexed.

Charitable relief.

6. In Bood-bood food-depôts are being opened under the orders of the district relief committee at Shur and Gulshee in Bood-bood, and at Polashdanga in the west of thana Sonamookhy; and the Maharaja is about to open one at Bood-bood itself. These food-depôts have been organised on a plan similar to that of the fever food-depôts, that is, they have been each placed in charge of two or three respectable residents of the place, who will superintend the distribution of food, exact light work, such as picking up dung and gooting, making mats, &c., from those able to work, and submit accounts. One paid cook and one paid work overseer is allotted to each food-depôt, and half a seer of cooked rice, with dâl and turkari on alternate days is served out to each inmate. The accounts required to be kept by the managers are the same as those now kept by managers of fever food-depôts. (The sheds required will be built by the paupers themselves.) The sub-divisional committees have distributed rice to the value of Rs. 47-5 to the infirm paupers at Dignagore and elsewhere.

Advances have been made to weavers in Mancoor, Sonamookhy, Koyelionpore, Joykristopore, and Khanoo, and to some widows of weavers, for the purpose of buying cocoons and spinning the silk. When this was first proposed some doubts were expressed whether we should ever see the money again, or any equivalent for it, but I am happy to say these anticipations have proved unfounded, as the weavers have brought in a good many thans of tussur, and appear to be disposed to deal honestly. Baboo Bogolalund Mookerjee has prepared very clear forms of receipts with counterfoils (which have been printed), of cash accounts, stock accounts, and individual weaver's accounts, and I think that this department of charitable relief will be of great benefit to the weavers at a comparatively small expense to the committee. At Cutwa the Deputy Collector is feeding an average of 142 persons a day at a food-depôt in his own compound. He is certainly managing it very economically, as the total daily cost is only Rs. 6-5, of which a considerable portion is recovered from the proceeds of the pauper's labour.

No charitable relief is being given* in any of the other sub-divisions, nor do I consider it to be required. The total amount of the subscription promised in the whole district up to date is Rs. 11,496, of which Rs. 8,491 have been realized. A copy of the proceedings of the last meeting of the district committee is enclosed.

* Except by the Maharaja at Burdwan and Culna.

Dated Howrah, the 21st March 1874.

From Trevor Grant, Esq, Officiating Magistrate of Howrah, to C. T. Buckland, Esq., Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

In continuation of previous fortnightly reports, I have now only to say that matters remain in all respects as they were at the date of my last report, in which there is nothing to change, and to which there is nothing to add. There are still no indications whatever of existing distress, nor is there any apprehension of distress, if the very promising crop of boro rice does not fail. The boro continues to do well, and prices have a downward tendency. There is no increase in crime, no plundering for food at all, no increase in the number of applicants for labour, and there are no applicants anywhere for charitable relief.

In short, from what I know and see myself, and from what I learn from others, it seems to me nearly certain that if a good crop of boro rice is reaped this year, there will not be even distress in the district. I am aware that the boro is an uncertain crop, and that its present fair promise may be belied. But every day is making it safer, and even if it is lost, I believe that distress would be confined to Jagatbalabpore and Khanakool.

No. 319, dated Soory, the 23rd March 1874.

From R. D. Hime Esq., Officiating Collector of Beerbhoom, to the Commissioner, Burdwan Division.

I have the honour to submit my fifth fortnightly narrative under the prescribed headings.

2. Prices are easier since last report, and there is no difficulty in procuring supplies at the current bazar rates (*vide* Appendix, Table 1), still the impoverished condition of a large proportion of the ryots, whose crops have either totally or partially failed, re-acting on the labourers, a large number of whom are thrown out of work by the destitution of so many of their usual employers, renders relief-works necessary for both classes, to provide them with the means of purchasing the necessaries of life, however cheap and abundant, the famine here being of labour not of food. The mendicant class is, at the same time, thrown, to a great extent, on public charity. This distress, co-existing with sufficient supplies and moderate prices, is due to the inequality of the incidence of the failure of the crops, which, with its cause, I pointed out in my report No. 167 of 22nd November 1873. Still there is as yet neither starvation nor misery from want of food, though of course the lower classes have to stint themselves somewhat. No grain robberies have occurred, and crime generally shows no tendency to increase.

B.—Relief Works.

No fresh relief works have been started since last report. The number of labourers on these and on ordinary district works is shown in the Appendix, Form C. In addition to the numbers shown in this form, the number of women and children daily employed by the township of Soory on light labour averages during the week ending 21st instant, 245. A fifth relief road, that from Ilambazar to Doobrajpore, will shortly be commenced.

C.—Transport of Food.

Exportation continues, but on a diminished scale, the export of the fortnight ending 14th instant being 8,400 maunds, against 17,646½ maunds of the preceding fortnight. Owing to the absence of the returns (now received) from Ahmedpore railway station during the month of February and the latter fortnight of January, the returns of exports by rail during these periods* were shown below the actuals† in my last two reports. There are now some symptoms of a commencing importation.

	Mds.
* February -	- 27,323-30
January, latter half	- 15,632-10
† February -	- 30,793-30
January, latter half	- 17,216-10

D.—Storage of Grain.

None.

E.—Advances to Private Parties.

These are shown in the Appendix, Table II. No other advances have been made.

F.—Charitable Relief.

Continues on the system previously reported (*vide* Appendix, Statement 2). The local subscriptions amount to Rs. 12,353. The disbursements are Rs. 1,255 up to date.

No. 1315, dated Bankoora, the 23rd March 1874.

From W. R. LARMINIE, Esq., Officiating Collector of Bankoora, to the COMMISSIONER of the BURDWAN DIVISION.

I HAVE the honour to submit my fortnightly report on the state of the Bankoora district for the fortnight ending 22nd March 1874.

State of the Country.

2. With the exception of parts of pergunnah Moheshra grain is to be had whenever required. Rice has risen slightly in price, coarse rice selling at 14 seers per rupee, ordinary at 13¼ seers, and the best at 12 seers. Dhâl can be had at 12¾ seers per rupee, and the new wheat, which has just come into the bazar, at 13¾.

3. To meet the requirements of Moheshra, I have arranged with a large contractor, who will supply rice, dhâl, and salt, &c., in different fixed localities, at rates exceeding those prevailing at head-quarters by the cost only of carriage, &c., the maximum excess being four annas per maund. The *golas* for storing the grain are being erected at the expense of the District Relief Committee.

4. Rice is still being imported from Midnapore and Balasore, and in small quantities from Singbhoom. Exportation is more or less stagnant.

5. There was about half an inch of rain on the 16th. Its effect was beneficial on the whole, more especially to the indigo. The rubbee corps are nearly reaped, giving on the whole a good out-turn. Wheat and barley have been very fine, especially along the banks of the Damoodur.

6. There has been no change observable in the general condition of the people except in pergunnah Moheshra, where the demand for labour suddenly increased and necessitated the immediate opening of the works on the Morulo and Mejia road. It is quite clear now that we shall have to provide a large proportion of the inhabitants of this part of the district with work until the next harvest, for which purpose the two roads now in hand will not be sufficient. We are, however, prepared to commence other roads as need may arise.

7. No cases of starvation have been reported, but in Moheshra the people were being pinched, and were consequently obliged to resort to the relief works in large numbers. Some put off doing so too long, and we consequently are obliged to feed them gratis until they are strong enough to work.

8. One grain dacoity was reported, but it has been found on inquiry that the charge was a false one.

Relief Works.

9. The chief relief works are the roads from Morulo to Mejia, from Sattorah to Gungajulghatty, and from Onda to Taldangra, the Bankoora tank, and the Bishenpoor town roads. On these about 2,650 men, women, and children, are daily employed. The first two roads absorbing 1,900, and the tank 307. The rate of wages continues unchanged. Labourers are paid in actual cash.

Advances to private parties.

10. The number of tuccavi advances has now reached 334, of which 140 have been disposed of. Rs. 23,851 have been granted; Rs. 16,827 thereof being actually paid out of the treasury. In a great number of cases the proffered security has been found insufficient, and in one instance there was such a gross attempt at fraud that I was obliged to prosecute the applicants in the criminal court.

Charitable Relief.

11. The total number of persons reported as receiving relief is about 320, but some of the sub-committees have not as yet sent in any returns.

12. Subscriptions to the amount of Rs. 2,474 have been promised, exclusive of the Government equivalent, and steps have been taken to collect small sums from those who can afford to give. Money has been placed in the hands of the sub-committees, and the various *itinerant* officers of Government, such as Sub-Deputy Collectors, &c., have been similarly provided and are directed to relieve temporarily any urgent cases they may meet, so that those in distress may be able to reach the centres of relief, and there be regularly looked after. Up to the present, except in the cases already mentioned, charitable relief has been given only to those who are from natural infirmity physically incapable of working, and as a rule only half rations are given, the recipients being for the most part beggars by profession, and still continuing to ply their avocation.

13. The question of giving advances to weavers is under consideration, and arrangements will be made within the next few days. As far as I have been able to ascertain the *tussur* and cotton weavers object very strongly to commence gunny work. It is alleged, with what amount of truth I cannot say, that engaging in this coarse work would affect their skill in the lighter kinds, to which they would subsequently return, and that in consequence the future products of their looms would be of inferior quality.

14. Both Deputy Collector Babu Jugabundhu Khan and Sub-Deputy Collector Babu Sitikanta Ghosh, whose duties at present lie chiefly in Moheshra, have been directed to report at once if the present relief arrangements seem sufficient, and I will myself visit that part of the district during the present week. I confess to feeling much anxiety regarding Moheshra; but if the

contractor engaged to supply rice, &c., acts up to his promises, the relief will be considerable, and I trust that our arrangements will now ensure work being available for all who can work, and food for the needy and incapable.

In conclusion, might I venture to suggest that a knowledge of the condition of the surrounding districts would be of considerable use in enabling me to forecast the prospects of my own, and to say that I would be glad to receive a copy of the fortnightly reports of the Collectors of those districts. Now that they are printed there would be no difficulty in carrying out such a measure.

15. Statement of charitable relief—

(1.) One central committee.
(2.) Eleven sub-committees.
(3.) None.
(4.) Ditto.
(5.) Ditto.
(6.) In Bankoora, 33 men, 113 women, and 34 children.
In Mejia, 130; details not sent.
Total, 310.

No. 361 T, dated Burdwan, the 28th March 1874.

From C. T. Buckland, Esq., Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

In continuation of my No. 328T, dated 25th instant, I have the honour to forward in original the fortnightly narrative for the district of Midnapore.

2. The Collector will be requested to submit a plain narrative in future, and not to combine with it answers to letters from this office which are not before Government.

3. It will be seen that the Collector is unable to maintain the position which he endeavoured to establish, that there would be great distress in the jungle mehals. I did not believe in it from what I saw myself; but as the Collector persevered in his arguments, I deputed my Special Assistant, Mr. Larymore, to make a careful local inquiry, and the result has been to show that there is no present want of rice in the jungle mehals, and that the people have also been able to obtain some supplies from the adjacent district of Singbhoom.

4. There is some slight distress among the weavers in Chunderkona and other weaver villages in those parts of the district which were transferred to Midnapore from Hooghly. The district charitable relief committee is providing for these persons. A food depôt has been opened in Chunderkona, and two experienced persons from the district jail have been sent out to give effect to the orders of Government on the subject of substituting jute manufactures for the ordinary work of weavers.

5. Some distress is reported in 28 villages in pergunnah Kasijorah in the Tumlook sub-division, where the Deputy Magistrate states that the malarious fever has incapacitated the people of about 28 villages for out-door work. This distress is therefore caused by fever, and not by scarcity, and there was no failure of the crops in this part of the district. The Collector states that the propriety of giving gratuitous relief in these 28 villages is still under consideration.

No. 567, dated Midnapore, the 23rd March 1874.

From H. L. Harrison, Esq., Collector of Midnapore, to the Commissioner of Revenue, Burdwan Division.

I have the honour to forward herewith the fortnightly narrative for this district, terminating on the 21st instant. Also to reply to your No. 216 of the 9th and No. 756 of the 14th March, based upon the previously fortnightly narratives.

2. Yours of the 9th and paragraph 3 of Government resolution dated 25th February. The rates were 14 seers to the rupee; but the market rate never went below 16. Before any purchases were made, the whole subject was laid before the Committee, and it was generally agreed that as a re-action had set in, no attempt should be made to offer for sale while the market remained easy. Hence we are at present merely preparing to meet any future contingency as far as scarcity of grain is concerned.

3. Yours of the 14th March. I referred to the proceedings of the committee which contained the conclusion I had arrived at from my visit to the north-east of the district. These proceedings have since reached you. For convenience, however, I may repeat that what I saw satisfied me that measures ought to be at once taken to relieve the Tantees; but that the work provided everywhere except in Chunderkona township was enough for those willing to do out-door work.

4. Accordingly a committee was organised immediately on my return, and since the 17th a temporary Deputy Collector has been at work organising relief in those parts.

A.

5. Referring to the fortnight under notice, the state of the market continues favourable. Rice is plentiful, and the recent decline is fully sustained.

6. In the jungle mehals paddy has become much dearer but rice cheaper and more plentiful. This is due to the fact of an importation having set in from Singbhoom. Mr. Larymore observed this when in the west of the district, and the police report confirms this.

7. Hitherto it has always been assumed from the reports of the state of Singbhoom that it would be as much as it could do to feed itself, and that we could expect no help from it; if anything, that the drain would rather be towards it. The opposite is now evidently the case, and as this is the normal line for rice to travel, it is certain that if Singbhoom has a sufficient surplus, there is no fear of scarcity of food in the jungle mehals any more than in other parts of the district.

8. It is not yet certain how far this supply can be depended on. It did not come in till rice had risen two seers in the rupee dearer at Daleijure than in Midnapore, but inquiries are being made and the result will be reported. There was a seasonable rainfall over the whole district in the early part of last week which was specially beneficial to the indigo.

B.

9. The labour reports may be thus summarised:

Bheempore - Jhargram -	Labourers freely offer their services at the subsistence rates offered, 6 pice.
Chunderkonah Keshpore -	Labourers freely offer their services at the subsistence rates offered, 7 pice.
Ghautal -	Some demand for labour at subsistence rates, 7 pice.
Daspore -	7 pice. No demand.
Midnapore town -	8 pice. Demand insignificant.

10. The roads in progress intended to afford relief are—

—	At 6 and 4 pie.		At 7 and 5 pie.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Lodhasyee to Bheempore	283	256		
Bheempore to Silda — Just commenced	40	30		
Bheempore to Ramghur — Just commenced	23	20		
Dohijuri to Pooreehatee	Return not received.			
Burdwan road	—	—	236	8
Kespore to Narajole; just commenced	—	—	100	—
Loohasale to Mohapal	37	31		
Bombay road	243	135		

This is irrespective of the roads made by contract and at ordinary rates, not intended for relief works specially. The number fluctuates a good deal. After the rain on the 16th and 17th nearly half the labourers left to plough for indigo and ous.

C.

11. The private food-supply from Singbhoom has been referred to under A. Means of transport everywhere sufficient. The bridges on the Gurbetta road have been examined and found to be suffering somewhat from the traffic, but not such as to endanger it. The Executive Engineer has, however, taken their protection specially in hand. The ferry at Midnapore now now keeps level with the traffic, which has somewhat diminished; the ferry at Dadkee between Gurbetta and Baancoorah is still fordable, but a new ferry boat is under construction to secure its efficiency when the river rises.

D.

12. No Government grain is to be stored in the district except in the jail.

E.

13. No municipalities have applied for advances. Forty-one applications have been received in all for land improvement, of which eleven have been rejected and six granted subject to your approval; twenty-four are pending. Every endeavour is made to expedite their disposal, but they are all from tenure-holders, and the notice to the landlords causes the delay, as well as the illness of the canoongo.

F.

14. Actual relief operations have commenced. One district, three sub-divisional and two sub-committees have been formed; three more are being formed.

Only one regular relief circle has been opened and officered, viz., the Chunderkona and Ghatal thannah and Narajole outpost of the Debrathanna. Temporary Deputy Collector Baboo Gossain Dass Dutt has been placed in charge of it.

15. One food depôt has been opened at Chunderkona for the relief of the most distressed Tantees by distribution of cooked food. The precise number receiving food has not yet been reported, as the depôt has only been open two days, but 128 persons in Chunderkona are receiving relief from the committee chiefly in the form of assistance in working with jute instead of thread; jute workers not being easily procurable, and it being most desirable that all who were willing to try jute manufacture should do so without delay. As a special case, a complete jute-loom, jute twist, and two experienced prisoners from the district jail, have been sent out to start the experiment. It is found that by a little adaptation the ordinary cloth looms can be made to work gunny cloth, and the special Deputy Collector has been directed to arrange for this with the assistance of the prisoners.

Enclosure No. 7.

No. 502, dated Camp Raghunathpore, the 23rd March 1874.

From Colonel E. A. Rowlatt, Deputy Commissioner of Manbhoom, to the Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

With reference to paragraph 3 of circular No. 154, dated the 16th January last, I have the honor to submit the fortnightly narrative for the period ending the 21st instant.

A.—State of the Country.

I have but little to add to the information given in my last report on this heading. The supplies in the bazars are decreasing, and prices are still rising; they are at the places named below as follows:—

Names of Places.	Coarse rice.	Fine rice.	Pulses.
Raipur	18 Seers.	17 Seers.	17 Seers.
Manbazar	15 „	14 „	11 „
Barrabazar	16 „	12 „	12 „
Echagurh	20 „	16 „	16 „
Jhalda	14 „	12 „	12 „
Purulia	14 „	12 „	14 „
Govindpur	13 „	12 „	12 „
Raghunathpur	13 „	12 „	14 „
Nirsha	12 „	11 „	11 „
Gaurandih	12 „	10 „	10 „

There are supposed to be still considerable stocks of grain in the hands of the traders and grain merchants, but these they are keeping back and refuse to sell at present, hoping to realize larger profits by the rise in prices, which they anticipate will take place before the next harvest time. In those parts of the country where there are no bazars, there is a very general complaint that rice is not procurable for purchase, and some of the hâts are failing, although the traders had promised me to keep them well supplied with rice. The fact of rice being imported on Government account will, I believe, have the effect of inducing these holders of grain to open out their stores, as they will then see it is no use hoarding any longer.

There has been a considerable fall of rain during the fortnight amounting to 1·14 inches, which has, it is feared, destroyed all hopes of a good mango crop, and damaged the mohowa prospects, which latter, however, if no more rain falls during the next month or six weeks, may still give us a twelve-anna crop. Should rain again fall, this will be reduced to an eight-anna crop, which would very much increase the impending scarcity of food during the next four or five months. Altogether the weather during the fortnight has been unfavourable, so that the prospects have become rather worse than better since the date of the last report. The wheat, barley, and grain is being gathered in, and where it has not been injured by hailstorms, which have occurred in some places, the outturn will be good; but the quantity that will be reaped is insignificant.

There is no appearance as yet of any general distress amongst the people, but isolated cases of suffering for want of food are becoming much more common, and it is reported that some of the villages near the Damoodah, in the pergunnahs of Jharia and Pandra, where the crops failed almost entirely, are in much distress; arrangements have accordingly been made to provide them with work by opening out a road from opposite Telkupi to Nirsha in pergunnah Pandra, and by the construction of a reservoir in pergunnah Jharia close to the distressed villages.

B.—Relief Works.

All the relief works are now in full operation and are providing work for a large number of the labouring class, who otherwise would be unemployed and destitute of the means of supporting themselves and families. The numbers employed are given below:—

	Name of Work.			Number of labourers employed.
1.	1st Section, Chaibassa Road—from		Purulia to Kantadihi	83
2.	Ditto	ditto	Kantadihi to Chota Urma	21
3.	3rd Section,	ditto	Chota Urma to Jojodih	35
4.	Ditto	ditto	Jojodih to Jamdi	152
5.	4th Section,	ditto	Jamdi to Subarnarekha	232
6.	Road from Hospital to English School			*Nil*
7.	1st Section, Bankoora Road—from		Purulia to Singbazar	461
8.	2nd ditto,	ditto	Singbazar to Ludurka	190
9.	3rd ditto,	ditto	Ludurka to Hura	90
10.	4th ditto,	ditto	Hura to Chatna	255
11.	Charra junction			94
12.	Road from Damda to Barrabazar			40
13.	1st Section, Manbazar Road—from		Purulia to Kenda	364
14.	2nd ditto,	ditto	Kenda to Manbazar	232
15.	Govindpur and Tundih Road			88
16.	Road from Nirsha towards Jamtara			107
17.	Ditto	Raghunathpore sub-division		192
18.	Ditto	Ludurka to Gaurandi		3
			Total	2,642

Some difficulty is found in supplying the labourers with food, so that the arrival of Government grain is anxiously looked out for. The condition of the labourers is in general all that could be desired, though in some few cases loss of strength is clearly visible. It is earnestly to be hoped that no stoppage of any of the relief works may take place for want of funds, as the consequence would, I fear, be disastrous, and be sure to end in the starvation and death of many of those now employed on these works.

The labourers are paid by the day and also by task-work, which latter they prefer as they can make more by it than by taking the daily rate, which is 1 anna 6 pie for men and 1 anna for women and children.

There has been some difficulty in providing a sufficient number of tools, but that is being gradually overcome, and a reserve stock is being collected to be in readiness to meet any sudden demand for work.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

Food is still being imported into this district from Singbhoom and Midnapore, but in what quantities it is not possible to ascertain. There is no deficiency of carriage, and every means is being adopted that is possible to improve the lines of communication leading in the required directions; but the supplies from these sources do not reach the northern and north-eastern parts of the district, which can only be supplied from Calcutta.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

Under this head I have nothing to report at present, but hope to have to do so next fortnight. The construction of store-houses is, however, being proceeded with at Govindpore and Nirsha, and arrangements have been made at Raghunathpore to store the Government grain as soon as received.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

Advances have now been made over nearly all the distressed pergunnahs to parties willing to import rice from a distance, and some more will yet be made. For this purpose I have just visited Govindpur and Pandra, and am now engaged in making these advances in all the distressed pergunnahs round about Raghunathpur. Advances have been made to both zemindars and traders, and I am in hopes that considerable quantities of grain will be imported by this means, but whether such will be the case or not has yet to be seen. The advances sanctioned by me amount up to date to Rs. 9,350. An advance of Rs. 4,000 has been received by the Purulia Municipal Committee, and works have already been commenced; within a very few days 250 persons have flocked to these works. The works to be executed are the deepening and completion of four tanks to improve the supply of drinking water and the widening out of the main street through Lower Purulia.

Advances to private parties for land improvements have now been made to the extent of nearly Rs. 48,000, and some more will still be made during the next month or so, after which it will be of no use granting any more of these loans, as there will not be sufficient time left, before the rains set in, in which to complete the works. The advances are being laid out in making and repairing bundhs, reservoirs, and tanks for irrigation purpose, which will form lasting and the best means for warding off future famines that could be undertaken.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Immediately on the receipt of Government letter No. 1115—S.R. of the 28th ultimo, a District Relief Committee was formed at Purulia, and since then operations have been commenced for the relief of all persons applying for it, who are unable to work. Sub-divisional committees have also been formed at Govindpore and Raghunathpore, and arrangements have been made to establish branch committtees at Jharia, Tundi, and Poddardih, in the Govindpore sub-division, and at Mohal, Maurah, Chelliama, Pura, Sarbari, Murardih, Saturi, Gaurandih, Sonathol, and Kashipore, under the Raghunathpore sub-committee. At Govindpore and Raghunathpore, the distribution of food has also been commenced, but as yet the relief afforded at these stations and at Purulia also is confined to the beggar class, who are resorting to them in considerable numbers, as they find it no longer possible to gather sufficient alms in the villages on which to subsist. Sheds are being erected at Purulia and Ragunathpore for the accommodation of those seeking relief; and as the necessity arises, whatever further accommodation may be required will be provided.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 30th March 1874.

READ—

The district narrative for Maunbhoom for the fortnight ending 21st March.

Maunbhoom.—Supplies in the bazars are said to be decreasing and prices rising; but coarse rice is still to be had at prices ranging from 12 to 20 seers per rupee, and pulses from 10 to 17. The higher prices, however, prevail generally through that part of the district which is recognised as being worse off than the rest. A heavy fall of rain (1·14 inches) and hailstorms have injured the mango and mahowa prospects considerably. Isolated cases of suffering from want of food are becoming more common, the number of labourers on works is 2,642.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor does not understand what the Deputy Commissioner means by saying that "it is earnestly to be hoped that no stoppage of any of the relief works may take place for want of funds." It will be entirely Colonel Rowlatt's fault should such a thing occur. Government has repeatedly told all district officers that no works are to be closed for want of formal sanction to funds. They must go on disbursing money really necessary for relief purposes, applying at once for extra grants, at the same time proper care will ensure the provision of further sums sanctioned in due time, should those already made be coming to an end.

3. It appears that two sub-divisional and thirteen sub-committees have been formed for relief purposes. They should be at once supplied with funds and be set actively to work in the tracts where distress is expected.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. Mackenzie,
Calcutta, the 30th March 1874. Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 682, dated Lohardugga, the 25th March 1874.

Memo. by H. L. Oliphant, Esq., Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga.

Forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in continuation of this office memorandum No. 542 of the 14th instant.

No. 214, dated Daltongunge, the 21st March 1874.

From L. R. Forbes, Esq., Officiating Assistant Commissioner of Palamow, to H. L. Oliphant, Esq., Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga.

I have the honour to submit herewith my third fortnightly narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Palamow sub-district, for the fortnight ending Saturday the 21st March.

Third Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Palamow Sub-District for the Fortnight ending Saturday, the 21st March 1874, submitted in accordance with orders contained in Government Circular No. 80 of the 17th November 1873.

A.

Abundance or scarcity of supply in the Bazars.—Though importations are continuing with the same vigour as before, I am afraid that private trade is beginning to show signs of being unable to cope fully with the demand; for instance, at the last Daltongunge market-day, Wednesday, the 18th, there were scarcely 50 bazar maunds of rice offered for sale, besides a few maunds of *dâls* of different kinds. There was no maize or maruah, and only three maunds of wheat; so that, in fact, there was nothing but rice and dâl. Prices rose from 12·36 to 11·81 seers per rupee for common rice, *i.e.*, one kacha seer; and strange to say the market rate of Goruckpuri pice rose from 21 gundahs or 84 pice per rupee to 18 gundahs or 72 pice. Again, in the great Garwah mart, at the last market, held on the 19th and 20th, on the opening day only 300 bullocks arrived with about 600 to 700 maunds of rice (bazar weight) which was bought up at once. The following day prices rose to the extent of a kacha seer in the rupee. But as I have before stated, as regards the great body of the people, particularly relief workmen, the market rate of prices as given in the price current is no criterion whatever of the price of rice as sold by retail; for instance, when at the relief works at Jurhasi, on the Behar road, a day or two ago the women crowded round with their infants in their arms imploring an increase to their present wages of 5 Goruckpuri pice. On inquiry I found that the market rate of pice was 19 gundahs or 76 pice per rupee, and that retail prices of common rice was at the rate of 5 pice for a kacha seer or 9 pucca chittacks, equivalent to 8·55 pucca seers per rupee. Hitherto the various chowdries in sending in their price-currents have quoted only wholesale prices, but the prices that ought to be quoted are the bunneahs' retail prices. I have given orders to have the retail prices of common rice only entered in column XIV. of the price-current for the future.

Kind and prices of grains selling at one or more specified principal marts.—Rice and dâls of various sorts may be said to be the only food-grains now offering in the bazars. Wheat is occasionally to be seen, but in very small parcels; and here and there a small quantity of this year's gram has been offered for sale. From all I can gather very little of the rubbee harvest, viz., of wheat, barley, and gram, will find its way into the open market; by far the greater portion will be kept back for seed, and the remainder consumed by the growers. Gram will be most freely offered, but this will probably be snapped up at once by the retailers for conversion into satto or meal. In the following table exhibiting the prices of grain selling in five of the principal marts, I have shown both the wholesale and retail prices—

Names of Marts.	Quantities per Rupee by the Seer of 80 Tolahs.						
	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice.		Murwa.	Indian corn.	Gram.
			Wholesale.	Retail.			
Daltongunge - - -	11·75	—	12·36	8·55	—	13·75	18·50
Garwah - - - -	11·75	14·62	12·50	10·25	14	13·50	14
Husainabad - - -	18·50	—	11·25	9·80	—	18·50	15·75
Satberwa - - - -	11·25	—	12·50	10·25	15	18·50	12·25
Manka - - -	—	—	12·50	10·25	15·81	14	18·50

Information regarding the amount and kind of grain believed to be in stock in the hands of Zemindars and others.—From what I can gather the stock of rice now in the hands of the traders is considerable and is being daily increased, but it is being held back not so much with a view to a rise in prices, but to meet the enormous demand that will take place when the agricultural season opens. On the other hand I am afraid that private stocks in the hands of the poorer agriculturalists (a very large class) are very small indeed; in fact, from all I hear, immense numbers of them are now reduced to one scanty meal a day, and as soon as they have consumed what little they may be able to spare for immediate consumption of their rubbee crops they will come seeking relief. It is to meet the future demands of these people that the traders, as stated above, are hoarding.

Rainfall.—The weather has been in a most disturbed state during the entire fortnight. On the 10th instant ·48 inches of rain was registered at the sudder station, but in some places the fall must have been heavier. There was almost continual cloudy weather from the 13th to the 17th, and the sky had a very threatening appearance. One or two light showers fell on the 15th and 16th, but the amount registered was only ·5 inches.

State of crops.—The harvesting of the earlier cereals and gram crops has been nearly completed. I am sorry to have to report that the continued disturbed weather has caused a loss of half the khesari dâl crop, and that the later gram crops have been attacked by caterpillars, and the probable loss in consequence is estimated at about 4 annas. The mowha crop promises well up to date, not more than 2 annas has been lost, and if all goes well a full 12-anna crop may be expected. It will be greedily snapped up by every one who can afford to purchase, by zemindars, well-to-do ryots, and traders, and kept back for the agricultural season, a large quantity, too, will be eaten on the spot as it falls from the tree. Dukhi Sahú of Garwah is of opinion that the amount that will find its way to market this year will be one-fourth of other years, *i.e.*, that to every 100 maunds offered in ordinary years not more than 25 maunds will be offered this year for general sale.

Condition of the people.—I am sorry to say that the gloomy account given under this head in my last report must be reported in this. From all I can gather, the condition of the body of the people is daily getting worse, the greater portion of the agricultural and artizan classes having to content themselves with one scanty meal a day, and some do not even get that, but are obliged to content themselves with one meal in two days.

Actual facts as to any known cases of misery and starvation.—A report was received to-day from the Husainabad or Jupla Sub-committee, giving the names of 168 persons, residents of Husainabad, most of them Mohamedan widows, who are said to be in a state bordering on starvation, some getting one scanty meal of 4 or 5 chittacks a day, others only one such meal in two days.

Grain-thefts and robberies.—Only four cases of petty grain-thefts were reported during the fortnight, but I was assured by the Honorary Magistrate of Ranka, Rai Kishen Dayal Sing, Bahadur, who was with me yesterday, that such cases were occurring daily in his part of the country, particularly along the trade tracks, and he was much surprised to learn that they had not been reported. I am not in the least surprised, however, in such times as these, the victims of these petty thefts, chiefly probably beparies travelling with their pack-bullocks, cannot afford to go 20 or 30 miles to report a loss of a maund or two of rice. I have called the attention of the Assistant Superintendent to the subject and directed him to take measures to put a stop, as far as practicable, to these petty thefts. I have also called his attention to the subject of another report made to me by the Honorary Magistrate to the effect that, within the last month, no less than 75 head of cattle had been killed while grazing in the jungle both for the sake of the meat and the skins. The Honorary Magistrate told me that he was using all the means in his power to discover who the perpetrators were, and that he suspected certain chamars were the instigators.

Condition of any special Tract.—The condition of Untari remains as before reported: about a third of the relief coolies have left for the harvest, but as soon as that and the mowha is over, they will flock back again in larger numbers than before. Yesterday I received information that the tract of country lying to the east of Daltongunge and within the jurisdiction of Panki outpost in tuppeh Pundag was in a bad state; that the poorer classes, both labouring and agricultural, were getting into a very low condition, and that most of them could scarcely get one meal of 6 or 7 chittacks of food a day. I have directed the proposed* road-work to be opened at once in that direction.

* From Lesligunge in Palamow to Baloomath in pergunnah Tori, zillah Lohardugga.

B.—Relief Works.

The relief works now open are :—

No. 1. Daltongunge Station Roads.
„ 2. Chandwa Road
„ 3. Behar „
„ 4. Moharajgunge „
„ 5. Garwah „
„ 6. Untari „
„ 7. Manjhiawan „
„ 8. Jupla „
„ 9. Petty irrigation works in Government estate.

Number of Labourers.—The number of labourers according to latest information is as follows:—

Relief work No. 1	386
„ „ 2	605
„ „ 3	1,540
„ „ 4	1,130
„ „ 5	311
„ „ 6	2,439
„ „ 7	594
„ „ 8	604
„ „ 9	327
Grand Total	7,936

The grand total shown in last report was 12,025—the decrease of 4,089 during the past fortnight is attributable to the opening of the harvest. There will probably be a still further diminution when the mowha crop is being gathered, but not much, and by the 15th of April the present number will most probably be trebled.

Supply of Food thereat.—No complaints have as yet reached me of shortness of food-supplies at or near the works. The retailers at some stations bring their stores to the works.

Condition of the Labourers.—As I stated in my last, all fresh applicants for relief are generally in a low condition, but those who have been working for some time are, as a rule, in a fair condition and able to do a fair day's work.

Mode of Payment.—This was fully explained in my last; the system then detailed still continues in force, but not with the regularity I would desire; I trust, however, now that with the assistance of Lieut. Grey and other officers, that the mode of payment of wages, and the keeping and submission of returns according to the system I have introduced, will be fully acted up to.

Rate of Wages.—The rates of wages as detailed in my first narrative remain unaltered.

Arrangement for Tools.—I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of the first batch of tools from Bankipore. The carts should have reached this yesterday. Arrangements have been made with Mr. N. A. Hodges, contractor, for the carriage of the 4,000 tools comprised in my second indent, and which I believe are now at Dihri.

C.—Transport of Food.

Approximate Amount of private Food-supplies come into the Sub-district during the Fortnight.—Any guess I could make on this head might only mislead. I prefer, therefore, to say nothing.

Sufficiency or otherwise of Means of Transport.—I believe that the number of pack-bullocks available for transport is sufficient; but what I doubt is, whether there is sufficient capital in the country to employ the whole. I also doubt whether the agricultural classes, who have turned importers, and who are using their plough-cattle for the purpose, will continue to do so much after the end of April or the 15th May. They will probably discontinue their journies then, in order to give their cattle some rest before the ploughing season comes on.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

The following are the places at which golahs have been fixed :—

No. 1	Daltongung.
„ 2	Parasia.
„ 3	Panki.
„ 4	Nawa.
„ 5	Morebey.
„ 6	Surki.
„ 7	Nuggur.
„ 8	Sillidag.

With reference to golah No. 1, the amount to be stored here is 10,000 maunds of rice purchased by Government and now at Dehri. The Sub-divisional committee have arranged with

Mr. N. A. Hodges for the carriage of the whole from Dehri to this at a uniform rate of 8 annas per maund. Besides the above, Rs. 5,000 worth of rice purchased on behalf of Government by Thakurai Jagannath Dayal Sing of Chainpore, will also be stored in this gola. All the native gentlemen engaged in the purchase of rice for storage in the above golas have reported the arrival of a portion of their purchases, and an officer is about to be deputed by the committee to proceed to each gola weigh, and report.

Condition of Storage Houses.—A full report on the condition of the storage houses Nos. 2 to 8 will be given when the report of the officer above mentioned as being deputed to weigh rice has been received. The preparation of *dhelis* in the Daltongunge gola is all but complete.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

Rupees 1,600 were advanced during the fortnight to the eight native gentlemen who are purchasing on the part of Government, making a total of Rs. 40,000.

Advances to Municipalities.—There are no municipalities in the sub-district; but I would add that in the chowkeedaree union of Garwah, labour is being employed in improvements, a sum of Rs. 1,300 having been allotted from the funds of the town for the purpose.

Advances to private parties for land improvements, &c.—I have now one sub-deputy and one canoongo at work making local enquiries on applications for advances; and several applications are now before me for final orders.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

The sub-divisional committee have been actively employed during the fortnight in collecting subscriptions from private parties, and the sum subscribed up to date amounts to Rs. 3,978. The committee have this day given orders for the despatch of Rs. 200 to the Hussainabad or Jupla sub-committee for the purpose of affording immediate relief to the 168 persons reported to be in a starving condition in the town of Hussainabad; and have called for a further report from the sub-committee to be submitted within one week as to whether it is absolutely necessary to give the whole of these people gratuitous relief, or whether there are not some among them who ordinarily follow some trade, and to whom the relief afforded may take the shape of a Tuccavi advance.

The committee are also making arrangements for taking charge of the many helpless, blind, and lame, or otherwise crippled, who are now hanging on at the different relief works and receiving wages as relief labourers, and for whom hitherto it has been impossible to make other provision.

The Panki sub-committee have been directed to make immediate enquiries into the condition of their jurisdiction mentioned above as being in a very distressed state.

Note by the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga.

With reference to Mr. Forbes' remarks under heading A (actual facts as to any known cases of misery and starvation) I may observe that Mr. Roberts, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, was deputed to Hassenabad, under orders of the 22nd instant, to inquire into the truth of the report, and take steps to afford relief, if necessary. The information called for in paragraph 3 of Government letter No. 1,654—S.R., of 20th instant, (orders on 2nd fortnightly narrative) is furnished by Mr. Forbes under heading D, (storage of Government grain at relief works).

With reference to the remarks under heading F (advances to private parties for land improvement) I may mention that Baboo Gopal Chundra Mittra, the Second Special Commissioner, under the Chota Nagpore Tenures' Act, has since left for Palamow, and is now there exercising the powers of a Collector under the Land Improvement Act.

With reference to heading F (charitable relief) I may remark that, under orders received from the Commissioner, a public meeting will be held at Ranchee on the 28th instant.

H. L. OLIPHANT,
Deputy Commissioner.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 1st April 1874.

READ—

THE Palamow fortnightly narrative for the period ending 21st March.

The Assistant Commissioner is beginning to doubt whether the supply furnished by private trade will continue sufficient for the demands of his sub-division. Colonel Dalton, however, has assured the Government that he does not share Mr. Forbes' apprehension that private importations will cease on the 15th April. It appears that the prices hitherto returned in the price-currents to Government have been wholesale rates returned by the Choudries, while the actual retail rates were considerably higher. Stocks are still said to be considerable, but traders are holding back in view of later demands. The condition of the people is described as daily getting worse, many being reduced to one meal in two days. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes this is not literally so, and it cannot be if employment is given as it should be. Thefts are also becoming common, though of a petty character. The number of labourers on relief works (7,936) is less than last fortnight (12,025), owing to the opening of the harvest, which seems hardly consistent with the above statement of extreme destitution being general. Charitable relief operations are commencing.

2. On the whole, this report is of a very unsatisfactory tenor, and the Lieutenant-Governor begs that the Commissioner will satisfy himself of the real state of things. Further advances for the importation of grain have been sanctioned. The Lieutenant-Governor desires that in future this narrative should be forwarded through the Commissioner. He must express his surprise and regret that the Deputy Commissioner should not have a word to say.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1989.—S.R.

Copy to Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, Deputy Collector of Lohardugga, and Assistant Commissioner, Palamow, with copies of the narratives.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 1st April 1874.

Enclosure No. 8.

No. 40 M.A., dated Calcutta, the 26th March 1874.

Memorandum by Lord H. Ulick Browne, Commissioner of the Presidency Division.

Copy submitted to Government. I have nothing worthy of mention to report in addition to what the Collector says under any of the headings for Commissioners' reports, firstly to fifthly, except that the Collector's lists of district and sub-divisional relief committees are expected daily, and that the members will then be gazetted and utilised as an intelligence department.

2. Land-owners continue to take out loans for tank excavation.

3. The Collector does not mention the Kishnaghur weavers, but they are being looked after.

No. 277—S.R., dated Kishnaghur, the 23rd March 1874.

From C. C. Stevens, Esq., Collector of Nuddea, to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division.

I have the honour to submit my fortnightly report ending this day.

2. The belief that there is an abundance of grain everywhere in this district seems to prevail. Imports from other districts have not yet ceased. Exports are believed to have diminished. The mahajuns have opened their stores at last, and been making advances of paddy to ryots rather freely. The panic caused by Government having made large purchases of food-grains has decreased, the spring crops have derived benefit from the late rainfall, and more rice has been thrown into the market, in consequence of the near approach of the latest day fixed for the payment of land revenue. All these circumstances have occasioned a fall in prices of food-grain, and the market is easier than it was.

3. In the following marts coarse rice has been selling at the prices shown below:—

	Per Maund.			
	Rs.	A.	P.	
Ranaghat - - - - -	2	8	0	
Santipore - - - - - -	2	12	0	
Chagda - - - - -	2	10	0	
Haringhatta in Jajooly - - - -	3	0	0	
Bongong - - - - -	2	2	0	to 2 4 0
Meherpore - - - - - -	2	4	0	to 2 6 0
Kooshtea - - - - -	2	12	0	
Kishnaghur - - - - -	2	13	0	
Chapra - - - - -	2	10	0	to 2 12 0
Kaligunge - - - - - -	2	14	0	

4. There were showers of rain during the period under review, and the weather was somewhat unsettled at times. The nights and mornings were cold.

5. *State of the Crops.*—The late rainfalls have done much good to the spring crops, though in places, specially in the north, damage has been done by hail. The condition of cold weather crops, except tobacco, is generally favourable, and where reaping has commenced, the outturn may be said to be a fair one for the area sown.

6. *Condition of the People.*—The people do not appear to be nearly so anxious as they were some months ago; as yet there is no sign of a general distress, but a little pressure, it is feared, will be felt by the more indigent of the high caste people, and by those who ordinarily subsist by charity, or who from bodily infirmities are incapable of work. A number of the labouring class of people has found employments in works undertaken by means of the tuccavee loans as well as on Government works. A good deal of cholera has been reported, and three special native doctors are now at work. This, no doubt, is the effect of the extreme deficiency of water; it is a matter of satisfaction that so much will be done this year to improve the supply for the future.

7. *Actual facts—as any known cases of misery and starvation, grain-thefts and robberies.*—No cases of actual starvation have come to my knowledge. I may mention by the way that the women and children whom I mentioned in my first narrative as being in a critical state are supporting themselves by labour on the works opened in their neighbourhood. During the last fortnight 23 cases of grain theft have been reported by the police, but all of them are not to be traced to the present condition of the district.

8. *Condition of any special tract.*—Jagooly is the only place in the district where the supplies are reported to be somewhat short, but the people do not depend much on the markets. The people in the north of the Sudder sub-division, which is the only really very distressed tract, are finding plenty of employment for the present.

RELIEF WORKS.

9. All work on the roads has been stopped, except in respect to those whose cases were mentioned in my last report. Three tanks at Government expense are being excavated; about 1,200 labourers are being daily employed on those works, but the number is falling on account of the demand for labour on tanks dug from tuccavee loan.

10. *Transport of food.*—Only a small quantity of food has been exported from the Bongong sub-division, and about 3,000 maunds of dhan or paddy have been reported to have passed up the Itchamate. The export from Ranaghat is estimated to be 400 maunds of paddy to Hooghly, 757 maunds of rice to Hooghly, Baraset, and Chooadanga; 787 maunds of other food-grain to Calcutta and Hooghly from Kooshtea. 7,000 maunds of food-grains are said to have passed in the direction of Moorshedabad, and 6,000 maunds exported to Calcutta and Moorshedabad. The sub-divisional officer of Chooadanga reports that about 600 maunds of rice have been exported by rail to Naihati, about 300 maunds to Meherpore, and about 12,000 maunds have been passed *en route* for Kishnagur and Moorshedabad from Meherpore; about 5,000 maunds in all have been exported, chiefly to Calcutta and Moorshedabad.

11. At present no necessity has arisen for storage of Government Grain.

ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PERSONS AND THEIR RESULTS.

12. Rs. 21,116 have been lent to private persons and zemindars under the Land Improvement Act; almost in every case the work has been started.

CHARITABLE RELIEF.

13. About Rs. 15 have been spent on this head, but the cases are such as require no special comments.

X. 2

Enclosure No. 9.

RETURN of MEN, WOMEN, and CHILDREN employed on RELIEF WORKS in DISTRICTS of RAJSHAHYE, PATNA, and BHAGULPORE DIVISIONS, for the fortnight ending 21st March 1874.

NAME OF DISTRICT.		Total Number of Persons employed during the 14 days.				Mean Daily Number of Persons employed during the 14 Days.				Number of Persons employed on the last of the 14 Days.				REMARKS.
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	
RAJSHAHYE DIVISION.	Moorshedabad - - -	52,927	2,569	1,378	56,874	3,770	181	97	4,048	2,832	232	123	3,187	More than half are of the non-labouring class.
	Dinagepore - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Statement not yet received.
	Maldah - - -	36,116	6,810	1,695	44,621	2,561	481	113	3,155	2,672	370	112	3,154	75 per cent. non-labouring class.
	Rajshahye - - - -	42,189	1,837	9,454	53,430	3,009	181	675	3,815	4,757	156	1,317	6,230	No information regarding non-labouring class.
	Rungpore - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Statement not yet received.
	Bograh - - - -	42,298	27,498	21,980	91,776	3,015	1,960	1,529	6,504	4,250	3,418	2,038	9,706	10 per cent. non-labouring class.
	Total - -	173,480	38,714	34,507	246,701	12,355	2,753	2,414	17,522	14,511	4,171	3,595	22,277	
PATNA DIVISION.	Patna - - - -	43,985	59,106	26,150	129,241	3,144	4,222	1,862	9,228	3,296	4,552	1,934	9,782	12 per cent. labouring classes.
	Gya - - - - -	5,909	5,637	2,293	13,839	465	416	168	1,049	608	647	246	1,501	All from labouring class.
	Shahabad - - - -	20,391	8,412	2,014	30,817	1,476	605	150	2,231	1,783	677	227	2,687	80 per cent. from non-labouring classes.
	Tirhoot - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Statement not yet received.
	Sarun - - - -	503,233	354,921	363,261	1,221,415	36,602	25,628	29,182	91,412	39,541	27,173	28,602	95,316	About 27 per cent. belong to non-labouring class.
	Chumparun - - - -	396,098	263,237	130,050	2,184,697	28,267	18,782	9,259	56,308	34,158	20,916	13,734	68,808	No information regarding non-labouring class.
	Total - -	969,616	691,313	523,768	2,184,697	69,954	49,653	40,621	160,228	79,386	53,965	44,743	178,044	
BHAGULPORE DIVISION.	Monghyr - - - -	28,883	17,587	5,555	55,025	2,057	1,249	392	3,698	1,764	887	239	2,890	8 per cent. non-labouring, the rest labouring classes.
	Bhagulpore - - - -	55,289	18,164	10,119	83,572	4,670	1,619	905	7,194	4,105	1,472	801	6,378	No information given.
	Purneah - - - -	100,463	9,215	15,192	124,870	7,191	656	1,020	8,867	9,155	959	1,565	11,675	85 per cent. *girhasts*.
	Sonthal Pergunnahs - - -	18,592	10,005	2,932	31,529	1,323	701	216	2,240	1,293	737	179	2,209	No information given.
	Total - -	203,227	54,971	33,798	291,996	15,241	4,225	2,533	21,999	16,317	4,051	2,784	23,152	

J. E. T. NICOLLS, Colonel, R.E.
Secretary to the Government of Bengal,
Public Works Department.

Calcutta, the 31st March 1874.

No. 21 of 1874.

Government of India.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

Famine.

To the Most Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Marquis, Calcutta, the 10th April 1874.

In continuation of our Despatches relative to the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal, we have the honour to forward the Supplement of the "Calcutta Gazette" of the 8th instant, containing the usual statements of prices current and of the condition and prospects of the crops. There is nothing special to remark in either statement; in prices there is no great change, and the outturn of the cold weather crops in those districts of the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions where they are being harvested seems to confirm the favourable anticipations we expressed in our Despatch of the 27th ultima.

2. We all also forward the "Allahabad Gazette" of the 4th instant, which contains similar information from the North-Western Provinces. Your Lordship will observe that on the whole the reports are satisfactory, and that in the prices of some grains there has been a considerable fall.

Pages 165 to 187.

3. As promised in the 6th paragraph of our last Despatch, we enclose a letter from the Government of Bengal, forwarding Minutes by Sir Richard Temple, summarising the present relief arrangements in the distressed divisions of Behar and Rajshahye, together with a note reviewing the total allotments of grain to each district and the arrangements for transport. Our remarks upon these papers will be found in our Resolution of the 8th instant, which is also enclosed. At present we have only to observe that the general aspect of affairs, as described in our last Despatch, remains unchanged.

* Page 187.

† Pages 189 and 190.

4. We enclose a copy of our correspondence* with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the Government purchases of rice; we also enclose two communications† from the Government of Bengal,—the first relative to the delay which occurred, at the outset of operations, in the payment of labourers on Tirhoot relief works; and the second, received to-day reporting the occurrence of four deaths from starvation, in addition to the thirteen cases reported to Your Lordship in our weekly telegram of the 4th instant.

We have the honour to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
NAPIER OF MAGDALA.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.
J. F. D. INGLIS.

SUPPLEMENT to the GAZETTE OF INDIA.

Calcutta, Saturday, 11th April 1874.

Government of India. Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

No. 1200 A.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, dated Calcutta, the 8th April 1874.

RESOLUTION.

The Governor-General in Council has considered the 14th Special Narrative, submitted on the 2nd instant, of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal, and the letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 2088 S.R., of the 6th instant, forwarding a Note reviewing the allotment of grain to each district and the arrangements for its transport, together with Minutes by Sir Richard Temple, summarising the present relief arrangements in the distressed divisions of Behar and Rajshahye.

The Narrative, with the Lieutenant-Governor's observations and instructions, has been published in the *Gazette of India.* The same publicity will now be given to these subsequent communications.

Sir George Campbell has been obliged, on account of the state of his health, to resign the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and it is the gratifying duty of the Government of India to acknowledge the zeal and ability with which His Honour has from the first devoted himself to the arduous task of conducting the operations for the relief of distress. The Governor-General in Council desires particularly to record his high appreciation of the manner in which Sir George Campbell personally directed and supervised the relief organisation on the occasion of his recent visit to North Behar.

The Governor-General in Council further desires to take this opportunity of expressing his entire concurrence in Sir George Campbell's acknowledgment of the obligation of the Government to Sir Richard Temple for the great energy and administrative power which he has shown in co-operating with the Lieutenant-Governor for the purpose of completing the arrangements to meet the famine.

The Government of India have also to record their cordial recognition of the zealous and efficient services of the Commissioners of the Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye Divisions, and of the other officers mentioned by the Lieutenant-Governor and Sir Richard Temple.

It is not impossible that contingencies may arise which will place still greater strain upon the resources of the State, and call for additional exertions on the part of the officers of Government. But His Excellency confidently relies upon every officer doing his duty under a strong sense of the responsibility devolving upon him during the period of increasing distress which, it is to be feared, must be anticipated.

(True Extract.)
ARTHUR HOWELL,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 2088 S.R., dated 6th April 1874.

From C. BERNARD, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue, Agricultural, and Commerce Department.

WITH reference to paragraph 16 of the last special Narrative, which contained a promise to submit a note showing the whole allotments of grain to the distressed districts, and reviewing the transport arrangements and their working, and also to submit Minutes by Sir Richard Temple, summarising the present relief arrangements of the three very distressed divisions, I am now directed to submit these papers.

They consist of—

(a.) Summary of allotments and transport arrangements with a minute by Sir Richard Temple on the carrying power of the railway, written with reference to the above.

(*b.*) The letter of Sir Richard Temple's Secretary, No. 121, dated 31st March, with Sir Richard's Minutes, Nos. 52, 63, 64, 65, and 66, reviewing the relief arrangements of the Dinagepore, Patna, and Bhagulpore Divisions, and of the country generally, with a reply, No. 2060, dated the 2nd April, conveying to Sir Richard Temple the Lieutenant-Governor's warm acknowledgments for the assistance which he has rendered to the Government of Bengal during Sir George Campbell's incumbency.

2. The last Narrative has placed the Government of India in possession of the most recent information regarding the state of the country and the progress of relief arrangements, and the instructions issued by the Lieutenant-Governor after seeing for himself the worst parts of the country.

Nothing has since occurred to alter the views given in the narrative. We have still reason to hope that, so far, our greatest difficulties are confined to the Tirhoot district, and the more recent accounts from thence are favourable. In a telegram just received, Mr. Metcalfe says :—" Nothing like starvation is apparent. Village relief in hands of headmen. Working number on Bahera road twenty-six thousand* only, on Mudhoobunnee works two lakhs.† Employing Resaldars in disciplining mobs (*i.e.*, of labourers). Public health good. Baiparees increasing imports. Water-supply everywhere deficient. Village after village searched for hungry people. Mudhoobunnee, Nareya, Durbhunga circles all formed. Can honestly say famine well in hand."

3. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the enclosed transport note will satisfy the Government of India that the local transport arrangements as a whole are now extremely efficient, and that the carrying power is only limited by the carrying power of the railway. The Government of India will probably consider that question in connection with Sir Richard Temple's note on the subject and my letter No. 2089 S.R. of this date, submitting the question whether certain further quantities of grain are to be procured from the North-Western Provinces.

4. Sir Richard Temple's Minutes, attached to his Secretary's letter No. 121, set forth very clearly in precise and statistical form the various arrangements made for supply of grain transport and relief machinery. Sir Richard Temple very justly praises the judgment, discrimination, and assiduity displayed by Mr. S. Bayley, Commissioner of the Patna Division, in the discharge of the extraordinary difficult duties which have devolved on him ; and he commends the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. J. Hewitt. He cordially acknowledges the services of Mr. G. N. Barlow, Officiating Commissioner of Bhagulpore, and brings specially to the notice of Government the very valuable services rendered by Mr. H. Hankey, as Special Superintendent of Transport. He speaks in terms of high commendation of Mr. W. Le F. Robinson, in special relief charge of the four northern districts of the Rajshahye Division. In all the above praises the Lieutenant-Governor entirely concurs.

5. The time has now come when the present Lieutenant-Governor must shortly surrender his office. He is compelled to do so at a time when the country is unhappily placed in a very critical position ; but he hopes that the papers submitted with the last Narrative and with the present letter will show that, under the direction and control of the Government of India, the Government of Bengal has made very large, and generally successful, provision to meet the calamity which has befallen the country ; and Sir George Campbell trusts that in handing over the administration to a successor who has already so largely and so ably assisted him, he does so under circumstances which give fair hope that this Government, administered by the energetic and competent hands of his successor, and supported by the large means which the Government of India has so freely afforded, may be able successfully to carry the people through the time of trial, with no greater suffering than is inevitable under such a dispensation of Providence.

6. It has been explained that the present season so far promises very favourably. Accounts have just been received of a very beneficial fall of rain in the North Bengal Districts, and at this moment the appearance of the weather gives hopes of a further fall, which would be peculiarly opportune and beneficial after much land has been prepared and some crops sown in Bengal, and the rubbee harvest has been reaped and garnered in Behar.

7. If the season in Bengal should be favourable, the ensuing months being showery, as a season so commenced often is in Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor would hope that, after the provision which has been made for supplying the distressed districts and maintaining a reserve, the condition of the people in the greater part of Bengal proper may not be greatly changed for the worse.

In the parts of Behar where the rubbee harvest has for some weeks given employment to the people, we must expect a large accession to the numbers for whom employment and relief provision must be made between the end of the rubbee harvest and the rains. But if the unusual drought is followed by early rains, as is frequently the case, that period will not be very long ; and when good rains commence, we may expect that, in all districts not reduced in an extreme degree, the people will of their own accord betake themselves to agricultural pursuits.

There remain the large tracts of North Tirhoot, and other more limited tracts, where, there being little or no rubbee, the people have come on our hands at a comparatively early period in very large numbers. It is the Lieutenant-Governor's earnest hope that the measures which have been adopted will suffice to meet the vast amount of distress existing in those tracts ; but he does not doubt that this distress can only be met by very earnest and sustained effort, which he surely believes will not be wanting.

Sir George Campbell trusts, then, that, by the mercy of God, the people, whom he leaves in very good hands, will be saved from starvation.

---

* When the measures for sifting and distributing the people on this road were undertaken, they were over fifty thousand.

† This is a decrease and not an increase on numbers previously stated.

8. Sir George Campbell is under very great obligations to many of the officers who have assisted him in the efforts which for the last six months he has made to meet the threatened famine; but at a time when the work is unfinished, he feels that he cannot ask for them the acknowledgments of the Government of India. He will, therefore, not here attempt to specify those who have in his opinion so far done well, beyond the concurrence in Sir Richard Temple's praises of certain officers which he has above recorded, but he will leave a note on the subject with his successor, who will hereafter be in a position to estimate the services of the various officers as a whole.

SUMMARY of ALLOTMENTS and ARRANGEMENTS for transport of Government grain to distressed districts, brought up to latest intelligence received to end of March.

1. The allotments of grain to the distressed districts, according to the latest revisions, are:—

	Maunds.	Maunds.
Patna	67,500	
Gya	2,20,000	
Shahabad and Soane Circle	3,17,000	
Tirhoot	42,00,000	
Sarun	5,30,000	
Chumparun	10,00,000	
Monghyr	3,78,000	
Bhagulpore	7,30,000	
Purneah	6,50,000	
Sonthalia	1,35,000	
		82,27,500
Hazareebagh	25,000	
Manbhoom	28,000	
Palamow	10,000	
		63,000
Moorshedabad	5,000	
Dinagepore	12,00,000	
Maldah	1,50,000	
Rajshahye	1,00,000	
Northern Bengal Railway	1,00,000	
Rungpore	3,00,000	
Bogra	2,40,000	
		20,95,000

2. If we include the Chota Nagpore in what may be called the western group of districts, the total allotment for them is 82,90,500 maunds or (converted at 27·2 maunds per ton) 304,797 tons. The total allotments for the eastern districts is in maunds 20,95,000 or tons 77,022.

The grand total of the allotment for all districts, as at present fixed, is therefore 381,819 tons.

3. The total quantity of grain despatched from Calcutta up to the 31st March is returned as follows:—

	Maunds.		Tons.
To the western districts	36,99,928	or	136,026
To the eastern districts	14,54,775	or	53,483

If we add to this 17,463 tons, purchased locally and in the North-West Provinces for the western districts, and 2,941 tons purchased locally for the Rajshahye Division, the total despatch of grain up to date stands—

	Tons.
For the western districts	153,489
For the eastern districts	56,424
Total	209,913

This leaves 171,906 tons yet to be supplied, of which 151,308 tons are due to the western and 20,598 tons to the eastern districts.

In the western districts of the Burdwan and Chota Nagpore Division, some further allotments may be required, but it is not expected that the quantity will be very large.

4. The statements of amounts actually received in the districts are mostly dated 28th March, but they are always considerably in arrear of the actual facts, depending on previous returns from out-stations, while the despatches from Calcutta are given up to date. The following statement of the amounts received in the districts, based upon the last transport returns and the district narratives, shows a greater difference than the amount in transit would account for. Difference in date must account for the remaining difference.*

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* The difference between the total amount despatched and the amount shown as received is 20,813 tons. But it must be remembered, as stated generally in the text, that the returns of receipts are by no means up to date. In the Rajshahye Division, again, consignments are by water routes, some weeks upon the road, also there are often considerable quantities accumulated at Futwa, Kooshtea, Goalundo, and other ghâts on the south side of the river. Again, the railway despatches are made up for three days beyond even the nominal date of the district returns, and we may allow 3,500 tons a day by the two railways on that account.

The amounts received at the main receiving depôts of the districts appear to stand thus:—

	Maunds.
Sarun	3,79,690
Chumparun	6,23,275
Tirhoot	16,41,000
Shahabad and Soane Circle	1,79,000
Gya	1,40,000
Patna	58,822
Bhagulpore	4,57,491
Monghyr	2,15,933
Sonthalia	15,000
Purneah	4,56,645
Total for Patna and Bhagulpore Divisions	41,66,856
Rajshahye Division	9,64,186
Chota Nagpore	12,492
Total	51,43,534

or 189,100 tons in all.

It will be remembered, however, that this includes some considerable quantities stacked at receiving stations and not yet sent off to the interior; and, in the case of Tirhoot, this will make a good deal of difference, a considerable quantity of grain stated as received into that district being still at Champta and some other ghâts.

5. The following paragraphs examine the state of the transport question in detail district by district:—

SARUN.

6. The allotment is discussed in Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 18, dated 12th February. It was there settled that 5,00,000 maunds were to be supplied for the district plus 30,000 to be advanced from Government stores for the Hutwa estate, *i.e.*, 5,30,000 maunds in all, exclusive of a further supply of 1,50,000 maunds to be obtained direct by the Hutwa estate; all to be stored by the 15th June. It was further settled that all grain for Sarun should be consigned to Arrah, and be sent across the river in native boats. Up to the present date the grain has been steadily carried into the interior without fail. The Sarun cart power could carry much more if necessity arose. The district transport return dated 29th March shows that 3,65,971 maunds had been thus received. Even this figure is not quite correct up to date, as the Collector's returns from the receiving ghâts could not give actual figures up to the 28th inclusive. We may safely assume that at least two more days' despatches had been received on the north bank of the Ganges by the 28th March, and that a third day's despatches were *en route* from Arrah. We know that there is no balance of Sarun grain lying at Arrah, and that the average daily despatch by cart and boat from Arrah is 4,573 maunds daily. According to the Collector's figures, then, Sarun had yet to receive 1,64,029 maunds of its allotment. But according to the above estimate it must have received 3,79,690, leaving 1,50,310 maunds still to be sent up. If the present orders to send daily 5,000 maunds to Arrah for Sarun hold good, the whole balance due would arrive by the 28th of April. Even at the average rate of despatch hitherto (4,573 maunds), the balance would have reached the district by the beginning of May, and might all be stored by the 15th May. In case of necessity the despatches might, after due notice, be reduced to 3,000 maunds per diem, and it is proposed to do this next week.

CHUMPARUN.

7. Coming now to Chumparun, according to Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 13, dated 8th February, the allotment for this district was to be one million of maunds, to be imported by the 15th June. European contractors, Messrs. Lethbridge and Gibbon, undertook to cart from Bunkur Ghât opposite Patna 50,000 maunds a week, or 2,00,000 maunds a month from 15th February, say 7,00,000 maunds in all up to the 15th June. The Collector was to receive by 15th February, under previous arrangements, 2,15,000, and 50,000 maunds were then expected by the Gunduck for the embankment works. Besides all this, 1,50,000 maunds were being brought in by river on account of the Bettiah Raj and planters. No further arrangements for transport were, therefore, deemed necessary, as the Gunduck was expected to rise after the middle of May, and boat carriage become feasible, should further supplies of grain be required.

8. The only change in the Chumparun programme has been that, in order to relieve the extreme pressure at Bunkur Ghât, the contractors have, since the 9th March, taken from 7,000 to 14,000 a week of the Chumparun grain *viâ* Arrah. No information as to the actual total despatches by the Gunduck is available, but it is understood that the district is relying now entirely on its land carriage.

9. By the transport returns for the fortnight ending 28th March, the district had received 5,97,907 maunds, leaving it 4,02,093 to receive. If we may assume, as we certainly may, that here too the Collector's figures are two or three days in arrear of the facts at the time of his writing, this balance due would be reduced by about 8,456 maunds for each day: the average actual daily despatches from Arrah to Chumparun being 1,088 maunds, and from Bunkur to Chumparun 7,368 maunds. This would make the receipts in all 6,23,275 maunds. In round numbers, however, we may say that Chumparun had, on the 28th March, something under four lakhs of its allotment to receive. At 50,000 maunds a week (the contract rate), this would be

cleared off in eight weeks or less. At present the contractors are carrying off, by the two routes of Arrah and Bunkur alone, an average of 59,196 maunds a week. But the combined despatches for Chumparun *viâ* Bunkur and *viâ* Arrah need not exceed 50,000 maunds a week, say 15,000 *viâ* Arrah and 35,000 *viâ* Bunkur.

TIRHOOT.

10. Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 35, of the 26th February, abstracts the arrangements for Tirhoot thus: 42 lakhs of maunds were to be conveyed before the rainy season, thus distributed—to Seetamurhee (10), Mudhoobunnee (16), and Durbhunga (16). The contracts made were as follow:—

	Lakhs.
A.—The *Western Contractors* were to take—	
From Bunkur to Seetamurhee *viâ* Mozufferpore - - -	6
„ to Contai for Seetamurhee - - - -	4
„ to Attrai and Poosa for Mudhoobunnee - -	5
„ to Durbhunga - - - - -	5
Total -	20
B.—The *Alliance Company* were to take—	
From Chumpta to Durbhunga - - - -	18
C.—A North-western Contractor, Nilcomul and Co., was to take—	
From Mokameh to Durbhunga - - - -	4

The above provided for the cartage of 42 lakhs of maunds away from the river ghâts.

The Seetamurhee grain was to be taken up at Contai and Seetamurhee, and distributed in that sub-division by a separate company, Messrs. Tripe, Begg, and Company.

The five lakhs delivered at Attrai and Poosa were to be carted on by Messrs. Studd and Wilson to Kamtoul, and thence by Mr. Llewhellin to Mudhoobunnee.

Of the total quantity of grain delivered in Durbhunga (5+18+4=27) 11 lakhs were to be taken on by Mr. Llewhellin to Mudhoobunnee.

In this way each sub-division was to get its quantum.

11. Minute No. 57 has assigned 67,000 maunds to Tajpore Sub-division, and directs that this supply shall be deducted from the allotment for such of the other sub-divisions as the Commissioner sees fit. The allotment for the Sudder Sub-division has not yet been fixed. Whatever may be required for this or Hajeepore, will for the present come out of the allotment for the rest of the district.

12. In Mr. Hewitt's report for the fortnight ending 14th February, he explains the routes and the quantities expected to be carried by each as follows:—

	Weekly quantity in maunds.
From Bunkur by Lalgunj to Contai - - - -	15,000
„ by Rusoolpore to Seetamurhee - - -	50,000 to 70,000
„ to Athar and Poosa - - - -	35,000
Total weekly from Bunkur -	1,00,000 to 1,20,000
From Chumpta to Durbhunga - - - -	75,000
„ Jamattia to Durbhunga (Singhia and Hatta) - -	35,000
Total from Chumpta - -	1,10,000

This arrangement, however, omits the despatches from Bunker to Durbhunga subsequently arranged. To supply 5 lakhs by that route, which was not commenced to work till after the Lieutenant-Governor went up in beginning of March, a despatch of upwards of 35,000 maunds a week, or 5,000 maunds per diem, is necessary.

13. The quantities despatched from Bunker for Tirhoot have averaged 15,843 maunds a day, or 1,10,901 maunds a week, from 8th to 25th March, and are improving steadily. Those from Chumpta by the Alliance Company have been very short, averaging only 6,092 maunds a day from 5th to 27th March. In consequence, however, of the failure of this Company to supply enough cartage at Chumpta, they have tried another route from Monghyr, and also a route by Mokameh, which it was proposed to use simultaneously by the North-West contractor, Nilcomul Mitter. Up to the 29th March the Company had, however, only sent 5,486 maunds by the Mokameh route. The rate of despatch by the Monghyr route, to a point on the lesser Gunduck, is stated at over 22,000 maunds a week, but this is only despatched by boat. We do not know yet what has been landed and carried off.

14. The arrangements as last reported stand thus: The Alliance Company is to work from Barh *viâ* Chumpta, and also from Monghyr and Mokameh. They are to take three lakhs in all to Poorani Ghât south of Singhia by boat, and stock the Bahera and Singhia golahs of Durbhunga. The Chumpta grain is to be delivered at Hya Ghât for Mudhoobunnee. Nilcomul, the North-West contractor, is to carry from Simeria Ghât opposite Mokameh, and deliver at Pahuddee for Muddebpoora and other circles in Mudhoobunnee; but as yet this contractor has not begun active operations. The grain from Bunkur *viâ* Poosa goes to the western parts of Mudhoobunnee, while the grain from Bunkur to Durbhunga goes direct to the latter place.

15. The review of the transport appliances for Tirhoot would not be complete without a reference to the Durbhunga railway, which will almost immediately carry from Chumpta to Nagurbustee (28 miles on the road to Durbhunga) 200 tons or 5,600 maunds a day; and which is to carry from Chumpta Ghât right into Durbhunga (44 miles) 600 tons or 22,400 maunds a day soon after the 15th April.

16. The present position, then, is—

The present actual average rate of despatch is—

	Weekly quantity in maunds.
From Bunker Ghât	1,10,900
From Chumpta Ghât	42,600
From Monghyr, by the Alliance Company	22,750
From Mokameh, by the Alliance Company	7,680
	1,83,930

The amount already in the district, 16,41,000 maunds, leaves 25,59,000 maunds still to receive (out of the allotment of 42 lakhs), to which must be added, say nearly 2,00,000 lying at the ghâts when the account was made up, giving 27,50,000 maunds in all to be despatched into the interior.

Taking nine weeks' despatches from 28th March to 1st June to arrive at destination by 15th idem, the *present* despatches would give us by the 15th June—

Nine weeks' despatches, at 1,83,930 maunds a week - 16,55,370

17. But we have the certainty (or almost certainty) of the following increase by means of the railway:—

The Durbhunga railway will raise the despatches from Chumpta Ghât from 6,090 a day to 22,000 a day; and this increase will, it is hoped, last for at least fifty days, thus giving an extra supply of - - - 7,95,500

or a total despatch of 24,50,000 against 27,50,000 to be carried.

18. 3,00,000 maunds remain.

For this we have the North-Western contractor, Nilcomul, but he has not yet begun the work he undertook.

We may hope, further, that the reserve carriage will help to make up any possible shortcoming in the above calculation.

There is at least one further resource, and that is the North Bhagulpore transport. Mr. Hankey writes that this is now immensely powerful, and that he can undertake to carry three lakhs of maunds into Tirhoot through North Bhagulpore, if only he can get the grain delivered to him, or the railway to carry. It may be considered that the above three lakhs, then, may either be sent by the arrangements already made or by the Bhagulpore route.

19. The general result of the above seems to be, that if the traffic remains uninterrupted till 15th June, we may expect to carry the whole Tirhoot supply. In the event of an unusually early rainy season, the land traffic may be interrupted, but in that case we may hope that the necessities of the district will also cease earlier, and the water routes will be opened.

20. The only apprehension is, that owing to the delay in the Chumpta Ghât forwarding arrangements, when the railway begins to work fully, too much grain may be accumulated at Durbhunga, and there may be difficulty in sending it on in time to Allapore and other stations of Mudhoobunnee. In that view it would seem to be preferable to send part of the supply by the Bhagulpore routes to Allapore direct.

21. Seeing that it is not desirable to send forward from the river side to Durbhunga more grain than can be forwarded to its ultimate destination (after the rains commence Monghyr would be a better point of departure than Durbhunga), and seeing the complaints that have been made of interference with private trade, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it would be desirable not to take up local pack-bullocks and donkeys for transport from the Ganges, these animals being only used for the distribution beyond Durbhunga, when absolutely necessary.

22. The districts in the Patna Division, south of the Ganges, call for only brief notice.

SHAHABAD.

19. The allotment for Shahabad is put by Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 61, dated 26th March, at 1,27,000 maunds. The district has received 65,000 maunds. For the Soane Circle 1,90,000 maunds are said to be required, of which 1,23,113 had been received; 66,887 more have to be ordered.

For the district and the canal together 1,28,887 more are required, of which 75,000 are to be rice, sent up to stations between Arrah and Mogul Serai. The rest is to be brought from the North-Western Provinces.

20. The district carriage has moved 3,000 maunds a day, and can do more if pressed. No grain has been sent since the 9th March for Arrah, or since 24th February for the Soane Circle. Some has now to be sent, but there is no urgency in the despatches for either this district or Gya.

GYA.

21. Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 60, dated 25th March, provides 2,20,000 maunds for Gya; 1,40,000 are already there; 80,000 more have to be sent. Of this, 55,000 maunds is to be rice, and 25,000 grain from North-Western Provinces. Gya can move over 3,000 maunds a day. No grain has gone up since 8th March, owing to the shortness of railway waggons and demands of other places.

The transport of the allotted grain into the interior of the Shahabad and Gya Districts can be effected without doubt or difficulty, if only the railway can carry the required amounts to the railway stations early enough in the season.

PATNA.

22. The allotment here is 67,500, of which 58,822 have been delivered. None has been sent up since 23rd February; but as the district can move 22,000 maunds a day, it can take its balance at any time if required.

BHAGULPORE.

23. For North Bhagulpore the allotment by Minute No. 25, dated 19th February, is 7,30,000 maunds.

The last transport returns show to 28th March 4,57,491 maunds received, leaving a balance due of 2,72,509 maunds. All the routes were working clear, and rice did not come to hand fast enough for the transport power. Sir Richard Temple wished 40,000 maunds a week to go for this district to stations between Bhagulpore and Monghyr; and Mr. Hankey writes that the transport power is expanding immensely, if only they could get grain to keep the carts employed. The railway despatches for the week beginning 30th March are to be daily:—

		Minimum.	Maximum.
		Maunds.	Maunds.
To Monghyr	for North Bhagulpore	5,000	6,000
To Sultangunge		4,000	6,000
	- -	9,000	12,000
	-Weekly =	63,000	= 84,000

24. The actual daily average despatch into the interior from Jugdischuck, opposite Sultangunge, has been 3,610 maunds, and from Monghyr 3,520 maunds; but Mr. Hankey says that it is only want of grain that has kept the average down, as they really carried up to 7,682 maunds from Jugdischuck on an average of 11 days when full of grain. The Monghyr route can easily, he adds, carry 6,000 or 7,000 maunds a day. Even at the rate of 7,130 maunds from both ghâts, the whole balance due to Bhagulpore would be delivered in 38 days from 28th March, *i.e.*, by early in May. If they can carry say 13,000 maunds a week, the whole will be cleared off in 21 days from the 28th March.

If Bhagulpore is to carry three lakhs of maunds for North Tirhoot, its carriage will be kept employed up to the middle of June.

Excluding, however, any arrangements for Tirhoot by this route, 6,000 or even 5,000 maunds a day would be a sufficient supply for Bhagulpore.

MONGHYR.

25. The allotment for this district is fixed by Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 64, at 3,78,000 maunds, and of this quantity 1,92,000 had, when Sir Richard wrote, been received into the district, plus 20,000, by the Court of Wards, leaving to be sent 1,66,000, all of which Sir Richard Temple said might come from the North-Western Provinces. The transport returns show an actual receipt of 1,95,933 maunds. No despatches have been made from Calcutta for this district since the 13th March, as the demands of other districts were more urgent, and the carrying power of the East Indian Railway was considerably below the mark. The Collector estimates that he has carriage available for over 5,000 maunds daily. The Monghyr grain stores and its distressed tracts are near to the railway; the district has already carried away promptly every maund it received, and if only the railway can supply the stations before the end of the season, all the Monghyr grain will be in position well before the middle of June.

SONTHAL PERGUNNAHS.

26. Sir Richard Temple has settled that a total of 1,35,000 maunds in all should be sent to the Sonthal Pergunnahs. Of this 15,000 maunds have already been sent; the storehouses and distressed tracts are near the railway; and this moderate supply of grain can be carried into the interior as soon as it arrives.

PURNEAH.

27. For Purneah, by Minute No. 44, of the 7th March, the allotment is 6,50,000 maunds. Besides this, 1,50,000 were to be carried through Purneah into Dinagepore, while it was contemplated that 1,50,000 maunds for Purneah might go *viâ* the Mahanuddee. This arrangement leaves the amount to be carted by Purneah from Caragola at 6,50,000 maunds. Mr. Hankey's report of the 12th March estimated that the carriage had developed so that they could carry at least 2,00,000 a month. Up to the 22nd March they had carted away from Caragola 4,24,749 maunds, and the carriage was adequate to taking much more than they had got (*viz.*, 8,922 maunds a day in the fortnight ending 21st March).

The transport return dated 28th March shows 4,36,645 maunds as received into the district at Caragola, leaving 2,13,355 to be received. But these figures are certainly a day or two in arrear.

Probably we may say, in round numbers, that on the 28th Purneah had not more than 1,90,000 maunds to receive at Caragola, and part of this was already delivered at Colgong and Sahibgunj. But we may take 1,90,000 as an outside figure.

28. The average despatch into the interior from Caragola for 30 days ending 27th March was 6,800. At that rate Purneah will have completely received its supply *viâ* Caragola in 27 days, or by about the 24th of April. There will remain the 1,50,000 maunds which are to come into Purneah *viâ* the Mahanuddee to replace the 1,50,000 which Purneah has to give to Dinagepore. Mr. Hankey says he can carry this from Sahibgunj up the Mahanuddee after the rains begin, if necessary. If the East Indian Railway could carry all the grain we require before the rains, then Purneah could complete its allotment, plus the 1,50,000 for Dinagepore, by the Caragola route alone. But in case of necessity the Caragola despatches might be reduced to 5,000 maunds per diem.

CHOTA NAGPORE.

31. A small quantity of grain (28,000 maunds at present) has been allotted to Manbhoom, and 25,000 maunds to Hazareebagh, and 10,000 to Palamow, which has been sent from the Soane allotment, being replaced there by despatches to an equivalent amount.

32. Moorshedabad is also at present permitted to draw up to 5,000 maunds from Government stores. Up to date only 500 have been sent.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY POWER.

33. There remains now the all-important question of the carrying capacity of the East Indian Railway (of the Eastern Bengal Railway no doubt is entertained). The districts had in the last days of March yet to receive, *viâ* the East Indian Railway, in round numbers, the following quantities of grain:—

	Maunds.	
To Sarun	1,50,000	
„ Chumparun	4,00,000	
„ Tirhoot	25,59,000	
„ Patna	10,000	
„ Gya	80,000	
„ Shahabad and Soane Circles	1,28,000	
		33,27,000
„ Bhagulpore	2,72,000	
„ Monghyr	1,66,000	
„ Purneah	1,90,000	
„ Sonthal Pergunnahs	1,20,000	
„ Dinagepore, by Hyatpore, 2,000 a day for 60 days	1,20,000	
		8,68,000
Grand total by East Indian Railway		41,95,000, or about 154,000 tons.
From this we may deduct—		
Mr. Hewitt's local purchases at Patna	5,64,000	
North-Western Provinces' grain for Shahabad and Soane Canal	63,000	
North-Western Provinces' grain for Gya	25,000	
Ditto ditto for Monghyr	1,66,000	
		8,28,000
Which leaves for *up* trains		33,67,000, or about 124,000 tons.

At an average rate of despatch of 2,000 tons per day, this amount would be cleared off by the 31st of May.

This does not provide for Chota Nagpore and Burdwan requirements, which are not very great.

In fact, however, we cannot afford to delay despatches from Calcutta so long as the above, seeing the vicissitudes of the seasons, and that our district carrying power is now raised to a very high point. It would be extremely desirable to carry and store as much as possible in the next six weeks.

34. If we could work the railway up to the full amount that the carrying power of all the districts could be calculated on to take away, we should have to send about the following quantities weekly:—

	Maunds.
For Sarun	35,000
„ Chumparun	60,000
„ Tirhoot, with the Durbhunga Railway appliances	3,10,000
„ Shahabad, Gya, and Patna	15,000
„ Bhagulpore	70,000
„ Monghyr and Sonthalia	20,000
„ Purneah	60,000
„ Chota Nagpore Districts	10,000
Total	5,80,000

i.e., we should have to send 21,323 tons a week, or about 3,000 tons a day. This the railway cannot carry. But, as above shown, some districts will have drawn all their stock long before the latest date, and the despatches of some must be eased off, so that if the railway can take without fail 2,500 tons a day, as now arranged, we may expect that all the grain will be stored before the rains, if the moonsoon sets in at the usual time. This, however, will still involve some easing off of the transport now available.

Coming now to Eastern Bengal, and first—

RUNGPORE.

35. Sir Richard Temple's allotment for Rungpore is 3,00,000 maunds. Up to 27th March 1,46,534 maunds have been despatched from Calcutta, leaving 1,53,466 to be sent up in April and May. The transport returns show 1,29,004 received. The Eastern Bengal Railway Company's steamer can make 2½ trips from Goalundo to Kaligunge every month, and carry 25,000 maunds each trip. Mr. Davies, the sub-divisional officer of Goalundo, is also sending rice up in such native boats as he can hire suitable for the journey. These two sources of despatch will ensure 1,20,000 maunds being landed at Kaligunge on or before the 20th May. For the remaining 33,466 we have one of the India General Steam Navigation Company's steamers (either the *Bombay* or the *Lucknow*) and two flats, which will be transferred to Goalundo as soon as the Eastern Bengal Railway's additional steamer, the *Alfred*, commences to ply on the Kooshtea and Rajmehal route. She was to be at Kooshtea before April 1st; and the India General Steam Navigation Company's steamer, which is to be sent to Goalundo, will easily make two trips between the time she joins and the 10th May, carrying 20,000 each trip. This amply covers the 33,466 maunds required at Kaligunge to complete Sir Richard Temple's allotment. There is no reason to fear any break-down in this part of the transport arrangements. It will rest with the local authorities to ensure the success of the transport from Kaligunge into the interior. When Sir Richard Temple wrote his Minute No. 47, *i.e.*, on the 14th March, the rice for Rungpore itself was being carried by boat up the Teesta, and that destined for other parts of the district was being sent on by cart. There were 500 boats and 1,000 carts available, the estimated carrying power of which was 2,500 maunds daily. This would give a supply up to the 20th May of over one and half lakhs of maunds, and up to the breaking of the rains, say up to 15th June, of 75,000 maunds more. The water-routes will improve during the rains; and, unless any unforeseen accident should arise, the present arrangements may be confidently relied upon to perform the work expected of them. If more grain be required after the rainy season commences, it can be sent up by water from Kaligunge, where a reserve can, if necessary, be stored.

BOGRA.

36. The estimated requirements of this district are 2,40,000* maunds. Up to 27th March (according to the transport returns, which are not, however, it is believed, really up to date,) 52,974 maunds had been received into the district, leaving to be sent, during April or May, 1,87,026 maunds. The India General Steam Navigation Company's regular steamers will take 10,000 maunds each trip, and can make three trips in April and two in May. This provides for 50,000 maunds. Then we have the New River Steam Company's Steamer *Nepal* and two flats plying between Goalundo and Shohagipara, and carrying 20,000 maunds each trip. Between 1st April and 20th May she will make four trips and carry 80,000 maunds. There remains but 57,000 maunds (in round numbers) to be provided for. This will be taken by the steamer *Sultan* and her two flats, recently hired from Mr. Jackson. She and her flats take 14,000 maunds, and ought to make at least four trips from the date of her arrival at Goalundo (during the four weeks in April) to the 31st May. If any further steamer power is required for this route, the India General Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Lucknow* will, as per the next foregoing paragraph, be free from the Kaligunge route by the 10th May. It remains for the local authorities to arrange to carry away the grain as fast as it arrives, and, with water and land carriage together, this will not be difficult.

* *Vide* Sir Richard Temple's Minute of 16th March 1874.

REMAINING DISTRICTS OF RAJSHAHYE DIVISION.

37. With the exception of Bogra and Rungpore, which are supplied by steamer at two points, Shohajipara and Kaligunge respectively, all the districts of the Rajshahye division and the Northern Bengal Railway draw their supplies by several routes from the following points:—Hyatpore, Manikchuck, Rampore Bauleah, Godagari, Dhapari, and Goalundo. It is impossible to say the exact destination of all the grain sent up from the above main depôts, and it is therefore necessary to group the remaining districts together, and treat them as supplied collectively therefrom; thus—

DISTRICT.	Allotment.	Received at main Depôts North of Ganges up to 28th March.	Balance to be Received.
	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.
Dinagepore - - - - -	1,200,000		
Maldah - - - -	150,000		
Rajshahye - - -	100,000		
Northern Bengal Railway - -	100,000		
Total -	1,550,000	781,700*	768,300

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* These figures are certainly incomplete; 14,50,000 maunds have been despatched to the Eastern districts up to the 31st. The transport returns show only 9,63,686 maunds received at the depôts on the north of the Ganges in these districts, including Rungpore and Bogra. But the balances on the 1st April at the despatching depôts on the south bank were only 1,04,710 maunds, showing that much more than 9,63,686 maunds was on its way across, if not actually arrived.

38. By the latest returns available the actual despatches to the interior of the above districts averaged 17,000 maunds daily from all the depôts, *i.e.*—

	Maunds.
From Hyatpore	1,300
„ Manikchuck	1,700
„ Godagari	7,000
„ Beauleah	1,800
„ Dhapari	2,152
„ Noonnuggur	3,100
Total	17,052

But the above is not nearly the full carrying-power of the available transport, and the grain was being sent off nearly as fast as received. Until lately, the Rajshahye depôts have not been fully supplied with rice, owing to the greater and more urgent requirements of the other two divisions. If rice be available, the Eastern Bengal Railway can carry *at least* 28,000 maunds a day to the main receiving depôts at Kooshtea and Goalundo. At the rate of 17,000 maunds daily, all the rice, if delivered north of the Ganges, will have started for the districts in 45 days, or before the 12th May; and at the rate of 20,000 maunds daily, in 38 days, or by the first week in May. This would ensure most of its being stored before the rains.

In his Minute No. 45, of 11th March 1874, on the Dinagepore district, Sir Richard Temple says:—"I have seen something of the transport arrangements, and so far as I have seen they are efficient. * * * * * * The Collector and Commissioner are justified in their confidence that the million of maunds will be stored by the rains."

39. But in these districts it would be sufficient if the great mass of the grain reached main depôts on the upper reaches of the rivers before the rains commence. It could then be distributed easily in boats. And of the grain reaching such depôts in time there is now certainly no doubt.

40. The routes now being worked are thus described by Sir Richard Temple:—

"I.—Railway, Eastern Bengal. Terminus *Goalundo.*

"By country boats across the Ganges to junction of its affluent the Oorasagur; then through the Chullun Bheel Lake into the Attrai, passing through the Pubna and Rajshahye districts to Nowgong, a depôt on the Dinagepore frontier; thence through southern part of the Dinagepore district to Putneetola on the Attrai, a distressed locality; distance entirely by water 70 miles.

"II.—By steamer up the Brahmapootra to Noakeela opposite Bogra, thence by carts through Bogra district to Ghoraghaut and Bhadureea, distressed localities in south-eastern corner of the Dinagepore district; distance by water 120 miles, by land 50 miles.

"III.—Eastern Bengal Railway. Terminus *Kooshtea.*

"By steamer and country boats up the Ganges to Rampore, Beauleah, on north bank; thence by carts through Rajshahye district to Putneetola, already mentioned; distance by water 40 miles, by land 50 miles.

"IV.—By steamer and country boats up the Ganges to Godagaree, at junction of the Mahanuddee; thence by carts through parts of the Rajshahye and Malda districts straight on to Dinagepore. This is the first of the two main routes for the centre of the Dinagepore district; distance by water 60 miles, by land 90 miles.

"V.—By steamer and boats to Godagaree; thence entirely by boats up the Mahanuddee to Rohimpore, junction of the Poorna-Bhaba in the Malda district; thence up the Poorna-Bhaba past Neetpore to Gungarampore, distressed localities in the Dinagepore district; distance entirely by water 140 miles.

"VI.—By steamer and country boats to Godagaree; thence entirely by boats up the Mahanuddee to Malda; thence by carts through Malda district to Tumboolee, distressed portion of Dinagepore district, and on to Dinagepore. This is the second of the two main routes to Dinagepore; distance by water 110 miles, land 60 miles.

"VII.—By steamer and boats to Godagaree, to Malda, where transhipped into smaller boats and carried up the Mahanuddee to Churamum (Dinagepore district), junction of the Koolik; thence up the Koolik to Raigunj; thence by carts to Hemtabad and its neighbourhood; distance by water 150 miles; by land 20 miles.

"VIII.—By steamer up the Ganges to Manick Chuck, opposite Rajmehal, on north bank; thence by cart to Neema Serai on the Mahanuddee in district of Maldah; thence by boats up the Mahanuddee to Churamun (Dinagepore district), and Raigunj.; distance by water 150 miles, by land 20 miles.

"IX.—Station East Indian Railway, *Rajmehal.* Cross Ganges by boats to Manick Chuck; thence by carts to Neema Serai; thence by boats to Churamun. Also by carts past Neema Serai to Dinagepore; distance by water 40 miles, by land 20 miles in the first case and 60 in the second.

"X.—Station East Indian Railway, *Sahebgunj.* Down Ganges by boats to Hyatpore, north bank; thence by carts through Malda district to Churamun and Raigunj; distance by water 20 miles, by land 25.

"XI.—*Sahebgunj.*—Across river by steamer to Caragola; thence by carts through Purneah district to Dengrah Ghaut; thence to Hemtabad (Dinagepore district) and to Kishengunj

(Purneah); thence to Nekmurd (Dinagepore); distance by water miles, and by land 90 miles in the first case and 120 miles in the second case."

The Manick Chuck route has since been abandoned, but as its carriage will be made available for other lines there is no general loss of carrying power.

42. The only question remaining is whether there is transport enough to get the grain across the Ganges in time. For ferrying the Government grain across the Ganges from Kooshtea there are now working, besides country boats, the steamers named in the margin; and the transport officers at Kooshtea reports that he can put across the river from Kooshtea up to 300,000 maunds a month; and he has worked up to this rate for some weeks. It would seem therefore certain that the arrangements made are more than sufficient to secure the object in view.

Peel and two flats; *Koladyne* and one flat; *Lucknow* and two flats; *Bombay* and two flats; *Star of Dacca* and one flat. It is expected that the Eastern Bengal Railway steamer *Alfred* with two flats will take the place of either the *Bombay* or the *Lucknow* and set her free from the 1st April for the Bogra route. There will still remain, however, five steamers on the Kooshtea berth.

A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta,
The 30th March 1874.

Sir R. Temple's Note regarding the Railway Transport.

Minute No. 68, by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., dated Calcutta, the 4th April 1874.

1. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has shown me the proceedings of the Government of Bengal regarding the transport arrangements for the Patna and Bhagulpore divisions, and invited me to state my opinion as to the means of inland carriage in those two divisions in relation to the transport of Government grain by the East Indian Railway Company.

2. From a consideration of the latest returns received, it appears that the inland carriage is carrying away from the several railway stations upwards of 2,000 tons a day; and this, too, after allowing for a short quantity, below engagement, being carried by the Alliance Company, and without counting the Government reserve carriage.

3. The Durbhunga State Railway has begun to carry grain, and will very shortly be carrying 800 tons a day. This quantity, added to the 2,000 tons, will make up a total of 2,800 tons daily.

4. I understand, however, that the Railway Company are not at present prepared to carry more than 2,500 tons daily. It is, of course, of vital importance that the amount carried should never, even for a single day, fall short of this amount. If this amount be maintained, the total quantity allotted will be sent forward from the several railway stations before the 1st June, and stored at the depôts in the interior by the 15th June, that is, the commencement of the rainy season, provided that no unforeseen accident occurs; and therefore the proposed arrangement may prove sufficient.

5. On the other hand, it has been seen above that the inland transit in the Patna and Bhagulpore divisions is now carrying, or is prepared to continue carrying, away somewhat more than the amount above set down, and I learn from the proceedings of the Government of Bengal that in some places the demands of the local authorities for Government grain have been unavoidably reduced in order that the limit of 2,500 tons daily, set down to be carried by the railway, may be observed.

6. Looking to the latest reports, I should consider that 3,000 tons daily can be carried away by local resources from the several railway stations thus:—

	Tons.
Durbhunga Railway - - - - - -	800
Country carriage - - - - - -	2,200
	3,000

It is to be observed too that the Durbhunga Railway is reported to be able to carry from 1,000 to 1,200 tons a day, and that the short-coming on the part of the Alliance Company may yet be partly retrieved.

7. On the whole, it is not too much to say that if every effort be strained by the local authorities to carry away the grain as fast as possible, upwards of 3,000 tons a day could be sent forward from the railway stations.

8. The result might be, that the various quantities which make up the total amount allotted would arrive at their various destinations in the interior of the districts sometime before the latest safe-day, namely, the 15th of June. This would not be a disadvantage, but on the contrary a great and a commanding advantage, for it would be a safe-guard against the many unforeseen accidents which might occur towards the end of the hot season. This margin of time might allow the authorities to repair losses, damages, or misfortunes, to which such a service and such operations as those now before us are very liable. It is therefore greatly to the interest of the districts concerned and conducive to the safety of the people that the authorities should have grain supplied to them (within the limits of the allotments) as fast as they can carry it away.

9. Great pressure has been put upon the local authorities to organize their transport as strongly as possible; and they have answered to that call in a manner which will, I trust, be found

worthy of the approbation of Government; and it would be very convenient if their districts could be allowed to reap the full benefit of these arrangements.

10. If, therefore, it be possible for the East Indian Railway Company to carry more than 2,500 tons of Government grain a day, say 3,000 tons, or even 3,400 tons a day, that would be a considerable advantage to the general relief operations in Behar. Whether the Company could do this, with due regard to other consideration is a matter on which I need not attempt to give an opinion. But I should feel sure that, subject to the direction of the Government of India, the Company will endeavour to effect this object if it be found reasonably practicable.

11. It is to be remembered that the amount carried by local carriage, as above set down, refers to the Patna and Bhagulpore divisions, and is irrespective of the local carriage of the Rajshahye division.

12. In offering these general remarks, however, I do not forget that besides the question of the carrying powers of the East Indian Railway, there is the consideration of the transport by sea from Burmah to Calcutta. It may or may not be possible to land sufficient quantities of the rice at Howrah in time to afford consignments to the amounts required to keep the inland carriage, up-country, up to its full working power. That, of course, is a matter upon which I am not, at this moment, able to form any accurate opinion.

No. 121, dated Calcutta, the 31st March 1874.

From G. H. K. Hart, Esq., on special duty, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am directed by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple to report the completion of his second tour in the distressed districts.

2. The various Minutes, Nos. 39 to 62, 64 and 67, already submitted to the Government of Bengal, comprise all the remarks and recommendations which seemed from inquiry on the spot to be required. It is hoped that they will be found to treat of all the points adverted to in your letter No. 1236 S.R., of the 4th March, with one exception.

3. This exception is the case of Chota Nagpore, which country Sir Richard has been unable to visit by reason of the shortness of the time available.

4. I am to take this opportunity of submitting three Minutes, namely, No. 63, summarising the statistics of the Patna division in relation to scarcity and relief, and No. 65 for the Bhagulpore division (which may be taken together with the previous Minute No. 52, of 18th March, for the Rajshahye relief division), and No. 66, giving an abstract of the several summaries for the whole country comprised in the divisions of Patna, Bhagulpore, and Rajshahye, so far as the operations are concerned, which have come under Sir Richard Temple's cognizance.

5. He desires to tender his acknowledgments to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor for the support so promptly accorded to all the recommendations which have been made; and he trusts that the general result of the proceedings may prove satisfactory to the Government of Bengal.

No. 109, dated Malda, the 18th March 1874.

From G. H. K. Hart, Esq., on special duty with Sir R. Temple, K.C.S.I., to the Honourable C. E. Bernard, C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I am directed to forward, for submission to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of a Minute by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, No. 52,* dated 18th March, summarising under one view the main points connected with the districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, Bogra, and Malda, as regards the anticipated distress therein.

Minute by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., No. 63, dated Bhagulpore, the 27th March 1874.

From the latter part of January to the beginning of March, I was chiefly engaged in visiting the worst portions of the three districts in the Patna Division where severe distress is anticipated, viz., Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun. I have since passed through the districts of Shahabad and Gya, and consulted the local authorities regarding the prospect of and preparations for the scarcity. I have also visited the Patna district, where no general scarcity at all is anticipated. That district is excluded from consideration in this Minute, which thus includes the whole of the Patna Division or Commissionership, except the district of Patna. The remarks and recommendations which I made will be found in the Minutes written during my visit, especially Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 13 to 15, 17 to 19, 22 to 24, 29 to 36, 40, 57, 60, 61, and 67.

2. I now desire briefly to summarise, under one view, the main points, with the remark that any apparent discrepancies between the figures given in this Minute and in my former Minutes

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* See Part III., page 185.

above cited are to be accounted for by the accession of more recent information having modified the statistics first presented.

3. The area and population of the five districts are as follow :—

District.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.
Tirhoot - - - - - -	6,343	4,384,700
Chumparun - - - - -	3,531	1,440,800
Sarun - - - - - -	2,654	2,063,900
Shahabad - - - - -	4,385	1,724,000
Gya - - - - - -	4,718	1,949,700
Total - -	21,631	11,563,100

4. The numbers of persons whom I have estimated, after conferring with the local authorities, as likely to need aid from Government during the period of worst distress, together with the proportion those numbers bear to the total population concerned, may be thus set forth:

District.	Number at Worst Period.	Percentage on Population.
Tirhoot - - -	1,000,000	23 per cent. on whole population.
Chumparun - -	316,000	50 per cent. on 285,600. 20 " on 404,100. 15 " on 466,200. 10 " on 284,900.
Sarun - - -	280,000	13 " on whole population.
Shahabad - -	105,000	6 " on "
Gya - - -	93,000	5 " on "
Total -	1,794,000	

5. These numbers have been obtained after separate inquiry by the local officers under my own observation for each tract in detail in each district by taking on the whole population a percentage representing those who are expected at the worst period to need assistance in some shape or other from Government, the percentages varying according to the circumstances of each tract.

6. The figures below give the quantities of grain which I have recommended to be sent, and the quantities which have, up to the middle of March, arrived within the several districts. I understand that the whole of the quantities recommended have been ordered by the Government.

District.	Recommended and Ordered.	Arrived in the District.
Tirhoot - - -	4,200,000	1,230,000
Chumparun - -	1,150,000	604,000
Sarun - - -	680,000	310,000
Shahabad - -	317,000	179,000
Gya - - -	220,000	140,000
Total -	6,567,000	2,463,000

Of this total quantity full 88 per cent. consists of rice, and the remainder, or 12 per cent., consists of mixed grain, wheat, Indian-corn, &c., chiefly obtained from the North-Western Provinces.

7. In communication with the local officers on the spot, I ordered the establishment of relief circles under the rules sanctioned by the Government of India, where they seemed to be required, and recommended the early appointment of officers, one for each circle, to supervise the distribution of relief, the relief works, and the medical arrangements. The numbers of such circles are as follows :—

Tirhoot - - - - - -	32
Chumparun - - - - -	6
Sarun - - - - - -	1
Shahabad - - - - -	0
Gya - - - - - -	0
Total - -	39

8. Before leaving the Patna Division to inspect the Bhagulpore and Rajshahye Divisions, I had fixed the places for these circles, arranged that there should be one superior officer and one native officer to each circle (with one superior European officer over each set of circles), and obtained the services of many of the European officers and most of the native officers required for the establishment on the above scale. The native officers were chiefly men selected from the Army.

9. Shortly afterwards Sir George Campbell proceeded to Durbhunga, and personally supervised the working of the circles, in several places enlarging the organisation according as the distress developed itself. Among other things he obtained the services of a number of trained native civil officials from the North-Western Provinces.

Subsequently, with Sir George Campbell's approval, I have obtained the services of a further number of native officials from the North-Western Provinces. And it has now been arranged that each circle shall have at least one European or one superior native officer and two subordinate native officers, some circles having more, according to circumstances. I have arranged, with Sir George Campbell's approval, that the temporary establishment shall be made up to this complement. It may now be said that all the officers, European aud native, have joined, or are on their way. Those who have not joined are being pushed on as rapidly as possible. These remarks apply to the Tirhoot and Chumparun districts.

10. For the districts of Shahabad, Gya, and Sarun, where the distress will not be of such a nature as to require the formation of circles, I have arranged that there shall be four superior native officials appointed as supervisors for each district, or twelve in all, to go the rounds of the villages and to see that all necessary measures are adopted.

11. The additional establishment for relief of the whole division may be approximately stated as follows:—

District.	European Supervising Officers.	Circle Officers.	Native Officers.	Total.
Tirhoot - - -	5	32	64	101
Chumparun - -	2	6	12	20
Sarun - - - - -	1	2	6	9
Shahabad - - -	—	—	4	4
Gya - - - - -	—	1	4	5
Total -	8	41	90	139

These numbers are in addition to the ordinary civil establishment of the district, European and native, all of whom are actively engaged in relief, which indeed forms an integral part of the civil administration.

12. With all the relief officers there are associated very many private gentlemen, European and native, scattered all over the country as members of sub-divisional committees or sub-committees. I cannot now state the number of those non-official coadjutors, but it must be considerable and greatly exceeding the numbers of the relief officers. In Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun the indigo planters, collectively and individually, are rendering the most important aid. Many native zemindars are doing the same. It will be interesting hereafter to record the particulars of the non-official assistance thus rendered. I am sanguine that it will be found to be worthy of commemoration.

13. Before the period of my visit a permanent line of electric telegraph from Patna to Segowlee (north of Chumparun), *viâ* Mozufferpore and Motiharee, had been sanctioned and had been completed as far as Mozufferpore. But to save time I proposed that the remainder of the line should be made as a temporary line, and that there should be an extension to Bettia and Ramnugger. I then, after consulting the local officers, recommended that temporary lines should be made to all the principal centres of the Tirhoot district. This was sanctioned by Government, and the temporary telegraph lines, now complete and in work, may be thus stated :—

Line.	Miles.
Mozufferpore to Motiharee, Bettia, and Ramnugger -	102
Mozufferpore to Seetamurhee - - - -	32
Mozufferpore *viâ* Durbhunga to Mudhoobunnee - -	48
Barrh to Durbhunga, with branch to Tajpore - -	60
Mudhoobunnee to Nuraya - - - - - -	30
Total -	272

14. The great public works which subserve most beneficially the purposes of relief are—

	Miles.
The Soane Canal - - - - -	380
The Gunduck Embankment - - - -	90
Total -	470

and now the high level canal in the district of Chumparun, which is ordered to be commenced. The number of persons employed on, and the quantity of grain required for, these works are included in the total figures which I give for the several districts.

15. Besides these great works there are lesser relief works specially projected by the local officers. They consist chiefly of roads (earth-work) and tanks (excavation). The tanks under operation are numerous and scattered all over the country, and their number is increasing daily, and I cannot give it exactly. But the length of relief roads may be stated as follows:—

District.	Relief Roads.
	Miles.
Tirhoot	710
Chumparun	520
Sarun	575
Shahabad	487
Gya	185
Total	2,477

Besides the work on all these lines of road, there are the special repairs being executed under European supervision on the lines of the transit of grain, as will be explained presently.

16. The number employed on relief works of all kinds may be stated as follows:—

District.	Number of Persons.
Tirhoot	450,000
Chumparun, including Gunduck works	100,000
Sarun	90,000
Shahabad	2,000
Gya	1,000
Soane Canal Works	33,000
Total	676,000

If the number should seem small for Shahabad and Gya, then we must remember that the relief labourers of those two districts are chiefly on the Soane Canal works.

17. The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief is small. According to the latest information it did not exceed 4,200 in Tirhoot, and 1,200 in Champarun.

18. For the supervision of the relief roads and tanks, I have at various times applied for the services of overseers, which applications have been approved by Government, and the men have either joined or are on their way. Also several additional Engineer officers have been appointed. The number may be stated as follows:—

District.	Superintending Engineer.	Executive and Assistant Engineers.	Overseers.
Tirhoot	1	6	25
Chumparun	—	2	6
Sarun	—	2	3
Shahabad	—	—	2
Gya	—	—	4
Total	1	10	40

These are in addition to the establishment on the Soane Canal works and on the Gunduck Embankment, also to the ordinary Public Works establishment of the district, all of which assist in respect of relief works so far as they can.

19. For the work of the relief, I have applied for and obtained the services of native doctors and hospital assistants as below;

District.	Native Doctors and Hospital Assistants.
Tirhoot	60
Champarun	14
Sarun	–
Shahabad	–
Gya	–
Total	74

I found the districts of Sarun, Shahabad, and Gya so far supplied with this class of men that more need not be applied for, especially considering the more urgent requirements of other districts and the difficulty of procuring the men.

20. The grain supplied by Government is sent to depôts at places selected with reference to the area of distress. The number may be thus stated for the several districts;—

Districts.	Number of Depôts.
Tirhoot	74
Chumparun	24
Sarun	32
Shabahad	30
Gya	17
Total	177

All these depôts contain stores of grain. From these depôts the grain will be distributed according to circumstances.

21. The grain is despatched from Calcutta by separate arrangements, and reaches the stations on the East Indian Railway from Mokameh to Mogul Serai. It then comes under the charge of the Relief Department of the Patna Commissionership. That portion (which is by far the greatest) destined for the Tirhoot and Chumparun districts is conveyed to the south or right bank of the Ganges by four small branches near Mokameh, Barrh, Futwa, and Patna; of which four branches three have been made especially for this occasion. It is then placed on board steamers, or barges towed by steamers, and conveyed to three points on the north or left bank, namely, Bunkur opposite Patna, Chumpta opposite Barrh, and a point opposite Mokameh. At these points it comes under the charge of the inland transport service, and is carried to the depôts by certain main routes which may be described as follows:—

Point of Departure.	Route.	Distance in Miles.
Bunkur - - -	To Motiharee, Gobindgunj, Bettia, and Ramnugger	155
	To Poosa, Durbhunga, and Mudhoobunnee -	77
	To Seetamurhee and Sursoond - - -	80
Chumpta - -	To Durbhunga and Nuraya, north-eastern corner of Tirhoot District - - - -	95
Opposite Mokameh -	To Durbhunga - - - -	50
	Total - -	457

From these main lines there are branch routes, too numerous to mention here, to the various grain depôts.

22. The grain for Sarun is carried by carts from the station of Arrah, and crossing the Ganges, is carried to Hutwa and Sadowa, distance from 80 to 90 miles.

23. The grain for Shahabad is sent from the railway stations between Arrah and Mogul Serai and carted into the interior; average distance 50 miles.

24. The grain for Gya is sent from the railway stations at or near Patna, and is carted into the interior to a distance of 60 miles.

25. The means of transport at present employed may be approximately set forth in numbers as below:—

District.	Steamers.	Country Boats.	Carts.	Cartmen.	Draught Bullocks.	Camels.	Pack-bullocks.
Tirhoot - -	5	900	58,000	60,000	116,000	2,000	3,000
Chumparun -	—	200	8,000	8,500	17,000	—	—
Sarun - -	—	100*	3,500	8,600	7,000	—	—
Shahabad - -	—	—	1,000	1,050	2,000	—	—
Gya - -	—	—	500	525	1,000	—	—
Total - -	5	1,200	71,000	73,675	143,000	2,000	3,000

26. These various means of transport have been hired by Government. The carts and bullocks are for the most part brought into the field by five associations of European contractors. These contractors are indigo planters, gentlemen living on their own estates in the neighbourhood of the routes of transit. These contracts have been made by the local officers under my own supervision. The arrangements are at present working well, save in one case, where the contractors have not yet succeeded in carrying the full quantity engaged for. The remaining carts are furnished by small contractors, natives. It is remarkable that all the carts and bullocks are obtained within the limits of the Patna Division. The camels and pack-bullocks are furnished by a large native contractor from the North-Western Provinces.

27. Upon each of the main transit routes above mentioned there are several European officers to see to emergent repairs, to clear away obstacles, to construct temporary crossings, and the like; and with them there are also one regiment of Pioneers (natives) and five companies of Sappers; the whole being under the command of Colonel Macgregor, of the Quartermaster-General's Department. At the two main points of departure, Bunkur and Chumpta, there is a special organisation on a large scale under selected European officers.

28. Besides these means I have, with the approval of Government, caused to be engaged a body of reserve transport of a strength equal to 4,250 carts drawn by 10,000 bullocks, capable of carrying (at the rate of 16 maunds a cart) 68,000 maunds per daily march of 12 miles; also 6,000 pack-bullocks or pack-ponies. These carts and animals have for the most part been purchased for Government in the North-Western Provinces and in the Shahabad districts. The carts are divided into detachments of 250 carts each, with a complete military organisation under European and Native officers. This arrangement is being carried out under Mr. H. Rivett-Carnac. This reserve is intended to remedy any mishap or failure which may occur with the contract hired carriage; and its organisation is designed to render it as effective as possible for this end.

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* The number of boats was much larger than is here set down, while the navigation of the Gunduck continued feasible. Double the number of boats now employed may be expected on the river as soon as the rains set in.

29. With a view to obtaining an additional resource on the route from Chumpta to Durbhunga, which is by far the most important of all the routes, I strongly recommended, at the end of January last, the construction of a tramway, distance 50 miles. The Government, after consideration, sanctioned the project, with important additions, whereby the line becomes a railway. The work is progressing under the good auspices of Mr. Molesworth and Major Staunton.

30. The advances of money (repayable) obtained from Government by landowners for the assistance of their tenantry and by traders for the importation of grain may be set forth as below:—

District.	By Zemindars for the Ryots.	By Native Traders for Importation.	Total.
Tirhoot - - -	95,506	522,650	618,156
Chumparun - - -	60,000	132,000	192,000
Sarun - - -	286,890	129,700	416,590
Shahabad - - -	—	3,300	3,300
Gya - - -	8,800	10,000	18,800
Total - -	451,196	797,650	1,248,846

31. I ordered Government grain to be offered for sale under clause 9, Rule 3, Part II., of Rules for Relief Committees, at the rate of ten seers to the rupee, in the several circles which form the eastern half of the Mudhoobunnee and Durbhunga sub-divisions. This order has been carried out. I afterwards directed that a rate of 12 seers to the rupee should be allowed. This order has not, however, been carried out as yet.

32. I cannot finish this summary without taking the opportunity of giving my testimony to the judgment, discrimination, and assiduity displayed by the Commissioner, Mr. Stuart Bayley, in the discharge of the extraordinary difficult duties which have devolved on him ever since the first threatening of scarcity in Behar. The ability with which he has sustained the pressure of so many urgent affairs, simultaneously presenting themselves for decision, entitle him to the commendation and the confidence of Government. I trust that he may in due course witness the successful result of his labours.

33. I also desire to commend to the notice of Government the exertions of Mr. J. Hewitt, the Deputy of the Commissioner of Patna. He has had a prominent share in the transit arrangements on both banks of the Ganges, and his general assistance to the Commissioner in all affairs relating to the scarcity has proved very valuable.

No. 119, dated Bhagulpore, the 28th March 1874.

From L. C. ABBOTT, Esq., on duty with Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I AM directed to forward copy of a Minute No. 64* of 28th March, recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the requirements of the Monghyr District.

MINUTE by the Honourable Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 65, dated Bhagulpore, the 28th March 1874.

I HAVE on three separate occasions during my two recent tours visited portions of the Bhagulpore Division or Commissionership. The observations and proposals which I have felt called upon to make will be found in my various Minutes written from the places visited, *viz.*, Nos. 25 to 28, 39, 41 to 44, 54A, and 64.

I now desire to bring together the main points in a synoptical shape, embodying in this Minute the latest information received by me as to the result of the orders I gave and the recommendations I made in the Minutes above cited.

2. There are four districts belonging to this division, in all of which distress, more or less, is anticipated, namely, Bhagulpore, Purneah, Monghyr, and the Sonthal Pergunnahs. I have marched through the most parts of Bhagulpore and Purneah, and I have passed by one of the worst parts of Monghyr.

3. The area and population may be thus stated:—

District.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.
Bhagulpore - - - -	4,327	1,826,300
Purneah - - - -	4,957	1,714,800
Monghyr - - - -	3,913	1,812,900
Sonthal Pergunnahs - - -	5,488	1,259,300
Total - -	18,685	6,613,300

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* See Page 58.

4. The number of persons whom I have, in consultation with the local authorities, estimated as likely to require assistance from Government during the period of severest scarcity, together with the proportion between those numbers and the total population concerned, are as follow :—

District.	Number of People likely to need Assistance.	Percentage on Population concerned.
Bhagulpore - -	274,650	50 per cent. on 342,936 30 ,, ,, 344,587
Purneah - - -	240,000	30 ,, ,, 364,266 15 ,, ,, 527,051 and 50,000 souls for rest of the district.
Monghyr - -	172,000	40 per cent. on 430,000
Sonthal Pergunnahs -	60,000	25 ,, ,, 240,000
Total -	746,650	

5. The quantities of grain which I have recommended to be provided, and the quantities which have arrived in the several districts, are as follow :—

District.	Amount recommended.	Arrived in District.
	Maunds.	Maunds.
Bhagulpore - - - -	7,30,000	1,74,550
Purneah - - - -	6,50,000	3,45,000
Monghyr - - - -	3,78,000	2,12,000*
Sonthal Pergunnahs - - -	1,35,000	10,000
Total - -	18,93,000	7,41,550

The grain consists almost entirely of rice.

6. I have, in communication with the local authorities, fixed the relief circles for the distressed tracts in Bhagulpore, Purneah, and the Sonthal Pergunnahs. The Commissioner fixed the circles in the Monghyr District after consulting carefully with me. The numbers are as below :—

District.	Number of Relief Circles.
Bhagulpore - - - - - -	7
Purneah - - - - - -	8
Monghyr - - - - - -	4
Sonthal Pergunnahs - - - - -	2
Total - -	21

7. For the management of these circles the following establishments have been made up :—

District.	European Supervising Officers.	Circle Officers.	Native Officers.	Total.
Bhagulpore - - - -	3	7	14	24
Purneah - - - -	2	8	16	26
Monghyr - - - -	2	4	8	14
Sonthal Pergunnahs - -	1	2	4	7
Total - -	8	21	42	71

These establishments are in addition to the regular civil establishments of the district, who all assist in relief which is an integral part of the district work.

8. The relief works consist chiefly of roads (earth-work) and of tanks (excavation). The tanks are scattered all over the country, and I cannot give their number ; but the length of the roads projected may be set down thus :—

District.	Length of Relief Roads in Miles.
Bhagulpore - - - - - -	215
Purneah - - - - - - - -	505
Monghyr - - - - - -	254
Sonthal Pergunnahs - - - - -	230
Total - -	1,204

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* Including 20,000 maunds stored by the Durbhunga Raj (under Court of Wards) at Khurrukpore.

9. The numbers of relief labourers are given below:—

District.	Number of Relief Labourers.
Bhagulpore	21,000
Purneah	12,000
Monghyr	12,000
Sonthal Pergunnahs	2,100
Total	47,100

10. I have, in communication with the Commissioner, proposed that the rate of payment for unskilled labour should be 1½ annas for a man per diem, with proportionately less amount for women and children, and that 2 annas per diem should be given, under a system of task-work, to the more skilled or stronger labourers.

11. There is the following extra establishment employed for relief works:—

District.	Superintending Engineers.	Executive Engineers.	Assistant Engineers.	Overseers.
Bhagulpore	1	0	2	7
Purneah	0	1	3	8
Monghyr	0	0	1	4
Sonthal Pergunnahs	0	0	1	0
Total	1	1	7	19

These are in addition to the ordinary establishment of public works in the district, all of whom aid in the operations of relief so far as they can.

12. The number of grain depôts may be stated thus:—

District.	Number of Grain Depôts.
Bhagulpore	32
Purneah	30
Monghyr	13
Sonthal Pergunnahs	11
Total	86

13. The grain is conveyed to the depôts by the following means: It is carried by the East Indian Railway to the stations of Sahebgunj, Colgong, Sooltangunj, and Monghyr, all on the south or right bank of the Ganges. From Sahebgunj it is carried across the Ganges by steamer, and from the other stations by boats or barges, to points on the north or left bank of the Ganges; whence it is carried to its various destinations by carts.

14. The transport service consists of the following number of carts and country boats or barges:—

District.	Carts.	Draught Bullocks.	Cartmen.	Country boats or Barges.	Steamers.
Bhagulpore	8,000	17,000	8,000	151	—
Purneah	8,000	17,000	8,000	200	1
Monghyr	2,000	4,000	2,000	39	—
Sonthal Pergunnahs	200	400	200	—	—
Total	18,200	38,400	18,200	390	1

15. Zemindars and traders have been repeatedly invited to take advances from Government, the former to enable them to assist their ryots, the latter to enable them to import grain for sale. The result is that up to 28th March the following sums have been taken approximately:—

District.	By Zemindars for Ryots.	By Traders for Importation.	Total.
Bhagulpore	37,400	68,000	1,05,400
Purneah	32,150	60,700	92,850
Monghyr	11,300	56,800	68,100
Sonthal Pergunnahs	—	—	—
Total	80,850	1,85,500	2,66,350

Government advances to ryots in Kissengunge (Purneah) for the purchase of seed-grain, or for subsistence, have also been authorised.

16. Returns made up to 28th March show that the following numbers of persons were in receipt of gratuitous relief from Government:—

In Bhagulpore - - - - -	1,300
„ Purneah - - - - -	5,335
„ Monghyr - - - - - -	1,603
„ Sonthal Pergunnahs - - - - -	—
Total - -	8,238

17. I have, on the recommendation of the local authorities, ordered the sale of Government grain at the rate of 12 seers to the rupee at the depôts in the thannahs of Bulrampore, of Kudbah, and of Kusbah Amour, in the Purneah district, in the parts of the Soopole and Muddehpoora sub-divisions of the Bhagulpore district, and at certain points in the Monghyr district.

18. In concluding this minute, I desire to cordially acknowledge the assistance I have received in my inquiries and proceedings from Mr. G. N. Barlow, the Commissioner, and to express my confidence in his ability to deal effectively and promptly with any difficulty that may arise in connection with the scarcity.

19. I also desire to bring to the notice of Government the very valuable services of Mr. H. Hankey, C.S., the Special Superintendent of Transport, both as regards the collection of country carriage under direct agency and the management of large contracts for the transport of Government grain.

MINUTE by the Honourable Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 66, dated Bhagulpore, the 28th March 1874.

MY Minutes Nos. 52, 63, and 65 of 18th, 27th, and 28th March, present an abstract of what has been recommended, ordered and done during my tours through the divisions or Commissionerships of Patna, of Bhagulpore, and of Rajshahye; separate figures in those minutes are given for each district wherein severe distress is anticipated, and a total for each division. I now desire to draw up a brief *resumé*, giving separate figures for each of the divisions above named, and a grand total for so much of Bengal and Behar as I have visited.

2. The total area and population of the three divisions is as follows:—

Division or Commissionership.	Total Area in Square Miles.	Total Population.
Patna - - - - - - -	23,732	13,122,743
Bhagulpore - - - - -	18,685	6,613,358
Rajshahye - - - - - - -	17,694	8,893,738
Total - -	60,111	28,629,839

3. But it is only within certain tracts in each division that distress is anticipated. I give below the area and population of the districts or tracts in each division wherein severe distress is looked for, together with the proportion borne by the distressed parts to the whole of each division as respects area and population:—

Division or Commissionership.	Likely to be Distressed.		Percentage of Distressed Tracts on Total.	
	Area of Tracts.	Population of Tracts.	Area.	Population.
Patna - - - - - - -	16,666	8,124,164	70·22 per cent.	61·90 per cent.
Bhagulpore - - - - -	7,623	2,957,607	40·8 „	44·72 „
Rajshahye - - - - - - -	8,098	3,491,936	45·76 „	39·26 „
Total - - -	32,387	14,573,707		

4. The number of persons which I have taken as being likely to need assistance from Government during the worst period of the scarcity, together with the percentage of those numbers on the total population and on the population of the distressed tracts, are given below:—

Division or Commissionership.	Number of People estimated to require Aid at Worst Period.	Percentage on Distressed Population.	Percentage on Total Population.
Patna - - - - -	1,794,000	22·08 per cent.	13·67 per cent.
Bhagulpore - - - - -	746,650	25·24 „	11·29 „
Rajshahye - - - - -	802,863*	20·87 „	8·2 „
Total - -	3,432,713		

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* Including 44,000 persons in the Rajshahye district, and, say, 30,000 on the Northern Bengal State Railway.

5. The following figures give particulars of the quantities of grain which I have recommended to be provided by Government, and the quantities which have already arrived in the districts :—

Division or Commissionership.	Provision recommended.	Arrived in the Districts.
Patna	6,567,000	2,463,000
Bhagulpore	1,893,000	741,550
Rajshahye	2,090,000*	370,000
Total	10,550,000	3,574,550

6. The number of relief circles established, together with the numbers of officers allotted thereto, is given below :—

Division or Commissionership.	Number of Circles.	Relief Officers.			Superintending Engineers.	Executive and Assistant Engineers.	Public Works Overseers.	Native Doctors and Hospital Assistants.
		European Superior Officers.	Circle Officers.	Native Officers.				
Patna	39	8	41	90	1	10	40	74
Bhagulpore	21	8	21	42	1	8	19	18
Rajshahye	31	19	31	15	1	—	28	31
Total	91	35	93	147	†3	18	87	123

This special relief establishment is over and above the ordinary civil establishments of the districts, all of which aid in the distribution of relief, which is an integral part of the administration of the various districts. Besides these, too, is the establishment on the Soane canal, the Gunduck embankments, and the Northern Bengal State Railway.

7. The banks and other miscellaneous relief works cannot be stated numerically; but the length of the relief roads, of the Soane canal, of the Gunduck embankment, and of the Northern Bengal State Railway within the distressed tracts is given below in miles :—

Division or Commissionership.	Relief Roads.	Soane Canal.	Gunduck Embankments.	Northern Bengal (State) Railway.	Temporary Telegraph.
Patna	2,477	380	90	—	272
Bhagulpore	1,204	—	—	—	20
Rajshahye	1,490	—	—	178	44
Total	5,171	380	90	178	336

8. The number of relief labourers as given in my several minutes may be thus abstracted :—

Division or Commissionership.	Persons employed on Relief Works.
Patna	676,000
Bhagulpore	47,100
Rajshahye	63,700‡
Total	786,800

9. The number of grain depôts opened, at all of which there are now stores of grain, is given below :—

Division or Commissionership.	Grain Depôts.
Patna	177
Bhagulpore	86
Rajshahye	61
Total	324

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* Including the provision of 200,000 maunds for the Rajshahye district and the Northern Bengal State Railway.

† One Chief Engineer has since been appointed.

‡ Including 7,000 labourers on the Northern Bengal (State) Railway.

10. The means at present employed in the transport of Government grain are tabulated below, the figures being, however, only approximate :—

Division or Commissionership.	European Officers.	Carts.	Cartmen.	Draught Bullocks.	Camels.	Pack Animals.	Country Boats.	Steamers.	Number of Main Routes of Transport by Land and Water.
Patna - -	21	71,000	73,675	143,000	2,000	3,000	1,200	5	5
Bhagulpore - -	7	18,200	18,200	38,400	—	—	390	1	4
Rajshahye - -	5	9,200	9,200	18,400	—	—	720	3	11
	33	98,400	101,075	199,800	2,000	3,000	2,310	9	20
Government reserve -	12	4,250	4,250	10,000	—	6,000	—	—	—
Total -	45	102,650	105,325	209,800	2,000	9,000	2,310	9	20

In order to strengthen the principal line of transit in Eastern Tirhoot, the railway is being constructed from Chumpta to Durbhunga, a distance of 50 miles.

11. Advances of money have been obtained from Government in the following sums :—

Division or Commissionership.	By Zemindars for assistance of their Tenantry.	By Traders for Importation of Grain.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Patna - - - -	4,51,196	7,97,650	12,48,846
Bhagulpore - - - -	80,850	1,85,500	2,66,850
Rajshahye - - - -	90,000	46,000	1,36,000
Total -	6,22,046	10,29,150	16,51,196

Advances have also been authorised to ryots, both for their subsistence during the time which must elapse before their autumn and winter harvests are reaped, and for seed-grain to sow the autumn crops. But there are as yet no returns of the amounts of such advances made.

12. The approximate number of recipients of gratuitous relief from Government are :—

In Patna Division or Commissionership - -	5,400
„ Bhagulpore Division „ - - -	8,200
„ Rajshahye „ „ - - -	6,400
Total - -	20,000

13. In the three divisions the rates of wages for relief labour range from two to three annas per diem where there is task-work, and one to two annas where there is not. The above rates are for men ; proportionally lesser rates are allowed for women and children.

No. 120, dated Calcutta, the 31st March 1874.

From G. H. K. Hart, Esq., on Special Duty, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am directed to forward, for submission to his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of a minute by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, No. 67, dated 28th instant, containing request for the despatch of nine more public works overseers to the Chumparun and Sarun districts.

Minute by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., No. 67, dated Bhagulpore, the 28th March 1874.

I have to request that the Government of Bengal will be pleased to send nine public works overseers in addition to the number already sent to the Patna division.

The men are required to supervise the relief works in Chumparun and Sarun, viz., six for the former and three for the latter district.

No. 2060—S.R., dated 4th April 1874.

From C. Bernard, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, to C. E. Buckland, Esq., on special duty with the Honourable Sir Richard Temple.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Hart's letter No. 121 of the 31st March, notifying Sir Richard Temple's return from his second tour in the famine districts.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor desires to thank Sir Richard Temple very heartily for all the assistance he has given the Bengal Government, and for the manner in which that assistance was given, while they have worked together. The Lieutenant-Governor is sure that Sir Richard Temple's proceedings have eminently subserved the public interest.

3. I am to state that the minutes received with Mr. Hart's letter under acknowledgment, together with minute No. 52, will be submitted to the Government of India, as giving a clear and comprehensive summary of the arrangements now made, and the opportunity will be taken to submit a note, showing, together with other matters, the satisfactory working of the transport arrangements for which the Bengal Government is so much indebted to Sir Richard Temple.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor believes that Sir Richard Temple has now seen all the districts in which danger may be apprehended except those of the Burdwan and Chota Nagpore divisions. Fortunately the affected parts of those divisions are extremely accessible, and it is hoped that any amount of assistance they may require will not be extremely large. The Lieutenant-Governor has directed papers recently received regarding these divisions to be submitted to Sir Richard Temple, and has no doubt Sir Richard will soon be in a position to judge what is required.

5. Sir George Campbell deems it most fortunate that, since he is compelled to cede his place at a time when the country is so critically situated, he should surrender it into the hands of a man both so eminent for his personal qualities, and so thoroughly cognizant of the subject which now engrosses the attention of Government, as is Sir Richard Temple.

Sir George Campbell would, in conclusion, beg again to thank Sir Richard Temple for the efficient aid he has rendered to himself during the last months of his administration.

The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta,
28th March 1874.

SIR,

THE President and Committee of the Chamber of Commerce desire me to request you will take the earliest opportunity of submitting for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council the following representation, which they have been induced to make in consequence of a statement contained in the "Friend of India" of the 26th instant, and repeated in the "Englishman" and "Daily News" of the 27th idem, to the effect that a fresh purchase of 80,000 tons of rice from Burmah had been ordered by Government, in addition to the supplies previously arranged for and amounting, according to the official estimates, published in the "Gazette of India" of 31st January last, to 340,000 tons, at a first cost of about three millions sterling.

2. The immediate result of this statement was to give rise to the expectation that further withdrawals of bullion to the extent of 50 or 60 lacs for the purchase named would be at once required, as well as to cause apprehensions that the official estimates of the supplies of grain needed in the districts of scarcity have now been proved to be inadequate.

3. Looking at the matter purely from a commercial point of view, the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce respectfully submit that the heavy drain on the Treasury balances for the payment of the rice purchased by Government has already caused a very severe strain upon commercial resources, and such as might have led to grave results had it come, as suddenly as it has, upon an active or inflated state of trade instead of (as has actually been the case) upon an extremely curtailed condition of business, both export and import. This strain is evidenced not only by the frequent and rapid advances in the rates of interest, but also by the fact that the value of money and of Government securities as well as the rates of sterling exchange are now extremely sensitive and subject to great fluctuations according to every report that is circulated in respect to the financial measures and requirements of Government.

4. As an instance of the character of the prevailing rumours affecting the value of Government securities the Committee of the Chamber may mention that it has been generally stated and believed in the bazaar during the last two days that a loan of two crores of rupees is about to be issued here shortly, in addition to the amount now being raised in England, and that when the Famine Loan was first announced by telegrams from London the uncertainty as to its extent and nature, and as to the manner in which the funds would be made available in this country, caused a sudden fall of two per cent. in the price of Government paper, and a similar rise in sterling exchange, which have both been greatly modified by the official announcement that the probable sum required would not exceed three millions, and that the Secretary of State's drawings would only be reduced to 80 lacs a month, and the Committee of the Chamber are of opinion that it would have been well to have published in the "Gazette of India," a financial resolution to this effect, immediately the action of Government had been decided and approved by the Secretary of State, and trust that this course may be adopted in any future like transaction.

5. These considerations have led the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to venture to inquire, for the satisfaction of the general mercantile community, whether the statement in question was in any way officially authorised or substantially correct, and whether any further large remittances to Burmah for rice purchases will be required to be made. The Committee fully recognize the necessity for the secret action of Government in respect to their rice purchases in the first instance, though they venture to think that the financial pressure caused by these transactions would have been less severe and more readily met by importations of

bullion, if the extent and period of the Government requirements had been made known sooner and more precisely, to the banking and mercantile community.

6. Perhaps it would be beyond the province of the Committee of this Chamber to express their conviction that on grounds of public policy, as well as of the interests of the community whom they represent, it would be desirable to check, as far as possible, the circulation of the unauthorised statements which have been made, both here and in England, regarding the ction of Government in connection with the famine, by means of the publication, from time to time, of such official papers on the subject as His Excellency in Council may seem fit; but at any rate they trust they will be excused for soliciting for the future such information regarding the matter as is likely to affect the mercantile interest in any serious degree whenever it can be communicated to them without detriment to the general welfare.

I have, &c.,
H. W. I. Wood,
Secretary.

No. 1122.

From Arthur Howell, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

Famine.

Sir, Dated Calcutta, the 2nd April 1874.

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo.

2. In reply I am directed to say that the statement which you inform me appeared in the "Friend of India" of the 26th March to the effect that a fresh purchase of 80,000 tons of rice had been ordered from Burmah had no official authority. It must have been based upon private information received of orders given some time ago by the Government of India.

3. In the despatch of the 30th January, to which you allude in the first paragraph of your letter, it was stated that, according to the best estimates which the Government of India were able to make, it was thought that the purchase of 340,000 tons of rice would be sufficient for the requirements of the distressed districts; at the same time it was stated that no difficulty was anticipated "in increasing the supplies still further, if in the course of the next three months additional necessities should appear to require it."

4. The revised estimates for the requirements of the famine districts, which were subsequently made by Sir Richard Temple, rendered further purchases necessary. The numbers for which the Government have now made provision do not differ materially from the original rough estimate of 2½ millions of people for seven months, which was made last November and published in the "Gazette" of January 31st, but Sir Richard Temple's calculations have been based upon an average daily consumption per head of three-quarters of a seer, instead of half a seer. The Government of India have thought it desirable to adopt the higher estimate, and therefore, with a view to the maintenance of a proper reserve, they have arranged for further purchases. The amount of rice for which provision has now been made amounts to 453,000 tons, independently of such purchases as have been made by Rajahs, zemindars, and others with funds advanced by Government. Of the whole supply, 280,000 tons have been arranged for from Burmah.

5. Arrangements have already been made for paying for the rice ordered from Burmah, and, as far as His Excellency in Council is at present able to judge, no further remittances of specie of any consequence will be required for the rice ports on Government account.

6. His Excellency in Council regrets the temporary derangement of the money market, which has been caused by the necessity of suddenly contracting the Government balances and by the demand for silver, and he trusts that the strain will now be quickly diminished.

7. In respect to the 6th paragraph of your letter, I am to state that His Excellency in Council entirely concurs with the Chamber of Commerce that it is desirable to give every publicity to the action of Government in connection with the famine. The fortnightly narratives from the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal have from the first been placed at the disposal of the press. In order to give them greater circulation, they will, in future, be published in the "Gazette of India." The "Calcutta Gazette," which is published weekly, contains a list of prices and the latest reports from each district. The "Gazette" published weekly in the North-Western Provinces gives the same particulars for the distressed districts in those provinces. The "Gazette of India" gives general reports and list of prices for the whole country. Any further information of importance, especially such as may affect the interests of the mercantile community, will be published from time to time.

8. With reference to the 4th paragraph of your letter, I am to say that, in accordance with your suggestion, any alteration made in respect to the drafts by the Secretary of State upon

the Government of India will, in future, be notified in the "Gazette," and not, as has hitherto been the case, only through the columns of the press.

I have, &c.,
ARTHUR HOWELL,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

Forwarded for information of Members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

H. W. I. WOOD,
Secretary.

Calcutta, 2nd April 1874.

No. 2104—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Calcutta, dated 6th April / issued 6th April 1874.

Scarcity and Relief.

SIR,

WITH reference to your Letter No. 108, dated the 15th January, I am directed to submit copies of the papers marginally noted, showing that there was delay in paying labourers on Tirhoot relief works at the outset, and showing the serious notice the Lieutenant-Governor has been obliged to take of the matter.

Commissioner of Patna's Letter No. 241, dated 25th March, with enclosure.
Government of Bengal Letter No. 2102, dated 6th April 1874.

I have, &c.
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 241 F, dated Bankipore, the 25th March 1874.

From S. C. BAYLEY, Esq., Commissioner of Patna, to Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a Letter No. 124 F, of the 28th January last, from Executive Engineer, Tirhoot Division, explaining why on one occasion the coolies employed on relief works did not receive wages for 15 days as noticed in the "Indian Observer," and in so doing to state that through an oversight it was not submitted before.

No. 124 F, dated Mozufferpore, the 28th January 1874.

From A. S. URQUHART, Esq., Executive Engineer, Tirhoot Division, to C. F. WORSLEY, Esq., Covenanted Deputy Collector on Special Duty, Tirhoot.

IN reply to your Letter No. 19 F of the 17th instant, I have the honour to state that I have made full inquiries with reference to the Commissioner's No. 55 F, relative to the statement made in the newspaper regarding the coolies on relief works not having received pay for 15 days.

The rule which has hitherto existed regarding the payment of wages to coolies working on the local roads was that they were paid twice in the month, one payment at the commencement of the month and the second when the work was measured up at the end of the month.

Since these works have been considered as relief works the system has been changed, but owing to the small imprest allowed to the overseers and the works being settled all over the district, some of the coolies were in arrears, as you may remember when we were travelling together to Durbungah the coolies on that road complained that they had not been paid.

This was at once rectified, and by the time we returned to Mozufferpore they had all been paid up. I then took the responsibility on myself of increasing the imprest of the overseers, and reported the same to the Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, who has approved of my proceeding; with the exception of this instance I am not aware of any other in which the coolies have been kept in arrears.

No. 106 F, dated Tirhoot, the 31st January 1874.

Memorandum by C. F. WORSLEY, Esq., Covenanted Deputy Collector, on Special Duty.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioner of Patna for information, with reference to his No. 55 F, of 13th instant.

No. 2102.—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, to the Commissioner of Patna.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,

Calcutta, the 6th April 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 241F, dated the 25th March 1874, submitting the Executive Engineer's explanation of a delay of 15 days in the payment of labourers on relief works in Tirhoot.

2. In reply I am to say that the oversight in your office in overlooking the Deputy Collector's endorsement, and not having sent this explanation sooner, is much to be regretted.

3. I am to request that Mr. Urquhart, the Executive Engineer, may be severely censured for the mismanagement which he admits to have existed in the payment of labourers on relief works; and the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the Magistrate of the time, Mr. Halliday, is also much to blame for having permitted it, or for not having found it out. It is only very peculiar domestic circumstances that can excuse him from more severe censure.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the maladministration in this matter was most serious; for he thinks that it is to the delay in making the works acceptable, popular, and sufficient as relief works, that the fact of the famine having gained on us in Tirhoot is mainly due. It is clear that sufficient work was not offered on sufficiently attractive terms, in proportion to the prevailing distress, during the early stages of the scarcity in that district. Considering the very decided and clear terms of the orders issued by Government on the 29th October 1873, and subsequently, both by the Government and by the Commissioner, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot but regard Mr. Urquhart's conduct as wholly inexcusable. The Magistrate, in whose time this serious neglect of a very important duty occurred, has left, the circumstances above alluded to having rendered him unable to continue his functions. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that Mr. Urquhart should not, after what has happened, be allowed to retain the appointment of Executive Engineer of the great district of Tirhoot, for which Sir George Campbell gathers that his general want of energy unfits him.

5. The Public Works Department of this Government will be requested to reduce Mr. Urquhart to a much less important charge, leaving him only for the present in charge of the southern portion of the district, so long as no very great strain exists there.

I have, &c.,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 2103.—S.R.

Copy forwarded to Public Works Department of this Government for information and guidance, with copy of Commissioner's letter and enclosure under acknowledgment.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 6th April 1874.

From C. Bernard, Esq., C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, No. 2057 S.R., dated 4th April 1874.

I am directed to submit the prescribed weekly statement of famine relief operations in Bengal.

2. With reference to your letter calling for a weekly return of known cases of starvation deaths, I am to submit that, since the submission of my letter No. 1835, dated the 26th March, some cases of starvation deaths have been reported from the districts of Tirhoot and Hazareebaugh only. Paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Tirhoot fortnightly report (enclosure No. 3 to the fourteenth narrative) mention several cases of reported deaths (see paragraphs 10 and 11 of the narrative). The facts related show that it is by no means certain that all these deaths were due wholly to starvation or privation; but the Lieutenant-Governor believes that, out of the cases mentioned, perhaps five of the deaths must have been mainly due to privation. The deaths in Hazareebaugh were inquired into by European officers some days after the report of the deaths was made by the police, and it seems that two of the deaths must, so far as information could be obtained, have been due to privation, such as occurs in a poor country where food is dear, without there being what is properly called a famine. These seven cases added to six reported in my letter No. 1835 of the 26th March, make in all thirteen cases. But most of the deaths are of the same character as those reported from Serampore and Barrackpore. See my letter No. 1834, dated the 26th March. Sir George Campbell has explained his fears that a certain number of old people and children may have succumbed, or will succumb, to privation, over and above the cases which are enumerated above.

Letter from C. Bernard, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, No. 2271 S.R., dated Calcutta, the 10th April 1874.

In continuation of my letter No. 2057 S.R., dated the 4th April 1874, submitting a report on cases of known deaths from starvation up to the 4th instant, I am directed to state that from reports received it appears that only three fresh deaths from starvation have occurred in the Hati Sub-division, and one body of a man, who must have suffered from want, was found on a road near Buktiarpore, in Monghyr. A report from a special relief officer at Simrahi showed that two deaths had occurred there, but the Soopool Sub-divisional Officer's return, which includes the statistics for Simrahi, does not exhibit any deaths. The Lieutenant-Governor has caused further inquiries to be made about these two cases reported from Simrahi, and the result of the inquiries will be made known to the Government of India. Meanwhile, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that these two cases should not be reckoned as deaths* from starvation. The four deaths in Hati and Buktiarpore now reported, added to the 13 referred to in my letter No. 2057, dated the 4th instant, make in all 17 cases.

2. Reports of alleged deaths from starvation reach the Government from time to time, but on inquiry these generally prove to be cases of mortality arising from disease or infirmity. For instance, the Deputy Commissioner of Maunbhoom, in his letter No. 610, dated the 6th instant, reported "several cases of deaths from starvation have been reported, but these, I am happy to say, after full inquiry, have been found to be deaths from disease, and were evidently reported by the villagers as deaths from starvation, in order to excite sympathy and in hopes of obtaining gratuitous assistance in food and money."

3. Wherever the deaths have been traced to starvation, they have been included in the statement submitted to the Government of India.

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* If, as is probable, the cases are identical with those referred to in the Bhagulpore narrative just received (today), they certainly were not famine deaths.

LONDON:
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

AND

THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN COUNCIL,

RELATIVE TO

THE FAMINE IN BENGAL.

PART V.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1874.

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 22 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

Famine.

To the Most Honourable the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS, Calcutta, the 17th April 1874.

WE have the honour to forward the fifteenth special narrative of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal for the fortnight ending the 16th instant.

2. The general aspect of affairs remains unchanged; the total number of persons seeking relief continues to increase and is now 1,301,919; but the measures of relief keep pace with the growing demands upon them and are becoming week by week more efficient and complete. We believe we may accept the Lieutenant-Governor's statement that "the famine has been got well in hand, and will, it may be hoped, be effectually met and averted." On the other hand the reported failure of the water-supply in parts of North Tirhoot and Rungpore gives rise to well founded apprehensions.

3. The most noticeable new incidents in the Narrative are the signs of increasing distress in the district of Burdwan and the sudden rise in the price of common rice in Rungpore. In the former district there has evidently been a change for the worse in the Bood-bood Sub-division (population 242,818) and to some extent in the Cutwa Sub-division also (population 286,131). Sir Richard Temple has visited Burdwan and we now await the result of his inspection, which we hope to communicate to your Lordship next week. In Rungpore the rise of prices appears to have occurred in the markets in the immediate neighbourhood of the sudder station, and if caused mainly by the employment of the local carriage in the conveyance of Government grain, it may be expected to be but temporary, as the demands for the carriage of Government grain in Rungpore are not great.

4. As regards deaths from starvation, we enclose a letter* received to-day from the Government of Bengal. It will be observed that the three deaths in the Hathi Sub-Division, reported in the enclosure of our last despatch, are now ascertained to have been due to disease, but that the two cases at Simrahi, reported in the same enclosure, should be included among famine deaths. Five additional cases have been reported during the week from Mudhobanee, making a total, up to date, of 21 deaths from starvation.

* Page 152.

5. As regards transport arrangements, the Lieutenant-Governor reports that they are extremely satisfactory, and lead to the hope that every district will have received its entire allotment of grain by the end of May. It will further be observed that the Durbhanga Railway has now been completed, and that the despatches from Chumpta Ghat may consequently be expected to make up for past shortcomings.

6. In our despatches Nos. 9 and 11 of the 9th and 13th February, respectively, we mentioned the apprehension of distress in Nepal. We now learn from the Resident that Sir Jung Bahadur is only anxious about those districts which adjoin Tirhoot and Bhagulpore, and that he is doing all he can to relieve his people. The prospects of the spring crops in the valleys among the hills recently visited by the Resident are stated by him to be favourable,

and whatever can be spared of hill produce will be sent down to the distressed tracts.

7. Lastly, we enclose the *Allahabad Government Gazette* of the 11th instant, containing the usual statement of prices current and of the condition of the crops in the North-Western Provinces; the reports continue, on the whole, satisfactory.

We have the honour to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
NAPIER OF MAGDALA.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.
J. F. D. INGLIS.

FIFTEENTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF THE DROUGHT IN BENGAL, FROM THE 3RD APRIL TO THE 16TH APRIL 1874.

1. On the 8th of April Sir George Campbell was permitted to resign the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, and Sir Richard Temple was appointed to succeed him. The Lieutenant-Governor left the Presidency for the distressed districts on the night of Tuesday, the 14th April.

The weather.

2. The weather during the fortnight under report has continued favourable on the whole. Rain has fallen in most of the districts of the Rajshahye, Dacca, and Chittagong divisions, and also in parts of North Bhaugulpore and Purneah. This has been very opportune for the early rice sowings, and all the accounts show that a larger area than usual is prepared for this crop. More rain is required, and the weather seems sufficiently unsettled to make it possible to hope for this. In the Patna division the drought still continues, and the millets and pulse now approaching maturity are withering for want of moisture, while it will be impossible to prepare the ground for rice sowing without some heavy showers.

Rainfall of the fortnight in inches at some of the principal district stations.

Burdwan - - - -	0·0
Beerbhoom - - - -	0·0
Calcutta - - - -	0·0
Maldah - - - -	1·57
Moorshedabad - - -	0·0
Dinagepore - - - -	1·93
Rungpore - - - -	0·79
Dacca - - - -	1·19
Mymensing - - - -	6·26
Sylhet - - - -	8·15
Tipperah - - - -	1·55
Patna - - - -	0·0
Tirhoot - - - -	0·0
Chumparun - - - -	0·0
Bhagulpore - - - -	rain, but quantity not shown.
Lohardugga - - - -	0·0

Price of grain,

3. In the districts of Hooghly, Howrah, and Baukoora of the Burdwan division, prices have remained stationary, or with a tendency to fall. In Beerbhoom they have slightly risen. In Burdwan, although the price-current shows the price of common rice at over 14 seers per rupee, the Collector reports that in the interior of Bood-bood it is only procurable at 10 seers per rupee, or even less. There is no marked change in the Presidency division. In the Rajshahye division prices have risen slightly in Dinagepore, but were in the district narratives reported easier in Moorshedabad, Rajshahye and Maldah owing to private importations. At Rungpore sudder station they suddenly rose from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6-8 a maund, owing, it is said, to the demand for carriage on account of Government grain having paralyzed private trade. Only about 600 carts in all are here at present taken up for Government; and Mr. Robinson, the Relief Commissioner, reports that he has no doubt Rungpore could easily supply many more were proper rates paid. He is himself looking into this. From the district narrative it does not appear that prices in the interior have been at all affected. They are, however, extremely high throughout the south and west of this district. In the most eastern districts of Bengal the rates are either stationary or lower, except in Mymensing, which shows a rise. In Behar, south of the Ganges, the reaping of the rubbee crop has cheapened food-grains somewhat. North of the

Ganges the harvest has not had the same effect, and in Soopool an upward tendency is observed notwithstanding the harvesting of a very fair spring crop.

The price-current for the two weeks under report will be found at enclosure No. 2.

The present quotations of rice for some of the principal districts compare as follows:—

	Number of seers of common rice sold for a rupee 1874.				
	On 31st Jan.	28th Feb.	28th March.	11th April.	April 1873.
Burdwan - -	14	13½	13¼	14¼	24
Beerbhoom -	12⅜	12½	13½	$12\frac{13}{16}$	24
Hooghly - -	11 to 12	11 to 12½	12 to 13	12 to 13	18
Calcutta - -	12½	12¼	13	13¼	
Dinagepore -	13¼	14	10¾	10¼	27
Maldah - -	11¾	12	9½	10½ to 11	24½
Rungpore -	11¼	11¼	11½	7¼	27⅝
Dacca - -	16	14	13	17	32
Backergunge -	16½	15	16	16	28
Chittagong -	18	16½	16½	17	24
Noakholly -	17½	13	15	16	26
Patna - -	12	13½	12	13½	21
Shahabad - -	13	12½	12¾	12	18½
Tirhoot - -	10	10	8½	8½	21
Sarun - -	12¼	12½	12	12	20
Chumparun -	11¾	11	10¼	9	27
Bhagulpore -	12⅝	11⅜	11¼	11⅜	16½
Lohardugga -	15½	16	14	14	17
Manbhoom -	15	14½	14½	14½	24

State of the crops.

4. The in-gathering of the rubbee or spring harvest has, in most of the Behar districts, been now brought to an end. In all those south of the Ganges the outturn has been much better than was originally anticipated; and in the Bhagulpore division, north of the Ganges, the yield has been on the whole very fair. In Sarun, however, the results are less satisfactory. The severe hailstorm of last month did much damage to the crop in parts, while the outturn generally appears to have been unequal, and in some tracts considerably below expectation. The firmness maintained by prices in spite of the reaping of this, ordinarily a most important crop in Sarun, is looked upon by the local officers as an unfavorable sign. In Chumparun the cheena, or lesser millet, was in a precarious condition from want of rain, except in tracts where irrigation had kept it alive. The outturn of the spring crop had not been here very satisfactory, and in the worst part of the district—Ramnuggur—there had been none to speak of. In Tirhoot the cheena (millet), and moong (pulse), are suffering from the continued drought, and it is impossible to prepare the land for rice. In all those districts where the mohwa tree grows, such as Bhagulpore, Monghyr, the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and the Chota Nagpore division, the crop this year has been singularly full and abundant, forming a most material addition to the food-supply of the poorer classes. In the Rajshahye division the rain which was much wanted to enable the ryots to complete the sowing of the early autumn crop has fallen pretty generally; and though more is still required, the sowings are now on the whole well-advanced. The silk-crop, which is always precarious, has, in the Rajshahye district, unfortunately proved a failure.

Seed grain.

5. The question of seed-grain has become of more immediate interest in Eastern Bengal, where sowings are earlier than in Behar. The Collector of Dinagepore writes:—
"As the bhadoi sowings have not yet been completed, it is not easy to "determine with certainty the question of sufficiency of seed-grain, to which "the attention of all circle officers has now for some time been directed. The "impression, however, is that seed-gain, both for bhadoi and hemantee (autumn "and winter rice), will be forthcoming, though at high rates. The inquiries made "by the circle officers show that the people are themselves fully alive to the "difficulty, and that dealers are purchasing and storing the produce of last "harvest. I am more and more convinced that there is a sufficiency of seed-grain

"in the country, a stock which the sale of Government rice will tend to keep up." The price will however be high. Already in one district the price of seed-grain is higher than that of cleaned rice. In Rungpore it is noted that though the ryots sometimes complained of want of seed, the lands where ready have all been sown, and a much larger area than usual has been cultivated with early rice. In the other districts of the Rajshahye division there will almost certainly be no lack of seed-grain. The view that seed would probably not be wanting was that taken by the late Lieutenant-Governor at paragraph 27 of his Tirhoot note appended to last narrative. Steps are being taken to assist, through the zemindars, those ryots who may be unable to buy seed at the high prices now ruling. In Tirhoot the subject has not been lost sight of as the following extract from the district narrative will show:

> "Mr. MacDonnell and the sub-divisional officer of Hattee are now directing their attention to the relief of cultivators and small farmers whom it is difficult to bring to our relief works. To these they are making advances in money for seed-grain and in grain for their own support. The principle they have adopted is that of making advances to the applicants by whole villages, the applicants entering into an association or system of frank pledge for repayment, their estimate being based on returns submitted by putwarees showing the quantity of land cultivated by each applicant, and the quantity of seed-grain required being calculated at the rate of 20 seers per beegha. In some instances they have persuaded zemindars to take the seed advances into their own hands; and one zemindar, Baboo Bunsee Dareer of Ragopore, proprietor of nearly half the Lehra circle, is specially mentioned for the public spirit and humanity which he has displayed in this respect, and in the administration of relief operations on his estates under their directions."

No special reference is made to the subject in the Sarun and Chumparun narratives, but it is incidentally mentioned that in one sub-division of the latter district fully two-thirds of the rice lands had been already prepared for the next sowings. From Purneah it is reported that the trade in seed-grain is brisk.

Supply of grain.

6. The supplies of grain in the local markets are, in most districts of Behar, still sufficient to meet the demand, and have been supplemented to some extent by the new rubbee grain which is already coming into the market. In the interior of Durbhunga, however, supplies are said to be scarce save in one or two large bazars. In Mudhoobunnee, where the same scarcity had shown itself, the sale of Government rice has brought into the market stocks of other grains held by petty traders. At a few places in Seetamurhee, and in one or two bazaars in Sarun, and at Bukhtiarpore in Monghyr, there was some failure of supplies. But generally throughout Behar the inferior grains are still procurable, though rice is everywhere very dear, and frequently not to be got. In the Rajshahye districts rice is becoming more and more difficult to buy, though other grains are generally available in sufficient quantity. The Dinagepore district officer thinks, however, that everything now points to exhaustion in the stocks of food-grains in that district, and traces a steady falling off in supplies, while the people are said to be anxious for the opening of the Government golahs. In Rungpore also, along the south-west and south of the district, deficiency is apparent until the tract on the east is reached, which is supplied by importation from the Brahmapooter. In all other parts of the district food is procurable at high prices. This is also the case generally in the Chota Nagpore and Burdwan divisions.

Private importations.

7. The railway is still carrying into Behar considerable supplies of grain on account of private traders. The figures for the fortnight ending the 4th April were—

	Tons.
From the North-west and Punjab -	- 15,974
„ Calcutta - - -	- 5,874
Total - -	- 21,848

The figures for the preceding fortnight were 17,928 tons from the North-West, and 7,737 tons from Calcutta.

The block at Patna city station reported in last narrative has been removed through the active aid of the Magistrate, and orders have been given for constructing at once a new siding and station yard, and otherwise improving the traffic arrangements in order to prevent a recurrence of the difficulty (see Appendix E.)* A fall of prices in the Patna bazar led to a slackening in the rate of

* Page 51.

private import to Behar from the Punjab. The Government has not yet received a final report on the subject, but it is believed that the falling off was only temporary. The amount of private grain sent up from Calcutta also shows a falling off, possibly in consequence of the orders that Government grain should have priority of despatch. It is to be hoped, however, that carriage will be found for all the private as well as for the Government grain; and the Railway Company have been told that it is not intended to displace private grain espatches but only that grain should take priority over ordinary traffic.

In the Rajshahye division there is a tolerably brisk private import into Rajshahye and Maldah on the Ganges, and to the parts of Rungpore lying near the Brahmapooter.

8. The usual note on the movement of food-grains will be found at Appendix A.*

Export of grain by sea.

The Collector of Customs has furnished a consolidated statement showing the export of food-grains from Bengal ports during the month of March. The total export beyond Bengal was 16,933 tons, making a total of 190,094 tons since the 1st October last.

Condition of the people.

9. The condition of the people is very fully explained in the district narratives (enclosures Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9).† The increasing numbers flocking to our relief works indicate increasing severity in the pressure caused by high prices and a deficient market; and this fact is perhaps specially significant from its being very general and occurring at a time when the cutting of the rubbee harvest afforded in many parts remunerative employment to large numbers of the labouring class. Every week, however, sees the relief organisation more complete and more competent to deal with distress. And on the whole, it may be said that (thanks solely to the Government provision of work and food) the condition of the people in the distressed districts is not worse. The famine has been got well in hand, and will, it may be hoped, be effectually met and averted. The Commissioner of Patna writes: "Distress in the north of Chumparun and Tirhoot has continued to increase steadily, and the number of people resorting to the relief works is daily becoming larger. The organisation for dealing with these distressed masses is, however, daily improving; and what were three weeks ago hungry mobs, clamorous for relief, are now by degrees being transformed into organised gangs of work-people, while those unable to work have been weeded out and made recipients of gratuitous relief, light-labor gangs being formed for those who are unable to join the able-bodied working portion. The relief circles have now all been provided with officers, and arrangements are being made for starting village works in each circle, so as to prevent overcrowding on the roads and the larger works; and it is to be hoped that by this means much useful work will be done, while the dangers arising from the massing of large and unmanageable bodies of people on a few great works will be avoided."

At Appendix D.‡ will be found minutes by Sir Richard Temple summarising the principal statistics of distress, and the measures taken by Government to meet this emergency.

North Tirhoot.

10. A very full account was given in last narrative of the measures adopted in North Tirhoot. The present state of things in those tracts may be gathered from the following extracts:—

> "In *Seetamurhee* sub-division the condition of the people has improved generally, but isolated cases of distressed women and children are still to be found. For all such cases the sub-divisional officer is specially providing."

In *Durbhunga* the sub-divisional officer has observed a marked improvement among the people, especially in the direction of Bahera. He writes:—

> "I had myself grouped round Bahera, where I have no doubt the distress was as pronounced as in any other village in the sub-division. These were the villages in which I, in a former report, declared that famine had commenced. As then, so now, I had all the poor assembled; and were it not that I was assured by the jeyt ryot and putwaree, and group-inspector, that no famine-deaths had occurred, and that in the people now before me I saw the starving creatures of a month ago, I scarcely could have credited the change. I visited the village when the putwaree was distributing the daily allowance. There were no complaints whatever, and the improved condition of the recipients proved that the village headmen had not deprived them of Government charity. Indeed, this system of village-relief everywhere I went I found working well."

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* Page 15.

† Page 52.

‡ Pages 35 to 51.

Bahera was, it will be remembered, the tract where actual famine had shown itself, and anxiety regarding which was one of the chief causes of Sir George Campbell's visiting Tirhoot last month.

The *Mudhoobunnee* sub-divisional officer writes :—

> "The time has now come when I must say that distress is general throughout the sub-division. A few favoured tracts, such as the neighbourhood of Ladma and Hurlaki thanas, are still comparatively fairly well off; but the fact that we have little less than half the population on our hands shews that distress is severe in general. But for the Government roads, we could not have hoped to cope with it."

From Mudhoobunnee several deaths are reported, five at least of which were probably due to privation or disease induced thereby. It is impossible to prevent such cases among the old and helpless, or among children, the classes which in fact furnish most of these cases. Every effort is, however, being made to discover and relieve those in want by careful village visitation and inspection, while food and work are everywhere available for all who will come for them. No famine deaths are reported from any other sub-divisions of Tirhoot. The water supply is unfortunately failing from want of rain, and should the needed showers not speedily fall a great aggravation of distress must undoubtedly be looked for.

South Tirhoot.

11. In the *Sudder*, *Hajipore*, and *Tajpore* Divisions there is an increasing demand for work, but the condition of the people is, on the whole, not much changed for the worse. The accounts given a few weeks back of the state of some parts of the Sudder Sub-division have been found to be exaggerated. This tract, however, needs careful watching, and a circle organization has been formed to that end. The planters have come forward readily here, as they had already done elsewhere to aid in looking after the village relief. The tobacco crop in Tajpore is expected to assist the ryots much, but there is some difficulty about getting the produce down to the Ganges as so many carts are taken up for carriage of grain. The Lieutenant-Governor has caused enquiry to be made as to whether return carts and Railway empties could not be made available for this purpose, and has sanctioned advances being given upon the security of the crop in case of need.

The rest of Behar.

12. In *Sarun* the ample provision of work made by Government has prevented any deterioration in the condition of the people. From *Chumparun* the same fact is reported. The people have been saved by the measures adopted for their relief, which are now described as being in good working order. Even in *Ramnuggur*, where the inhabitants depend almost entirely on Government help, direct or indirect, their state is reported to be sufficiently satisfactory. In *North Bhagulpore* the worst cases on the works are wanderers from Tirhoot. Village visitation is in progress, and will, it is hoped, bring to light any lurking distress, if such exists. In *Monghyr* there has been no change for the worse, rather the contrary, as the spring harvest has been good, and about six lakhs of rupees on account of opium payments have been distributed among the cultivators. In *Bukhtiarpore* only did the Relief Superintendent find very marked distress, where in two villages grain had to be doled out to 350 persons of the lowest classes who were found quite "famine-stricken." In *Purneah* no change for the worse is reported, but incendiary fires are said to be becoming frequent. In the *Sonthal Pergunnahs* the "people look well everywhere," though they are said to be nearly at the end of their stores in parts; but, as the Deputy Commissioner remarks, "Sonthals "would be merry and eat full meals up to their last handful of maize." Fortunately the Sonthals take very readily to out-door labor, and of this enough is provided.

The Rajshahye Division.

13. In *Moorshedabad*, the old, infirm, and beggars are coming more on charitable relief, and the pressure is tightening in some parts, as indicated by the increasing resort of laborers to the works. The failure of the silk crop in *Rajshahye* will add to the distress there, but this is not as yet at all severe. Both here and in Moorshedabad arrangements have been made for careful inspection by circle officers (without, however, a full subordinate agency as in Tirhoot) and the doubtful parts will be closely watched. In *Dinagepore* the sale of Government grain and the ample

supply of work has checked any development of distress. From the south of *Rungpore* the accounts are less favourable. Near Sadullapore and Govindgunge the village inspection has disclosed "greater distress than was anticipated." The district report says:—

> "In the tract lying west of the Kurotya, the state of the villages is wretched beyond description; the people have sold everything they possessed, and are now solely dependent on Government. Many have sold their plough-cattle, the last thing with which a Bengalee ryot parts. I found one instance where a man had sold the roof over his head. Many ryots have deserted the place altogether and gone to Bogra and elsewhere. The relief officer reports that the people seem to be most grateful for the relief works. The villages in this quarter are now quite deserted in the day-time. Every one is to be found on the road; the women are now coming readily, bringing their children with them. All are most anxious to get Government rice. The want of water is felt nearly as keenly as the want of food. In many villages people have to go two or three miles to bring a gharah of water. I have begun to excavate three old tanks in the worst parts, and am digging wells at every mile along the roads. A few cases of cholera, with one death, have occurred among the coolies. In many tracts on the south and the south-west of the district the poorer classes of ryots have been obliged to sell or pledge the few things they have. Many complain of the difficulty of having only one full meal of rice a day, and of having to eke out the second meal with various coarse substitutes for rice. There is much widely-diffused distress which is being carefully looked after, and relief to meet the circumstances that arise in each locality is promptly organised on the spot."

In *Maldah* it is feared that relief operations must be extended, and village-to-village inspection made, even in those tracts which have not hitherto been considered distressed. The numbers requiring relief in the north-west of the district are increasing rapidly; but no cases of starvation have yet been reported. The accounts received of late from *Pubna*, and especially from the *Serajgunge* division of that district, have been somewhat unfavourable. The parts bordering upon the distressed tracts of Rungpore, Dinagepore, and Rajshahye, may very possibly require more active assistance before the season is over. Meantime the Lieutenant-Governor has directed the opening of relief works, and authorised the Magistrate, in case of emergent need, to indent upon the nearest golahs of the neighbouring districts.

The Burdwan division.

14. There has been some change for the worse in the Bood-bood, and to some extent in the Cutwa sub-divisions of the Burdwan district. The collector reports that on personal inspection he finds the condition of the people in many villages wretched in the extreme. The endemic fever has already reduced the standard of health in those parts, and the number of applicants for relief has now become very considerable. The Lieutenant-Governor has himself gone to look into matters, and will give such further orders, supplementary to the measures of relief already taken, as may appear necessary. There is nothing fresh to report regarding any of the other districts of this division. The numbers on works and receiving charitable relief have increased, as was to be expected, with the advance of the season, but ample provision has been made to meet all needs. The Jungle Mehals of Midnapore, a remote tract, regarding which some anxiety was felt at first, are now believed to be safe from anything like severe distress.

The Chota Nagpore division.

15. A full report by Colonel Dalton upon the condition of the Chota Nagpore division to the end of March will be found at No. 8* of the enclosures. It will be seen that Palamow still continues to be the most distressed tract in this division, and that many people come to the works in an emaciated state. The relief organisation has been considerably strengthened here, and will now be able, it is hoped, to meet all demands on it. To both Manbhoom and Hazareebagh Government grain has been sent. In both districts, however, as well as in Palamow, the mohwa crop has given much relief to the poor. Work is provided for all who require it; and gratuitous relief is being given to those who cannot work. From Singbhoom the Deputy Commissioner reports:—

> "The relief works that have been opened out in this district are proving of the utmost benefit and there can be no doubt that but for them the short crops of the past season would have pressed hardly on the poorest. The assistance rendered was all required, and it is hoped and expected that through it the season will be tided over till the next crops. The mohwa and other wild fruit crops, more especially in the Kolhan, are turning out mercifully abundant, and they will supply food to the poorest for the next two months. The mohwa trees in the Kolhan are laden with blossoms in the most extraordinary manner, and blossoms themselves are of huge size and bursting with richness. Every tree is guarded with the most jealous care from the cattle. The Kols also prepare and eat the seed of the sâl tree; and the sâl trees this year are, beyond

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* Page 141.

all experience, in most abundant bloom. It is no exaggeration to say that in the Kolhan forests 99 out of every 100 trees have blossomed, and blossomed in the most amazing way. In most cases literally not a leaf can be seen from the profusion and wealth of blossom. Other jungle fruits, the cha especially, are also in great abundance this year."

Mymensing.

15. Fears have been felt from time to time lest the trade demand upon the eastern districts of the Dacca and Chittagong divisions for rice to supply the more distressed tracts to the west should affect unfavourably the position of the exporting tracts themselves. During the last week accounts have been received from Mymensing to the effect that in a small part of the Jamalpore sub-division there is a deficiency in the local food supply. A proposal to import some Government grain has been submitted by the Commissioner. The Lieutenant-Governor has directed careful inquiry to be made as to the necessity of this. It seems probable that, surrounded as it is by districts which had surplus crops, this little corner may, by a little arrangement and stimulus given to local trade, be able to get supplies. Of course, if Government grain is really required, it will be given, and fortunately can be easily delivered by the Brahmapooter steamers at a ghât nearly opposite Kaligunge, where the Rungpore supplies are now being landed.

The Presidency division.

16. In the Presidency division the only tracts regarding which any anxiety has been felt, are the north-west corner of Nuddea near Moorshedabad, and a small part of the Satkhira subdivision of the 24-Pergunnahs. In Nuddea the system of advances for works connected with land improvements and water supply has led to the employment of the distressed poor in considerable numbers by private persons. About 4,000 souls thus find employment, besides 1,150 who are employed on Government roads; while weaving and spinning is provided for those who cannot labour out of doors. These measures have hitherto proved sufficient. In Satkhira, similarly, work is provided by Government for all who need it. The distress here is not severe as yet, though it is feared some suffering is in store for the people. A relief committee has, however, been formed.

Transport arrangements.

17. Among the papers printed as Appendix C.* will be found a note summarising and reviewing the state and prospects of the Government transport arrangements up to the end of March. The general result is extremely satisfactory, showing that each district will have probably received its entire allotment of grain by the end of May—several districts long before that date—and we may fairly hope that the whole will thus have been stored before the rains set in. The letter to the Government of India, No. 2257—S.R., dated 10th April, with enclosures, in the same Appendix,† shows that the despatches for the Rajshahye division are now fast approaching completion.

The Lieutenant-Governor is satisfied, as regards the western districts, that the local transport can easily carry away all the grain that the railway can supply. The manner in which the district officers have answered to the calls made upon them by Government for the organisation of a strong transport service has been worthy of all praise. The minutes by Sir Richard Temple, Nos. 55 and 58, Appendix G. to the 14th narrative, show what has been done to secure reserve carriage in case of any possible break-down; and the Government can now, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, rest assured that unless some very unforesen accidents occur, no serious failure in the scheme of relief can happen owing to any insufficiency in the transport service.

Since the last narrative was written, the Secretary of State has advised the Government that contracts have been made for the construction of the ten small steamers referred to in paragraph 23 of the 11th narrative. They are each to carry 20 tons, and tow a barge carrying 20 tons more. They will be shipped in pieces by canal steamers before the end of April, and may be expected to be ready for work here by the beginning of July. These, with the four similar steamers now making in Calcutta, will be useful for distributing grain from district depôts by the inland rivers, or for carrying up any further allotments should the necessity for this arise.

The Durbhunga Railway has been completed, the engine having entered Durbhunga on the 15th April. This will help very materially in placing the grain allotted to Durbhunga and Mudhoobunnee. This aid was much wanted, for the Alliance Company of contractors have not yet succeeded in bringing up their despatches from Chumpta Ghât to anything like the anticipated figure; and

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* Page 18.

† Page 27.

Nilcomul, the North-west contractor, is also very backward in his arrangements. With the help of the railway, however, we can feel certain that all shortcomings will be now made up.

Despatches of Government grain.

18. The despatches of Government grain to the famine districts amounted (see Appendix B.) during the fortnight under report, (*i.e.*, up to Tuesday, 14th April) to 14,19,266 maunds (52,565 tons), which is a great improvement upon the despatches of the fortnight before (38,705 tons). The total despatches of Government grain from Calcutta to the distressed districts amount now to 65,73,969 maunds or 243,480 tons, while 150,925 tons had been finally stored to the date of the latest returns. The papers in Appendix C.* show exactly how the case stands as regards the amount and despatch of the grain yet remaining to be sent to each district.

* Page 17.

Local purchases at Patna.

19. The Patna dealers, whose undertaking to deliver 42,000 maunds a week of mixed grain for Tirhoot was noticed in paragraph 18 of the 13th narrative, are working out their contract very satisfactorily. There was a little shortcoming at first, caused partly by the difficulty they had in getting railway waggons, and partly by the want of bags of the size required; but all these difficulties have been overcome, and the grain they give, and the bags in which it is packed, are reported to be exceedingly good.

Relief works.

20. The fortnightly return of persons employed on relief works under officers of the Public Works Department will be found as usual at enclosure No. 10.† The following table, however, shows more completely the number of labourers on Government and Court of Ward relief works by the latest returns:

† Page 151.

	Last fortnight.	Fortnight under report.
Patna Division - - -	539,353	806,878
Soane Canal Works - - -	31,289	33,933*
Gunduck Embankments - -	28,834	29,299*
Bhagulpore Division - - -	51,430	87,198
Rajshahye „ - - -	82,586	167,871
Burdwan „ Nuddea, Chota, Nagpore, and Cooch Behar - -	22,000	47,794
Northern Bengal Railway - -	12,000	12,475
Total - -	767,492	1,185,448

From the above it would seem that the estimates of distress at the worst season formed some weeks ago by Sir Richard Temple and the local officers will be realised—perhaps more than realised in the Patna division. On the other hand, the distress in the Rajshahye division is as yet somewhat less, and in the Bhagulpore division considerably less than the estimate. Now that the spring harvest is over, the numbers may be expected to increase everywhere. The work of breaking up the great gangs upon the north Tirhoot roads and diverting them to village works has been going on. The Additional Commissioner in Tirhoot has been authorised to make saltpetre manufacture a relief work, if he can do so at reasonable rates, taking the necessary precautions for the protection of the salt revenue by buying in the salt or otherwise. Mr. Metcalfe was sanguine that he could employ great numbers in this way. In Sarun the cowrie system, under which each labourer is paid a certain number of cowries for each basket-full of earth carried, is reported to have answered well on the Hutwa Raj works, the outturn of work having proved on measurement to be all round not less than half the amount which able-bodied labourers at contract rates would be expected to show in ordinary seasons. At the same time care is taken that the weakest and youngest on the works can earn a livelihood. On the Sarun district works the plan has not been tried generally, from a fear least the condition of payment by results should deter those really in need from seeking employment freely. In Chumparun it has been introduced more extensively for able-bodied labourers, separate invalid gangs being arranged for those unfit for task-work. In most districts an attempt is being made to exact a moderate amount of real labour from those who are able to give it. In Bogra there has been a considerable influx of labourers on the roads, and the system in force seems to have been unduly lax. The Relief Commissioner has had his attention drawn to the matter.

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* Incomplete.

Irrigation Department relief works.

21. On the Soane Canal Works the average number of labourers was 33,933 during the fortnight, as against 31,282 in that preceding. But as the returns of three of the Dehree sub-divisions have not been received, the figures are incomplete. Labourers are said to be increasing rapidly in the Arrah division. The Gunduk embankment gave employment to 29,299 persons on the average, but the returns for the Upper Gunduk works were incomplete. The work is mostly task-work, but weakly people presenting themselves are paid by daily wages, or on a liberal cowrie-system.

Northern Bengal Railway.

22. The number of labourers on the Northern Bengal Railway has not as yet much increased, but it is said that more are gradually coming in. On the railway, and the feeder roads, there were 12,475 on an average last fortnight. Arrangements are being made for sending large gangs from Bogra. The earth-work done is now equal to a bank 26 miles long, and 4 feet high, 1,80,000 bricks have been burnt; 50,000 are now in kilns; and 17,24,000 have been moulded.

Charitable Relief.

23. The system under which charitable relief is being distributed was fully explained at paragraph 23 of last Narrative. The number of people now in receipt of charitable relief of all kinds according to the latest returns was:—

Gya - - - -	430
Shahabad - - - -	180
Tirhoot - - - -	65,230
Sarun - - - -	1,016
Chumparun - - - -	17,076
Moorshedabad - - -	379
Dinagepore - - - -	4,464
Maldah - - - -	931
Rajshahye - - - -	185
Bogra - - - -	583
Rungpore - - - -	6,827
Bhagulpore - - - -	2,804
Purneah - - - -	2,178
Monghyr - - - -	1,367
Burdwan - - - -	9,137
Hooghly - - - -	901
Bankoorn - - - -	1,200
Beerbhoom - - - -	683
Maunbhoom - - - -	600
Palamow - - - -	300
Total - -	116,471

The following extracts from the Tirhoot report will show how matters are now being managed in Durbhunga and Mudhoobunnee:—

The sub-divisional officer of Durbhunga thus reports:—

" I have already explained the machinery of charitable relief as it existed when first set in action. I have now to refer to an extension of the system, by which, while retaining our former organisation, we are enabled to render the administration of relief more searching and certain. It consists in having prepared through the jeyt ryot and putwaree of each village a list of all those who are in want of relief in the village, and according to this list the group storekeeper dispenses weekly to each village in the group the quantity of grain required for the week's consumption. The distribution is made in the village, by the village headman and the putwaree. Among the other duties of the inspector will be that of seeing that in this respect the village headmen are up to their work. This sub-division has been divided into 12 circles. The Banhar and Warisnugur circles being outside the area where distress was most pressing, were not taken in hand till now. Of the other circles the grouping has been completed in all, except Lehera, Gungdak, and Hya ghât, where some villages still remain ungrouped. But before this week ends the work will be completed in these. In all of these villages the officers are at work, having the village list of distressed people made out; and looking to the fact that as our groups are made up, and inspectors appointed, this work can go on simultaneously in every group, it ought to be completed within a fortnight at farthest. My returns of those on charitable relief are incomplete,

> some circle officers having been unable to send in any returns, and others only returns for some groups. From these fragmentary returns I learn that the daily average on charitable relief is 14,563. I believe this, however, to be much under the real number."

The Mudhoobunnee officer writes:—

> "Charitable relief is now everywhere at work on the ticket system. The system of giving out cotton, too, is taking root, particularly under Messrs. Ozanne, Williams, Nicholay, and Baboo Ishree Pershad. I am establishing, through the relief superintendent at most places, *quasi* hospitals under the native doctors, for care of those who are, either by starvation or disease, unfitted to go to their own people, or to work. I would have the distribution of cooked food, where it is given, also under the superintendence of native doctors if a European is not present, as natives are slow to enquire into cases into which care and extra attention is required."

In the other sub-divisions, also, careful arrangements are being elaborated to meet any distress that may exist.

In Sarun the numbers on charitable relief are very small. In the whole Hutwa Raj, only 60 persons are shown as receiving charity at present, and at most 800 to 1,000 persons are expected to need aid in the Hutwa sub-division. In Chumparun, the organisation has, with the aid of planters, been made apparently very complete. In the districts south of the Ganges, and in most of Rajshahye division, only beggars and friendless individuals, and in Monghyr some of the very lowest classes, have as yet come in for charitable aid. In Burdwan, upwards of 9,000 persons are shown as attending the food depôts and relief houses. The poorer classes in this district have become accustomed to take cooked food readily at the fever food depôts, and they have no scruples in coming for this form of relief when pinched by high prices as they are at present.

Sales of Government grain.

24. But little information is given in the district narratives as yet with regard to the sale of Government grain. In Bukhtiarpore (North Monghyr), 2,000 maunds have been sold to the public. From Purneah the district officer reports:—

> "At Dengra and Kusba Amour there is less private trade than in other parts, but the scarcity is beginning to encourage private enterprise here as elsewhere. A cloth merchant of Kissengunge has opened a large store on the banks of the river, and keeps his supply up by small boats. In this neighbourhood I last fortnight authorised the sale of Government rice. Mr. Gouldsbury sold 10 maunds at Ratahat, and Mr. Wyer 16 maunds at Mathour, and 107 maunds 11¼ seers at Ootri at 15 seers per Burmah and 12 seers Bengal. The consequence of this was, that on the next hât day, at Ratahat and Mathour, not a single private trader appeared. I consequently reduced the rates to 12 seers, and forbade the sale of Government grain at the public hâts. This has restored confidence, and the beparees are now buying as fast as ever from the Purneah bazaar from the merchants who import it from Caragolah. I have directed the relief officers at Dengra and Kusba Amour to sell at 12 seers and 10 seers at their relief centres on fixed days; and, after inquiry, to village communities or group of villages; not more than 100 maunds to be sold at each circle until further orders."

In Dinagepore sales to the public have begun in limited tracts, and the Magistrate is ready to sell more generally as soon as the necessity arises. In Rungpore grain damaged by the accidental burning down of a Government golah was eagerly bought up by the people at fair rates.

25. The subscriptions to the central relief committee, including those from England, amount to Rs. 13,05,373 up to date, exclusive of the Government subsidy.

Advances to ryots.

26. The subject of advances to ryots is one of fast-growing importance. The extract given above in paragraph from the Durbhunga sub-divisional report shows how the plan is being worked in Tirhoot.

In Sarun nearly 3½ lakhs of rupees have been advanced to zemindars to be expended in grain or money advances to their ryots. The following extract from Mr. Howe's report on Ramnuggur, is interesting, and worthy of special notice in connection with this subject:—

> "The questions of the most pressing importance are, *first*, to provide the 'Assamee' (or cultivating) population with sufficient food-grain; *secondly*, to provide them with, or to enable them to obtain seed-grain. Almost the entire population of the sub-division is agricultural, and the proportion of the cultivating class that comes to our works is small, though the actual numbers are small. The remainder now depend almost entirely on the advances they have received either from their zemindars or from Government, nor have they anything except advances to look forward to until the next rice crop is reaped. The best of them are poor and in debt, and it is from this fact that the question of advances becomes so difficult. On the one hand, unless advances are immediately made on a large scale, the 'Assamee' population will be reduced to starvation; while, on the other hand, there is the risk that, unless great care is taken in investigating each case, the security will be insufficient. To make advances too readily (except in the comparatively small classes of cases coming under Rule F*) tends to demoralise the people, and

renders them reckless in getting still further into debt. The difficulty is to combine sufficient promptness with sufficient caution, and to make a searching investigation without thereby losing the right moment for action. Mr. Howe has submitted a scheme which has been sanctioned, and on which he has been acting. The following is an outline of this:—A register (mouzahwar) is prepared in each tuppah, in which the amount required approximately for each village is entered. This register is prepared in the first instance by the inspector of the circle, assisted, where possible, by any influential member of the committee resident in the tuppah. It is then carefully tested by the officer in charge of the circle, who can alter (increase or lessen) the total amount fixed in round numbers. As soon as this has been done, a certain quantity of grain is sent to each village, where it is kept in charge of the headmen of the village, from whom due security for its safe custody is taken. The class of cases requiring most immediate relief, *i.e.*, 'Assamees' coming under Rule F (which fortunately are comparatively few), will then be taken up and disposed of summarily. These men can be readily found, as there are but few in each village. The object of sending grain to each village, Mr. Howe explains, is, '*first*' to give confidence, for experience shows that the mere presence of grain in a village (if the object of its being brought is known) has this effect; *secondly*, to enable the advances under Rule F to be made at once. The summary inquiry preceding distribution under Rule F will be carried on simultaneously, and, having once decided to whom to give under this rule, there is nothing like *immediate action*, which of course can only be taken if the grain is ready; *thirdly*, because now is the best time for carrying grain throughout the interior, and we should therefore avail ourselves of it. Having provided every village with an amount of grain which approximately will suffice for advances, and having relieved the worst cases under Rule F, a formal register will be prepared and carefully tested by circle inspectors and officers in charge of circles:—

1. Name of mouzah.
2. Amount already distributed either by Rajah of Bettiah, or under Rajah of Ramnuggur's loan.
3. Number and names of Assamees requiring advances, with amount required by each.
4. Nature of security.
5. Remarks.

"When this return has been carefully tested, the zemindar will be called upon either to make the advance or to go security, Government making the tuccavee distribution. If he declines, the best security available will be taken, and the procedure laid down in circular No. 1088 of 25th February will be followed, *i.e.*, the zemindar will be warned that Government reserves the right to recover the advance by legislation or otherwise."

In Monghyr application for advances of this kind are numerous. The system pursued in Purneah is described thus:—

"In villages, where the people are badly off, grain is advanced on credit, the village community giving a joint bond for the repayment of the advance. This system works capitally, it keeps the people in food, it allows them to spend their money on seed, which is procurable in nearly every hât and is being imported largely from the north, and it enables us to distribute our grain at no cost at a time when carriage is available. Mr. Wyer at the Sudder has worked this system, and found that it succeeds better than any other, the people like it, and it is far better than making them advances in money, except in places (which are, in my opinion, very few) where there is no seed-grain to be had. In most villages the well-to-do ryots have seed-grain which they are ready to advance to their poorer neighbours if they see any prospect of being repaid. An advance of Government grain for food on joint security, or its sale in some cases, prevents the seed-grain from being eaten, keeps the poorer people in their homes, and enables them to cultivate their fields. The brisk trade in seed-grain is a good sign."

In Dinagepore such advances will, it is hoped, be given largely through zemindars. In Rungpore also the applications are many, and upwards of Rs. 90,000 have been advanced for this purpose. The Lieutenant-Governor is again about to call the attention of all officers in distressed districts to the fact that when the rains put a stop to out-door labour, the plan of advancing grain to ryots will be the best means open to us of tiding them over the months that must pass before they reap any crop from their fields. The security of the village headmen, or the collective security of a body of ryots, would generally be sufficient to warrant such advances.

Reserve officers.

27. The Government of India has arranged to provide a reserve of civil officers to take the place of any now employed who may break down during the course of relief operations. When the transport work is over, the military officers now engaged in superintending that work will also be available for relief.

Stock and cash accounts.

28. Forms of account for cash and stock transactions have been supplied to the districts where Government grain is stored, and on the 15th April stock was to be taken at all golahs and storehouses.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, 16th April 1874.

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* *i.e.*, in the case of persons whose caste or family position preclude them from laboring.

APPENDIX A.

MOVEMENT OF FOOD-GRAINS.

1. Schedule A. shows in the form laid down by the Government of India, the total exports of food grains during March, to places beyond Bengal from all ports in the Bengal Presidency. The total exports to the end of March stands thus:

	Tons.
From 1st October 1873 to end of February 1874 as per Appendix A. of last narrative - - -	1,73,161
During March 1874, as per Appendix A. to present narrative - - - - - - -	16,933
Total to end of March - -	1,90,094

The total imports for the same period were stated in Appendix A. of the last narrative to be 1,98,870 tons, of which only 5,034 tons were on private account. The latest figures available (up to 7th April), show that the imports on private account are still quite nominal.

2. From the 29th March to the 4th April, 19,360 tons of food-grains have been sent into Behar from stations below Rajmehal and Jamui, making 2,52,508 tons since the 1st October that have gone up, including Government grain. From the 29th March to the 4th April, 8,292 tons have entered Behar from the North-Western Provinces, making 1,25,760 tons since 1st November.

3. The importation of food-grains to Calcutta by the Eastern Canals have been, from 1st to 10th April, 3,813 tons, making in all 1,75,646 tons since the 1st October.

4. The private traffic registered at the river stations during the fortnight ending 11th April has been—

Station.	Direction.	Quantity in tons.
Sahebgunge - -	Up the Ganges - -	3,487
Ditto - -	Down " " - -	268
Goalundo - -	Up " " - -	1,405
Kooshtea - -	Down " Gorai - -	294

G. TOYNBEE,
On special duty.

Calcutta, the 15th April 1874.

SCHEDULE A.

Statement showing the quantity of Rice (distinguishing table and other kinds), Paddy, Wheat, Gram, and other Food-grains, exported from the Presidency of Bengal for the month of March in the present year and last year respectively.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1872–73.									1873–74.								
WHITHER EXPORTED.	Rice.		Paddy.	Total of rice and paddy.	Other Food-grains.				Grand total of all food-grains, columns 5 and 6.	Rice.		Paddy.	Total of rice and paddy.	Other Food-grains.				Grand total of all food-grains, columns 5 and 6.
	Table.	Other kinds.			Wheat.	Gram.	Other kinds.	Total.		Table.	Other kinds.			Wheat.	Gram.	Other kinds.	Total.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1. To Ceylon - - -	2	4,396	241	4,639	1	96	105	202	4,841	...	3,769	269	4,038	...	94	94	188	4,226
2. To Mauritius, Bourbon, and West India Islands.	111	12,834	...	12,945	270	271	705	1,246	14,191	19	2,001	...	2,020	352	524	189	1,066	3,085
3. To other foreign countries -	2,060	6,162	14	8,236	214	28	32	274	8,510	671	2,285	2	2,958	714	11	15	740	3,698
4. Total to foreign countries -	2,178	23,392	255	25,820	485	395	842	1,722	27,542	690	8,055	271	9,016	1,066	629	298	1,993	11,009
5. To other presidencies (beyond Bengal).	8,854	8,255	2,045	19,154	150	352	250	752	19,906	255	4,714	560	5,529	...	41	354	395	5,924
Grand total - - -	11,027	31,647	2,300	44,974	635	747	1,092	2,474	47,448	945	12,769	831	14,545	1,066	670	652	2,388	16,933

Calcutta Custom House,
The 15th April 1874.

T. B. Lane,
Offg. Collector of Customs.

APPENDIX C.

No. 2088—S.R.

From C. BERNARD, Esq., Acting Secretary to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, in the Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce Department.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

Calcutta, dated 6th April / issued 6th April 1874.

SIR,

WITH reference to paragraph 16 of the last special narrative, which contained a promise to submit a note showing the whole allotments of grain to the distressed districts, and reviewing the transport arrangements and their working, and also to submit Minutes by Sir Richard Temple summarising the present relief arrangements of the three very distressed divisions, I am now directed to submit these papers.

They consist of—

(*a.*) Summary of allotments and transport arrangements, with a Minute by Sir Richard Temple on the carrying power of the railway, written with reference to the above.

(*b.*) The letter of Sir Richard Temple's Secretary, No. 121, dated 31st March, with Sir Richard's Minutes Nos. 52, 63, 64, 65 and 66, reviewing the relief arrangements of the Dinagepore, Patna, and Bhagulpore Divisions, and of the country generally, with a reply, No. 2060, dated the 2nd April, conveying to Sir Richard Temple the Lieutenant-Governor's warm acknowledgments for the assistance which he has rendered to the Government of Bengal during Sir George Campbell's incumbency.

2. The last narrative has placed the Government of India in possession of the most recent information regarding the state of the country and the progress of relief arrangements, and the instructions issued by the Lieutenant-Governor after seeing for himself the worst parts of the country.

Nothing has since occurred to alter the views given in the narrative. We have still reason to hope that, so far, our greatest difficulties are confined to the Tirhoot district, and the more recent accounts from thence are favourable. In a telegram just received, Mr. Metcalfe says:—"Nothing like starvation is apparent. Village relief in hands of headmen. Working number on Bahera road, twenty-six thousand* only, on Mudhoobunnee works two lakhs.† Employing Resaldars in disciplining mobs (*i.e.* of laborers). Public health good. Baiparees increasing imports. Water supply everywhere deficient. Village after village searched for hungry people. Mudhoobunnee, Nareya, Durbhunga circles all formed. Can honestly say famine well in hand."

* When the measures for sifting and distributing the people on this road were undertaken they were over 50 thousand.

† This is a decrease and not an increase on numbers previously stated.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the enclosed transport note will satisfy the Government of India that the local transport arrangements as a whole are now extremely efficient, and that the carrying power is only limited by the carrying power of the railway. The Government of India will probably consider that question in connection with Sir Richard Temple's note on the subject and my letter No. 2089—S.R. of this date, submitting the question, whether certain further quantities of grain are to be procured from the North-Western Provinces.

4. Sir Richard Temple's Minutes, attached to his Secretary's letter No. 121, set forth very clearly in precise and statistical form the various arrangements made for supply of grain transport and relief machinery. Sir Richard Temple very justly praises the judgment, discrimination, and assiduity displayed by Mr. S. Bayley, Commissioner of the Patna Division, in the discharge of the extraordinarily difficult duties which have devolved on him; and he commends the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. J. Hewitt. He cordially acknowledges the services of Mr. G. N. Barlow, Officiating Commissioner of Bhagulpore, and brings specially to the notice of Government the very valuable services rendered by Mr. H. Hankey, as Special Superintendent of Transport. He speaks in terms of high commendation of Mr. W. Le F. Robinson, in special relief charge of the four northern districts of the Rajshahye Division. In all the above praises the Lieutenant-Governor entirely concurs.

5. The time has now come when the present Lieutenant-Governor must shortly surrender his office. He is compelled to do so at a time when the country is unhappily placed in a very critical position; but he hopes that the papers submitted with the last narrative and with the present letter will show that, under the direction and control of the Government of India, the Government of Bengal has made very large, and generally successful, provision to meet the calamity which has befallen the country; and Sir George Campbell trusts that in handing over the administration to a successor who has already so largely and so ably assisted him, he does so under circumstances which give fair hope that this Government, administered by the energetic and competent hands of his successor, and supported by the large means which the Government of India has so freely afforded, may be able successfully to carry the people through the time of trial, with no greater suffering than is inevitable under such a dispensation of Providence.

6. It has been explained that the present season so far promises very favorably. Accounts have just been received of a very beneficial fall of rain in the North Bengal Districts, and at this moment the appearance of the weather gives hopes of a further fall, which would be peculiarly opportune and beneficial after much land has been prepared and some crops sown in Bengal, and the rubbee harvest has been reaped and garnered in Behar.

7. If the season in Bengal should be favourable, the ensuing months being showery, as a season so commenced often is in Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor would hope that, after the provision which has been made for supplying the distressed district and maintaining a reserve, the condition of the people in the greater part of Bengal proper may not be greatly changed for the worse.

In the parts of Behar where the rubbee harvest has for some weeks given employment to the people, we must expect a large accession to the numbers for whom employment and relief provision must be made between the end of the rubbee harvest and the rains. But if the unusual drought is followed by early rains, as is frequently the case, that period will not be very long; and when good rains commence, we may expect that, in all districts not reduced in an extreme degree, the people will of their own accord betake themselves to agricultural pursuits.

There remain the large tracts of North Tirhoot, and other more limited tracts, where, there being little or no rubbee, the people have come on our hands at a comparatively early period in very large numbers. It is the Lieutenant-Governor's earnest hope that the measures which have been adopted will suffice to meet the vast amount of distress existing in those tracts; but he does not doubt that this distress can only be met by very earnest and sustained effort, which he surely believes will not be wanting.

Sir George Campbell trusts, then, that, by the mercy of God, the people, whom he leaves in very good hands, will be saved from starvation.

8. Sir George Campbell is under very great obligations to many of the officers who have assisted him in the efforts which for the last six months he has made to meet the threatened famine; but at a time when the work is unfinished he feels that he cannot ask for them the acknowledgments of the Government of India. He will, therefore, not here attempt to specify those who have in his opinion so far done well, beyond the concurrence in Sir Richard Temple's praises of certain officers which he has above recorded, but he will leave a note on the subject with his successor, who will hereafter be in a position to estimate the services of the various officers as a whole.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Summary of allotments and arrangements for transport of Government grain to distressed districts, brought up to latest intelligence received to end of March.

1. The allotments of grain to the distressed districts according to the latest revisions are:—

	Mds.	Mds.
Patna	67,500	
Gya	2,20,000	
Shahabad and Soane Circle	3,17,000	
Tirhoot	42,00,000	
Sarun	5,30,000	
Chumparun	10,00,000	
Monghyr	3,78,000	
Bhagulpore	7,30,000	
Purneah	6,50,000	
Sonthalia	1,35,000	
		82,27,500
Hazareebagh	25,000	
Manbhoom	28,000	
Palamow	10,000	
		63,000
Moorshedabad	5,000	
Dinagepore	12,00,000	
Maldah	1,50,000	
Rajshahye	1,00,000	
Northern Bengal Railway	1,00,000	
Rungpore	3,00,000	
Bogra	2,40,000	
		20,95,000

2. If we include the Chota Nagpore in what may be called the western group of districts, the total allotment for them is 82,90,500 maunds or (converted at 27·2 maunds per ton) 304,797 tons. The total allotments for the eastern districts is in maunds 20,95,000 or tons 77,022.

The grand total of the allotment for all districts, as at present fixed, is therefore 381,819 tons.

3. The total quantity of grain despatched from Calcutta up to the 31st March is returned as follows:—

	Maunds.		Tons.
To the western districts	36,99,928	or	136,026
To the eastern districts	14,54,775	or	53,483

If we add to this 17,463 tons, purchased locally and in the North-West Provinces for the western districts, and 2,941 tons purchased locally for the Rajshahye division, the total despatch of grain up to date stands—

	Tons.
For the western districts	153,489
For the eastern districts	56,424
Total	209,913

This leaves 171,906 tons yet to be supplied, of which 151,308 tons are due to the western and 20,598 tons to the eastern districts.

In the western districts of the Burdwan and Chotah Nagpore Division some further allotments may be required, but it is not expected that the quantity will be very large.

4. The statements of amounts actually received in the districts are mostly dated 28th March, but they are always considerably in arrear of the actual facts, depending on previous returns from out-stations, while the despatches from Calcutta are given up to date. The following statement of the amounts received in the districts, based upon the last transport returns and the district narratives, shows a greater difference than the amount in transit would account for. Difference in date must account for the remaining difference.[*]

The amounts received at the main receiving depôts of the districts appear to stand thus:—

	Mds.
Sarun	3,79,690
Chumparun	6,23,275
Tirhoot	16,41,000
Shahabad and Soane Circle	1,79,000
Gya	1,40,000
Patna	58,822
Bhagulpore	4,57,491
Monghyr	2,15,933
Sonthalia	15,000
Purneah	4,56,645
Total for Patna and Bhagulpore Divisions	41,66,856
Rajshahye Division	9,64,186
Chota Nagpore	12,492
Total	51,43,534

or 189,100 tons in all.

It will be remembered, however, that this includes some considerable quantities stacked at receiving stations and not yet sent off to the interior; and, in the case of Tirhoot, this will make a good deal of difference, a considerable quantity of grain stated as received into that district being still at Champta and some other ghâts.

5. The following paragraphs examine the state of the transport question in detail district by district:—

Sarun.

6. The allotment is discussed in Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 18, dated 12th February. It was there settled that 5,00,000 maunds were to be supplied for the district plus 30,000 to be advanced from Government stores for the Hutwa estate, *i.e.*, 5,30,000 maunds in all, exclusive of a further supply of 1,50,000 maunds to be obtained direct by the Hutwa estate; all to be stored by the 15th June. It was further settled that all grain for Sarun should be consigned to Arrah, and be sent across the river in native boats. Up to the present date the grain has been steadily carried into the interior without fail. The Sarun cart power could carry much more if necessity arose. The district transport return, dated 29th March, shows that 365,971 maunds had been thus received. Even this figure is not quite correct up to date, as the Collector's returns from the receiving ghâts could not give actual figures up to the 28th inclusive. We may safely assume that at least two more days' despatches had been received on the north bank of the Ganges by the 28th March, and that a third day's despatches were *en route* from Arrah. We know that there is no balance of Sarun grain lying at Arrah, and that the average daily despatch by cart and boat from Arrah is 4,573 maunds daily. According to the Collector's figures, then, Sarun had yet to receive 164,029 maunds of its allotment. But according to the above estimate it must have received 379,690, leaving 150,310 maunds still to be sent up. If the present orders to send daily 5,000 maunds to Arrah for Sarun hold good, the whole balance due would arrive by the 28th of April. Even at the average rate of despatch hitherto (4,573 maunds), the balance would have reached the district by the beginning of May, and might all be stored by the 15th May. In case of necessity the despatches might after due notice be reduced to 3,000 maunds per diem, and it is proposed to do this next week.

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[*] The difference between the total amount despatched and the amount shown as received is 20,813 tons. But it must be remembered, as stated generally in the text, that the returns of receipts are by no means up to date. In the Rajshahye Division, again, consignments are by water routes some weeks upon the road, also there are often considerable quantities accumulated at Futwa, Kooshtea, Goalundo, and other ghâts on the south side of the river. Again the railway despatches are made up for three days beyond even the nominal date of the district returns, and we may allow 3,500 tons a day by the two railways on that account.

Chumparun.

7. Coming now to Chumparun, according to Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 13, dated 8th February, the allotment for this district was to be one million of maunds, to be imported by the 15th June. European contractors, Messrs. Lethbridge and Gibbon, undertook to cart from Bunkur Ghât opposite Patna, 50,000 maunds a week, or 2,00,000 maunds a month from 15th February, say 700,000 maunds in all up to the 15th June. The Collector was to receive by 15th February, under previous arrangements, 215,000, and 50,000 maunds were then expected by the Gunduck for the embankment works. Besides all this, 150,000 maunds were being brought in by river on account of the Bettiah Raj and planters. No further arrangements for transport were therefore deemed necessary, as the Gunduck was expected to rise after the middle of May, and boat carriage became feasible, should further supplies of grain be required.

8. The only change in the Chumparun programme has been that, in order to relieve the extreme pressure at Bunkur Ghât, the contractors have, since the 9th March, taken from 7,000 to 14,000 a week of the Chumparun grain *viâ* Arrah. No information as to the actual total despatches by the Gunduck is available, but it is understood that the district is relying now entirely on its land carriage.

9. By the transport returns for the fortnight ending 28th March, the district had received 597,907 maunds, leaving it 402,093 to receive. If we may assume, as we certainly may, that here too the Collector's figures are two or three days in arrear of the facts at the time of his writing, this balance due would be reduced by about 8,456 maunds for each day; the average actual despatches from Arrah to Chumparun being 1,088 maunds, and from Bunkur to Chumparun 7,368 maunds. This would make the receipts in all 6,23,275 maunds. In round numbers, however, we may say that Chumparun had, on the 28th March, something under four lakhs of its allotment to receive. At 50,000 maunds a week (the contract rate), this would be cleared off in eight weeks or less. At present the contractors are carrying off, by the two routes of Arrah and Bunkur alone, an average of 59,196 maunds a week. But the combined despatches for Chumparun *viâ* Bunkur and *viâ* Arrah need not exceed 50,000 maunds a week, say 15,000 *viâ* Arrah and 35,000 *viâ* Bunkur.

Tirhoot.

10. Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 35 of the 26th February abstracts the arrangements for Tirhoot thus: 42 lakhs of maunds were to be conveyed before the rainy season thus distributed —to Seetamurhee (10), Mudhoobunnee (16), and Durbhunga (16). The contracts made were as follow:—

	Lakhs.
A.—The Western Contractors were to take—	
From Bunkur to Seetamurhee *viâ* Mozufferpore	6
„ to Contai for Seetamurhee	4
„ to Attrai and Poosa for Mudhoobunnee	5
„ to Durbhunga	5
Total	20
B.—The Alliance Company were to take—	
From Chumpta to Durbhunga	18
C.—A North-Western Contractor, Nilcomul and Co., was to take—	
From Mokameh to Durbhunga	4

The above provided for the cartage of 42 lakhs of maunds away from the river ghâts.

The Seetamurhee grain was to be taken up at Contai and Seetamurhee, and distributed in that sub-division by a separate company, Messrs. Tripe, Begg, and Company.

The 5 lakhs delivered at Attrai and Poosa were to be carted on by Messrs. Studd and Wilson to Kamtoul, and thence by Mr. Llewhellin to Mudhoobunnee.

Of the total quantity of grain delivered in Durbhunga (5+18+4=27) 11 lakhs were to be taken on by Mr. Llewhellin to Mudhoobunnee.

In this way each sub-division was to get its quantum.

11. Minute No. 57 has assigned 67,000 maunds to Tajpore Sub-division, and directs that this supply shall be deducted from the allotment for such of the other sub-divisions as the Commissioner sees fit. The allotment for the Sudder Sub-division has not yet been fixed. Whatever may be required for this or Hajeepore, will for the present come out of the allotment for the rest of the district.

12. In Mr. Hewitt's report for the fortnight ending 14th February he explains the routes and the quantities expected to be carried by each as follows:—

	Weekly quantity in maunds.
From Bunkur by Lalgunj to Contai	15,000
„ „ by Rusoolpore to Seetamurhee	50,000 to 70,000
„ „ to Athar and Poosah	35,000
Total weekly from Bunkur	1,00,000 to 1,20,000
From Chumpta to Durbhunga	75,000
„ Jamaica to Durbhunga (Singhia and Hatta)	35,000
Total from Chumpta	1,10,000

This arrangement, however, omits the despatches from Bunkur to Durbhunga subsequently arranged. To supply 5 lakhs by that route, which was not commenced to work till after the Lieutenant-Governor went up in beginning of March, a despatch of upwards of 35,000 maunds a week, or 5,000 maunds per diem, is necessary.

13. The quantities despatched from Bunkur for Tirhoot have averaged 15,843 maunds a day, or 1,10,901 maunds a week, from 8th to 25th March, and are improving steadily. Those from Chumpta by the Alliance Company have been very short, averaging only 6,092 maunds a day from 5th to 27th March. In consequence, however, of the failure of this Company to supply enough cartage at Chumpta, they have tried another route from Monghyr, and also a route by Mokameh, which it was proposed to use simultaneously by the North-West contractor, Nilcomul Mitter. Up to the 29th March the Company had, however, only sent 5,486 maunds by the Mokameh route. The rate of despatch by the Monghyr route to a point on the lesser Gunduk is stated at over 22,000 maunds a week, but this is only despatched by boat. We do not know yet what has been landed and carried off.

14. The arrangements, as last reported, stand thus: The Alliance Company is to work from Barh *viâ* Chumpta, and also from Monghyr and Mokameh. They are to take three lakhs in all to Poorani Ghât south of Singhia by boat, and stock the Bahera and Singhia golahs of Durbhunga. The Chumpta grain is to be delivered at Hya Ghât for Mudhoobunnee. Nilcomul, the North-West contractor, is to carry from Simeria Ghât opposite Mokameh, and deliver at Pahuddee for Muddehpoora and other circles in Mudhoobunnee; but as yet this contractor has not begun active operations. The grain from Bunkur *viâ* Poosah goes to the western parts of Mudhoobunnee, while the grain from Bunkur to Durbhunga goes direct to the latter place.

15. The review of the transport appliances for Tirhoot would not be complete without a reference to the Durbhunga railway, which will almost immediately carry from Chumpta to Nagurbustee (28 miles on the road to Durbhunga) 200 tons or 5,600 maunds a day; and which is to carry from Chumpta Ghât right into Durbhunga (44 miles) 600 tons or 22,400 maunds a day soon after the 15th April.

16. The present position, then, is;—

The present actual average rate of despatch is—

	Weekly quantity in maunds.
From Bunkur Ghât - - - - - - - -	1,10,900
From Chumpta Ghât - - - - - - - -	42,600
From Monghyr, by the Alliance Company - - - -	22,750
From Mokameh, by the Alliance Company - - - -	7,680
	1,83,930

The amount already in the district, 16,41,000 maunds, leaves 25,59,000 maunds still to receive (out of the allotment of 42 lakhs), to which must be added, say nearly 2,00,000 lying at the ghâts when the account was made up, giving 27,50,000 maunds in all to be despatched into the interior.

Taking nine weeks' despatches from 28th March to 1st June to arive at destination by 15th idem, the present despatches would give us by the 15th June—

Nine weeks' despatches, at 1,83,930 maunds a weeks - - 16,55,370

17. But we have the certainty (or almost certainty) of the following increase by means of the railway:—

The Durbhunga railway will raise the despatches from Chumpta Ghât from 6,090 a day to 22,000 a day; and this increase will, it is hoped, last for at least fifty days, thus giving an extra supply of - - 7,95,500

or a total despatch of 24,50,000 against 27,50,000 to be carried.

18. 3,00,000 maunds remain.

For this we have the North-Western contractor Nilcomul, but he has not yet begun the work he undertook.

We may hope, further, that the reserve carriage will help to make up any possible shortcoming in the above calculation.

There is at least one further resource, and that is the North Bhagulpore transport. Mr. Hankey writes that this is now immensely powerful, and that he can undertake to carry three lakhs of maunds into Tirhoot through North Bhagulpore, if only he can get the grain delivered to him, or the railway to carry. It may be considered that the above 3 lakhs, then, may either be sent by the arrangements already made or by the Bhagulpore route.

19. The general result of the above seems to be, that if the traffic remains uninterrupted till 15th June, we may expect to carry the whole Tirhoot supply. In the event of an unusally early rainy season, the land traffic may be interrupted, but in that case we may hope that the necessity of the district will also cease earlier, and the water routes will be opened.

20 The only apprehension is, that owing to the delay in the Chumpta Ghât forwarding arrangements, when the railway begins to work fully, too much grain may be accumulated at Durbhunga, and there may be difficulty in sending it on in time to Allapore and other stations of Mudhoobunnee. In that view it would seem to be preferable to send part of the supply by the Bhagulpore routes to Allapore direct.

21. Seeing that it is not desirable to send forward from the river side to Durbhunga, more grain than can be forwarded to its ultimate destination, (after the rains commence Monghyr would be a better point of departure than Durbhunga), and seeing the complaints that have been made of interference with private trade, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it would be desirable

not to take up local pack-bullocks and donkeys for transport from the Ganges, these animals being only used for the distribution beyond Durbhunga, when absolutely necessary.

22. The districts in the Patna division, south of the Ganges, call for only brief notice.

Shahabad.

19. The allotment for Shahabad is put by Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 61, dated 26th March, at 127,000 maunds. The district has received 65,000 maunds. For the Soane circle 190,000 maunds are said to be required, of which 1,23,113 had been received. 66,887 more have to be ordered.

For the district and the canal together 128,887 more are required, of which 75,000 are to be rice, sent up to stations between Arrah and Mogul Serai. The rest is to be brought from the North-Western Provinces.

20. The district carriage has moved 3,000 maunds a day, and can do more if pressed. No grain has been sent since the 9th March for Arrah, or since 24th February for the Soane circle. Some has now to be sent, but there is no urgency in the despatches for either this district or Gya.

Gya.

21. Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 60, dated 25th March, provides 220,000 maunds for Gya. 140,000 are already there; 80,000 more have to be sent. Of this, 55,000 maunds is to be rice, and 25,000 grain from the North-Western Provinces. Gya can move over 3,000 maunds a day. No grain has gone up since 8th March, owing to the shortness of railway waggons and demands of other places.

The transport of the allotted grain into the interior of the Shahabad and Gya districts can be effected without doubt or difficulty, if only the railway can carry the required amounts to the railway stations early enough in the season.

Patna.

22. The allotment here is 67,500, of which 58,822 have been delivered. None has been sent up since 23rd February; but as the district can move 22,000 maunds a day, it can take its balance at any time if required.

Bhagulpore.

23. For North Bhagulpore the allotment by Minute No. 25, dated 19th February, is 7,30,000 maunds.

The last transport returns show to 28th March 4,57,491 maunds received, leaving a balance due of 2,72,509 maunds. All the routes were working clear, and rice did not come to hand fast enough for the transport power. Sir Richard Temple wished 40,000 maunds a week to go for this district to stations between Bhagulpore and Monghyr; and Mr. Hankey writes that the transport power is expanding immensely, if only they could get grain to keep the carts employed. The railway despatches for the week beginning 30th March are to be daily:—

		Minimum.	Maximum.
		Mds.	Mds.
To Monghyr -	for North Bhagulpore - -	5,000	6,000
To Sultangunge -		4,000	6,000
		9,000	12,000
	Weekly =	63,000	=84,000

24. The actual daily average despatch into the interior from Jugdischuck, opposite Sultangunge, has been 3,610 maunds, and from Monghyr 3,520 maunds; but Mr. Hankey says that it is only want of grain that has kept the average down, as they really carried up to 7,682 maunds from Jugdischuck on an average of 11 days when full of grain. The Monghyr route can easily, he adds, carry 6,000 or 7,000 maunds a day. Even at the rate of 7,130 maunds from both ghâts, the whole balance due to Bhagulpore would be delivered in 38 days from 28th March, *i.e.*, by early in May. If they can carry, say 13,000 maunds a week, the whole will be cleared off in 21 days from the 28th March.

If Bhagulpore is to carry three lakhs of maunds for North Tirhoot, its carriage will be kept employed up to the middle of June.

Excluding, however, any arrangements for Tirhoot by this route, 6,000 or even 5,000 maunds a day would be a sufficient supply for Bhagulpore.

Monghyr.

25. The allotment for this district is fixed by Sir Richard Temple's Minute, No. 64, at 3,78,000 maunds, and of this quantity 1,92,000 had, when Sir Richard wrote, been received into the district, plus 20,000, by the Court of Wards, leaving to be sent 1,66,000, all of which Sir Richard Temple said might come from the North-Western Provinces. The transport returns show an actual receipt of 1,95,933 maunds. No despatches have been made from Calcutta for this district since the 13th March, as the demands of other districts were more urgent, and the carrying power of the East Indian Railway was considerably below the mark. The collector estimates that he has carriage available for over 5,000 maunds daily. The Monghyr grain stores and its distressed tracts are near to the railway; the district has already carried away promptly every maund it received, and if only the railway can supply the stations before the end of the season, all the Monghyr grain will be in position well before the middle of June.

Sonthal Pergunnahs.

26. Sir Richard Temple has settled that a total of 1,35,000 maunds in all should be sent to the Sonthal Pergunnahs. Of this 15,000 maunds have already been sent; the storehouses and distressed tracts are near the railway; and this moderate supply of grain can be carried into the interior as soon as it arrives.

Purneah.

27. For Purneah, by Minute No. 44 of the 7th March, the allotment is 6,50,000 maunds. Besides this, 1,50,000 were to be carried through Purneah into Dinagepore, while it was contemplated that 1,50,000 maunds for Purneah might go *viâ* the Mahanuddee. This arrangement leaves the amount to be carted by Purneah from Caragola at 6,50,000 maunds. Mr. Hankey's report of the 12th March estimated that the carriage had developed so that they could carry at least 2,00,000 a month. Up to the 22nd March they had carted away from Caragola 4,24,749 maunds, and the carriage was adequate to taking much more than they had got (viz., 8,922 maunds a day in the fortnight ending 21st March).

The transport return, dated 28th March, shows 4,36,645 maunds as received into the district at Caragola, leaving 2,13,355 to be received. But these figures are certainly a day or two in arrear. Probably we may say, in round numbers, that on the 28th Purneah had not more than 1,90,000 maunds to receive at Caragola, and part of this was already delivered at Colgong and Sahibgunj. But we may take 1,90,000 as an outside figure.

28. The average despatch into the interior from Caragola for 30 days ending 27th March was 6,800. At that rate Purneah will have completely received its supply *viâ* Caragola in 27 days, or by about the 24th of April. There will remain the 1,50,000 maunds which are to come into Purneah *viâ* the Mahanuddee to replace the 1,50,000 which Purneah has to give to Dinagepore. Mr. Hankey says he can carry this from Sahibgunj up the Mahanuddee after the rains begin, if necessary. If the East Indian Railway could carry all the grain we require before the rains, then Purneah could complete its allotment, plus the 1,50,000 for Dinagepore, by the Caragola route alone. But in case of necessity the Caragola despaches might be reduced to 5,000 maunds per diem.

Chota Nagpore.

31. A small quantity of grain (28,000 maunds at present) has been allotted to Manbhoom, and 25,000 maunds to Hazareebagh, and 10,000 to Palamow, which has been sent from the Soane allotment, being replaced there by despatches to an equivalent amount.

32. Moorshedabad is also at present permitted to draw up to 5,000 maunds from Government stores. Up to date only 500 have been sent.

East Indian Railway Power.

33. There remains now the all-important question of the carrying capacity of the East Indian Railway (of the Eastern Bengal Railway no doubt is entertained). The districts had in the last days of March yet to receive, *viâ* the East Indian Railway, in round numbers, the following quantities of grain:—

	Mds.	Mds.
To Sarun - - - -	1,50,000	
„ Chumparun - - -	4,00,000	
„ Tirhoot - - -	25,59,000	
„ Patna - - - -	10,000	
„ Gya . - - - -	80,000	
„ Shahabad and Soane circles -	1,28,000	
		33,27,000
„ Bhagulpore - - -	2,72,000	
„ Monghyr - - -	1,66,000	
„ Purneah - - -	1,90,000	
„ Sonthal Pergunnahs - -	1,20,000	
„ Dinagepore, by Hyatpore, 2,000 a day for 60 days - -	1,20,000	
		8,68,000
Grand total by East Indian Railway	- -	41,95,000, or about 154,000 tons
From this we may deduct—		
Mr. Hewitt's local purchases at Patna - - -	5,64,000	
North-Western Provinces' grain for Shahabad and Soane Canal	63,000	
North-Western Provinces' grain for Gya - - -	25,000	
Ditto ditto for Monghyr -	1,66,000	
		8,28,000
Which leaves for up trains -	- -	33,67,000 or about 124,000 tons.

At an average rate of despatch of 2,000 tons per day, this amount would be cleared off by the 31st of May.

This does not provide for Chota Nagpore and Burdwan requirements, which are not very great.

In fact, however, we cannot afford to delay despatches from Calcutta so long as the above, seeing the vicissitudes of the seasons, and that our district carrying power is now raised to a very high point. It would be extremely desirable to carry and store as much as possible in the next six weeks.

34. If we could work the railway up to the full amount that the carrying power of all the districts could be calculated on to take away, we should have to send about the following quantities weekly:—

	Mds.
For Sarun	35,000
„ Chumparun	60,000
„ Tirhoot, with the Durbhunga Railway appliances	3,10,000
„ Shahabad, Gya, and Patna	15,000
„ Bhagulpore	70,000
„ Monghyr and Sonthalia	20,000
„ Purneah	60,000
„ Chota Nagpore districts	10,000
Total	5,80,000

i.e., we should have to send 21,323 tons a week, or about 3,000 tons a day. This the railway cannot carry. But, as above shown, some districts will have drawn all their stock long before the latest date and the despatches of some must be eased off, so that if the railway can take without fail 2,500 tons a day, as now arranged, we may expect that all the grain will be stored before the rains, if the monsoon sets in at the usual time. This, however, will still involve some easing off of the transport now available.

Coming now to Eastern Bengal, and first—

Rungpore.

35. Sir Richard Temple's allotment for Rungpore is 300,000 maunds. Up to 27th March 1,46,534 maunds have been despatched from Calcutta, leaving 1,53,466 to be sent up in April and May. The transport returns show 1,29,004 received. The Eastern Bengal Railway Company's steamer can make 2½ trips from Goalundo to Kaligunge every month, and carry 25,000 maunds each trip. Mr. Davies, the sub-divisional officer of Goalundo, is also sending rice up in such native boats as he can hire suitable for the journey. These two sources of despatch will ensure 1,20,000 maunds being landed at Kaligunge on or before the 20th May. For the remaining 33,466 we have one of the Indian General Steam Navigation Company's steamers (either the *Bombay* or the *Lucknow*) and two flats, which will be transferred to Goalundo as soon as the Eastern Bengal Railway's additional steamer, the *Alfred*, commences to ply on the Kooshtea and Rajmehal route. She was to be at Kooshtea before April 1st; and the India General Steam Navigation Company's steamer, which is to be sent to Goalundo, will easily make two trips between the time she joins and the 10th May, carrying 20,000 each trip. This amply covers the 33,466 maunds required at Kaligunge to complete Sir Richard Temple's allotment. There is no reason to fear any break down in this part of the transport arrangements. It will rest with the local authorities to ensure the success of the transport from Kaligunge into the interior. When Sir Richard Temple wrote his minute No. 47, *i.e.*, on the 14th March, the rice for Rungpore itself was being carried by boat up the Teesta, and that destined for other parts of the district was being sent on by cart. There were 500 boats and 1,000 carts available, the estimated carrying power of which was 2,500 maunds daily. This would give a supply up to the 20th May of over one and half lakhs of maunds, and up to the breaking of the rains, say up to 15th June, of 75,000 maunds more. The water-routes will improve during the rains; and, unless any unforeseen accident should arise, the present arrangements may be confidently relied upon to perform the work expected of them. If more grain be required after the rainy season commences it can be sent up by water from Kaligunge, where a reserve can, if necessary, be stored.

Bogra.

36. The estimated requirements of this district are 241,000* maunds. Up to 27th March, (according to the transport returns, which are not, however, it is believed, really up to date,) 52,974 maunds had been received into the district, leaving to be sent, during April or May, 1,87,026 maunds. The India General Steam Navigation Company's regular steamers will take 10,000 maunds each trip, and can make three trips in April and two in May. This provides for 50,000 maunds. Then we have the New River Steam Company's Steamer *Nepal* and two flats plying between Goalundo and Shohagipara, and carrying 20,000 maunds each trip. Between 1st April and 20th May she will make four trips and carry 80,000 maunds. There remains but 57,000 maunds (in round numbers) to be provided for. This will be taken by the steamer *Sultan* and her two flats, recently hired from Mr. Jackson. She and her flats take 14,000 maunds, and ought to make at least four trips from the date of her arrival at Goalundo (during the four weeks in April) to the 31st May. If any further steamer power is required for this route, the India General Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Lucknow* will, as per the next foregoing paragraph, be free from the Kaligunge route by the 10th May. It

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* *Vide* Sir Richard Temple's Minute of 16th March 1874.

remains for the local authorities to arrange to carry away the grain as fast as it arrives, and, with water and land carriage together, this will not be difficult.

Remaining Districts of Rajshahye Division.

37. With the exception of Bogra and Rungpore, which are supplied by steamer at two points, Shohajipara and Kaligunge, respectively, all the districts of the Rajshahye division and the Northern Bengal Railway draw their supplies by several routes from the following points:—Hyatpore, Manikchuck, Rampore Bauleah, Godagari, Dhapari, and Goalundo. It is impossible to say the exact destination of all the grain sent up from the above main depôts, and it is therefore necessary to group the remaining districts together, and treat them as supplied collectively therefrom; thus—

District.	Allotment.	Received at main depôts north of Ganges up to March 28th.	Balance to be received.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Dinagepore - - - - - -	1,200,000		
Maldah - - - - - -	150,000		
Rajshahye - - - - - -	100,000		
Northern Bengal Railway - - - -	100,000		
Total -	1,550,000	781,700*	768,300

38. By the latest returns available the actual despatches to the interior of the above districts average 17,000 maunds daily from all the depôts, *i.e.*—

	Mds.
From Hyatpore - - - - - - - -	1,300
„ Manikchuck - - - - - - - -	1,700
„ Godagari - - - - - - - -	7,000
„ Beauleah - - - - - - - -	1,800
„ Dhapari - - - - - - - -	2,152
„ Noonnuggur - - - - - - - -	3,100
	17,052

But the above is not nearly the full carrying power of the available transport, and the grain was being sent off nearly as fast as received. Until lately, the Rajshahye depôts have not been fully supplied with rice, owing to the greater and more urgent requirements of the other two divisions. If rice be available, the Eastern Bengal Railway can carry at least 28,000 maunds a day to the main receiving depôts at Kooshtea and Goalundo. At the rate of 17,000 maunds daily, all the rice, if delivered north of the Ganges, will have started for the districts in 45 days, or before the 12th May; and at the rate of 20,000 maunds daily, in 38 days, or by the first week in May. This would ensure most of its being stored before the rains.

In his minute No. 45 of 11th March 1874 on the Dinagepore district, Sir Richard Temple says:—"I have seen something of the transport arrangements, and so far as I have seen they are efficient.

* * * * * * *

The Collector and Commissioner are justified in their confidence that the million of maunds will be stored by the rains."

39. But in these districts it would be sufficient if the great mass of the grain reached main depôts on the upper reaches of the rivers before the rains commence. It could then be distributed easily in boats. And of the grain reaching such depôts in time there is now certainly no doubt.

40. The routes now being worked are thus described by Sir Richard Temple:—

"I. Railway, Eastern Bengal. Terminus *Goalundo.*

"By country boats across the Ganges to junction of its affluent the Oorasagur; then through the Chullun Bheel Lake into the Attrai, passing through the Pubna and Rajshahye districts to Nowgong, a depôt on the Dinagepore frontier; thence through southern part of the Dinagepore district to Putneetola on the Attrai, a distressed locality; distance entirely by water 70 miles.

"II. By steamer up the Brahmapootra to Noakeela opposite Bogra, thence by carts through Bogra district to Ghoraghaut and Bhadureea, distressed localities in south-eastern corner of the Dinagepore district; distance by water 120 miles, by land 50 miles.

"III. Eastern Bengal Railway. Terminus *Kooshtea.*

"By steamer and country boats up the Ganges to Rampore Beauleah, on north bank; thence by carts through Rajshahye district to Putneetola, already mentioned; distance by water 40 miles, by land 60 miles.

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* These figures are certainly incomplete, 14,50,000 maunds have been despatched to the Eastern districts up to the 31st. The transport returns show only 9,63,686 maunds received at the depôts on the north of the Ganges in these districts including Rungpore and Bogra. But the balances on the 1st April at the despatching depôts on the south bank, were only 1,04,710 maunds, showing that much more than 9,63,686 maunds was on its way across, if not actually arrived.

"IV. By steamer and country boats up the Ganges to Godagaree, at junction of the Mahanuddee; thence by carts through parts of the Rajshahye and Malda districts straight on to Dinagepore. This is the first of the two main routes for the centre of the Dinagepore district; distance by water 60 miles, by land 90 miles.

"V. By steamer and boats to Godagaree; thence entirely by boats up the Mahanuddee to Rohimpore, junction of the Poorna-Bhaba in the Malda district; thence up the Poorna-Bhaba past Neetpore to Gungaramore, distressed localities in the Dinagepore district; distance entirely by water 140 miles.

"VI. By steamer and country boats to Godagaree, thence entirely by boats up the Mahanuddee to Malda, thence by carts through Malda district to Tumboolee, distressed portion of Dinagepore district, and on to Dinagepore. This is the second of the two main routes to Dinagepore; distance by water 110 miles, land 60 miles.

"VII. By steamer and boats to Godagaree, to Malda, where transhipped into smaller boats and carried up the Mahanuddee to Churamun (Dinagepore district), junction of the Koolik, thence up the Koolik to Raigunj, thence by carts to Hemtabad and its neighbourhood; distance by water 150 miles, by land 20 miles.

"VIII. By steamer up the Ganges to Manick Chuck, opposite Rajmehal, on north bank, thence by cart to Neema Serai on the Mahanuddee in district of Maldah, thence by boats up the Mahanuddee to Churamun (Dinagepore district), and Raigunj; distance by water 150 miles, by land 20 miles.

"IX. Station East Indian Railway, *Rajmehal.* Cross Ganges by boats to Manick Chuck, thence by carts to Neema Serai, thence by boats to Churamun. Also by carts past Neema Serai to Dinagepore; distance by water 40 miles, by land 20 miles in the first case and 60 in the second.

"X. Station East Indian Railway, *Sahebgunj.* Down Ganges by boats to Hyatpore, north bank; thence by carts through Malda district to Churamun and Raigunj; distance by water 20 miles, by land 25.

"XI. *Sahebgunj.*—Across river by steamer to Caragola, thence by carts through Purneah district to Dengrah Ghaut, thence to Hemtabad (Dinagepore district) and to Kishengunj (Purneah), thence to Nekmurd (Dinagepore); distance by water   miles, and by land 90 miles in the first case and 129 miles in the second case."

The Manick Chuck route has since been abandoned, but as its carriage will be made available for other lines there is no general loss of carrying power.

42. The only question remaining is whether there is transport enough to get the grain across the Ganges in time. For ferrying the Government grain across the Ganges from Kooshtea there are now working, besides country boats, the steamers named in the margin; and the transport officer at Kooshtea reports that he can put across the river from Kooshtea up to 300,000 maunds a month; and he has worked up to this rate for some weeks. It would seem, therefore, certain that the arrangements made are more than sufficient to secure the object in view.

Peel and two flats; *Koladyne* and one flat; *Lucknow* and two flats; *Bombay* and two flats; *Star of Dacca* and one flat. It is expected that the Eastern Bengal Railway Steamer *Alfred* with two flats will take the place of either the *Bombay* or the *Lucknow* and set her free from the 1st April, for the Bogra route. There will still remain, however, five steamers on the Kooshtea berth.

A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 30th March 1874.

Sir R. Temple's Note regarding the Railway Transport.

MINUTE, No. 68, by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Calcutta, the 4th April 1874.

1. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has shown me the proceedings of the Government of Bengal regarding the transport arrangements for the Patna and Bhagulpore divisions, and invited me to state my opinion as to the means of inland carriage in those two divisions in relation to the transport of Government grain by the East Indian Railway Company.

2. From a consideration of the latest returns received, it appears that the inland carriage is carrying away from the several railway stations upwards of 2,000 tons a day. And this, too, after allowing for a short quantity, below engagement, being carried by the Alliance Company, and without counting the Government reserve carriage.

3. The Durbhunga State Railway has begun to carry grain, and will very shortly be carrying 800 tons a day. This quantity, added to the 2,000 tons, will make up a total of 2,800 tons daily.

4. I understand, however, that the Railway Company are not at present prepared to carry more than 2,500 tons daily. It is, of course, of vital importance that the amount carried should never, even for a single day, fall short of this amount. If this amount be maintained, the total quantity allotted will be sent forward from the several railway stations before the 1st June, and stored at the depôts in the interior by the 15th June, that is, the commencement of the rainy season, provided that no unforeseen accident occurs. And therefore the proposed arrangement may prove sufficient.

5. On the other hand, it has been seen above that the inland transit in the Patna and Bhagulpore divisions is now carrying, or is prepared to continue carrying, away somewhat more than the amount above set down, and I learn from the proceedings of the Government of Bengal that in some places the demands of the local authorities for Government grain have been unavoidably reduced, in order that the limit of 2,500 tons daily, set down to be carried by the railway, may be observed.

6. Looking to the latest reports, I should consider that 3,000 tons daily can be carried away by local resources, from the several railway stations thus:—

	Tons.
Durbhunga Railway - - - - - -	800
Country carriage - - - - -	2,200
	3,000

It is to be observed too that the Durbhunga Railway is reported to be able to carry from 1,000 to 1,200 tons a day, and that the short-coming on the part of the Alliance Company may yet be partly retrieved.

7. On the whole, it is not too much to say that if every effort be strained by the local authorities to carry away the grain as fast as possible, upwards of 3,000 tons a day could be sent forward from the railway stations.

8. The result might be, that the various quantities which make up the total amount allotted, would arrive at their various destinations in the interior of the districts some time before the latest safe-day, namely, the 15th of June. This would not be a disadvantage, but on the contrary a great and a commanding advantage, for it would be a safe-guard against the many unforeseen accidents which might occur towards the end of the hot season. This margin of time might allow the authorities to repair losses, damages, or misfortunes, to which such a service and such operations as those now before us are very liable. It is therefore greatly to the interest of the districts concerned and conducive to the safety of the people that the authorities should have grain supplied to them (within the limits of the allotments), as fast as they can carry it away.

9. Great pressure has been put upon the local authorities to organise their transport as strongly as possible. And they have answered to that call in a manner which will, I trust, be found worthy of the approbation of Government. And it would be very convenient if their districts could be allowed to reap the full benefit of these arrangements.

10. If, therefore, it be possible for the East Indian Railway Company to carry more than 2,500 tons of Government grain a day, say 3,000 tons, or even 3,400 tons a day, that would be a considerable advantage to the general relief operations in Behar. Whether the Company could do this, with due regard to other considerations, is a matter on which I need not attempt to give an opinion. But I should feel sure that, subject to the direction of the Government of India, the Company will endeavour to effect this object if it be found reasonably practicable.

11. It is to be remembered that the amount carried by local carriage, as above set down, refers to the Patna and Bhagulpore divisions and is irrespective of the local carriage of the Rajshahye division.

12. In offering these general remarks, however, I do not forget that besides the question of the carrying powers of the East Indian Railway, there is the consideration of the transport by sea from Burmah to Calcutta. It may or may not be possible to land sufficient quantities of the rice at Howrah in time to afford consignments to the amounts required to keep the inland carriage, up-country, up to its full working power. That, of course, is a matter upon which I am not, at this moment, able to form any accurate opinion.

No. 2257—S.R.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,

Calcutta, dated 10th April 1874.

In reply to your letter No. 1128, dated 2nd April, I am directed to solicit a reference to the summary of grain transport arrangements recently submitted* to the Government of India, and also to submit copy of the papers marginally† noted.

* No. 2088, dated 6th April 1874.

† Government of Bengal to Commissioner, Rajshahye, No. 2,254, dated 10th April, with enclosures.

to bear in its very infancy the strain of a great crisis such as this which has arrived. The assistance which we obtain from other provinces is not in a moment adapted to a country and a system entirely different. Our anxieties have been spread over so wide a surface that it has not been possible to concentrate all our power on the points where the worst distress has actually occurred till the facts have solved all doubt. Moreover, there is this special difficulty, that we have the smallest machinery in the tracts inhabited by a quiet, poor, long-suffering race who give little trouble in ordinary times. North Behar is probably the most under-governed country in India; one young man as sub-divisional officer has there ruled and judged a population which would elsewhere have been provided with a full district machinery. (Of the Durbhunga Sub-division, for instance, the population is 867,409.) Yet here is the very population which comes on us in a body in the most helpless state. I am not surprised, then, that in such a sub-division as Durbhunga, notwithstanding the official aid which we have sent, there should have been some failure to meet the rush of the famine when reliance was placed too exclusivsly on official agency, and there was delay in attempting to work roughly with indigenous agency till the Government agency should be complete. I must strongly impress on all officers that whenever and however distress may come upon them, and to whatever extent they may and do properly apply for Government aid, they must not omit to do the very utmost that is possible by the means which their districts afford.

3. It has been already arranged to portion each sub-division into relief circles under competent Government officers; what is most wanting is inferior machinery reaching down to each village.

Village agency required.

It is certainly true that indigenous agency of one kind is very much wanting in North Behar. The active and intelligent middle class found in many districts of Bengal is scarce. Many zemindars have been too much in the habit of letting their villages to mere rent-farmers, and there is often difficulty in getting efficient aid from either zemindars or farmers. But on the other hand, when we go lower down, there is more of the old village machinery than in Bengal. Almost every village has its headman or jeyt ryot, and putwari, and there are a good many—Brahmins, Mahomedans, and others—who have a certain amount of native education. The census of Behar was almost entirely taken, and well taken, by the putwaris and headmen, and it seems to me that the machinery which could take the general census may well be used to census the poverty-stricken in each village, make lists of them, keep relief accounts, and work the village system of relief which the Government desires to adopt.

Headmen and putwaris.

Zemindars and their agents, and European planters.

4. The utmost use must be made of the zemindars and their agents and dependents. Every possible pressure must be put on those who are at all backward to induce and compel them to do their duty. In North Behar we have the very great advantage of the assistance of a very active and energetic body of European indigo planters. The aid which they have most willingly given has been almost everywhere fully used, and should be so everywhere.

Local committees and individual members of such should undertake specific duties.

5. The orders for local committees must be carried out in good faith. It may be true, as some officers assert, that committees are sometimes a sham; but either acting in committee or, still more, acting separately as individuals, every good resident should be utilised. The best way of beginning is to bring them together in committees, to portion off duties, and let it be settled in the presence of the body of the committee that each man capable of aiding is to undertake some specific function in a specific place or in a specific area.

Superintendents of groups of villages.

6. A very good plan had been formed of appointing to the charge of groups of villages paid superintendents, selected from the people of the country; the only drawback was the delay in effecting this, pending the completion of a large superior establishment for which European officers were thought to be indispensable. In Mudhubunnee and Hattee about Rs. 15 per mensem or less was allowed to these group superintendents. The Durbhunga plan which was circulated contemplated a uniform rate of Rs. 30 per mensem. I do not know that paying high and uniformly secures efficiency, and sometimes volunteers will do the work better than paid men. I would allow a discretion in regard to pay according to the circumstances and the class of people obtainable in each locality; but, subject to this caution, I entirely approve of carrying out the system of group superintendents. I trust it has now been nearly completed in North Tirhoot.

Village organization.

7. But beyond this, the point on which I have most dwelt is that we must not stop short with the group superintendents, paid or unpaid. We must have a proper organization in each village. The moment we go beyond the stage of great public works it is totally impossible to deal with the people in detail unless we have them localised and individualised, village by village and name by name. We cannot send them away from the roads till the village machinery is ready to receive them; we cannot distinguish people receiving relief by labour, charitable relief, and relief by advances, or prevent the same persons from receiving relief in different shapes till we have all those receiving relief registered, name by name, according to their villages, by some person who knows them, and who can be made responsible for their coming and going. Above all, it will be totally impossible to deal with the people on our hands and wean them eventually from dependence on Government unless we have an individual knowledge of them in their villages. I have occupied myself then in impressing on the local officers the necessity of carrying out a village organization. This should be done as much as possible through the zemindars. No man in the position of a landholder should be absolved from his duties and responsibilities if it be possible to obtain assistance from him. Finally, the headmen and putwari must be utilised in each village. They will keep a nominal roll of all persons in the village receiving relief either on works or gratuitously. Through them the village management may be conducted, and they will be responsible to check abuses. Small rewards according to work done may be promised and given to such headmen and putwaris. I authorise the Commissioner to arrange details of their remuneration.

Sirdars and mates of labourers.

8. It is generally desirable to allow the labourers to choose their own headmen, through whom they are paid, and through whom they deal with Government officers.

The circle officers may, however, both make use of and give relief to a certain number of persons unaccustomed to manual labour by appointing them to be petty overseers of charitable relief, watchmen over the grain stores, and so on.

Utilization of local police.

9. All the local police are to be subordinate to the circle officers for relief purposes, and may be utilized freely.

Famine of money and famine of food. Effect of the former.

10. The above arrangements are best carried out before severe distress has actually come on us; but in Durbhunga (partly on account of insufficient action in the direction above indicated) and in Madhubunnee we have experience of another and farther phase of the subject, viz., that in which very large numbers of people come on our hands for relief in great masses congregated together. I myself saw vast assemblages of this kind near Durbhunga, and by the last accounts still greater numbers were on relief works in the Madhubunnee sub-division, though not so much reduced in condition as the Durbhunga people. It may be said that famines are of two kinds, or at least there are two stages of famine—famine of money or labour famine, and famine of food-supply. It may, in rare cases of isolated districts, happen, as it did in Orissa, that the two stages become one, or that the famine is from the beginning an absolute deficiency of food-supply, the case being, as was stated in regard to Orissa, like that of a ship at sea which is suddenly found to be short of provisions. But with rare exceptions a money or labour famine precedes a food-famine, that is, food is to be had for money but it is dear, and the poorer classes, being thrown out of work, have no money to buy it. Very often the famine never goes beyond this stage; it has almost always been so in the North-Western Provinces, where there are abundant means of communication. Some of our stricken districts being very isolated we have feared and guarded against a food famine. But so far this has not come upon us. I have seen that even in North Tirhoot the bazars are still supplied; an active private import (by driblets in bullock-loads) is still going on, and food though dear has not reached what can be called extreme famine prices. Notwithstanding, however, the existence of supplies in the bazars* up to date, there is certainly what we must consider wide-spread famine; in some limited tracts some people have suffered from want of food before coming to our relief works, and in very considerable tracts the people have come to the relief works with a rush in very large numbers. Although these simple people very much follow one another like a flock of sheep, they are at first slow to move; and, even when they have not actually starved, I do think that when they very suddenly come to us in this unusual way in very large numbers it is a sure indication that what must be called famine is on them, that is, that they have reached the point when they would starve if not relieved.

Provision of work.

11. The first mode of relief for the Government to undertake is clearly (and this has always been recognised) giving work to the poorer classes who are without work and without means. The better classes who do not work on the roads generally do not starve till a later stage; they have some credit if not some property. While the producing and wages-earning classes maintain themselves, most of those dependent on them, even the beggars, are for the most part in some sort maintained also. Rich natives do a good deal in this way, and I saw two or three faqueers living on a gang of relief labourers in Tirhoot. At any rate, the beggars and helpless people who come on mere charity, and are not supported by private liberality, may well be provided for in the early stages of scarcity by the relief committees without a very large Government organisation.

In the present stage then the public works have been our most active care. Under previous instructions a good deal had been done in most districts to prepare plans of such works for emergencies, and more has been done since the present famine threatened. In those districts where the numbers seeking relief are not very excessive, I believe that our preparations have been sufficient; but in some districts where no very large special works are available, and enormous numbers have suddenly come on us, it cannot be said that either the plans of our works or our establishments are sufficient to enable us to obtain full money's worth from the labour of a needy multitude, among whom little organisation is, in the first instance, possible. In fact, there is no denying that in some of these cases our organisation has not been such as to prevent the occurrence of what must be called great abuses, judged by the standard of ordinary times.

Mode of dealing with a sudden rush of population to works.

12. In Behar, at any rate, women and children come on the works quite as readily as men; and it is because the whole family works, or pretends to work, that somewhat low wages with dear food are not incompatible with an almost liberal measure of relief, measured by the fare to which these poor people are accustomed—a very low one. Wherever some of the people have begun to starve, or nearly to starve, it is impossible to refuse work to all applicants, whether really capable of real work or not. The result of the suddenness of the rush upon us in some places, and the necessity of being on the safe side where famine has threatened, has been that we certainly have, and to some extent must still have, great multitudes on our works doing very little real work and very imperfectly supervised. But I have felt that this is better than letting the people starve, and that it must continue till we can sift them out and deal with them in detail: we cannot send them away till this is done. At the same time, I am clear that this cannot continue, and the first work which I have set Mr. Metcalfe (the Additional Commissioner) and the local officers to do is to make arrangements for dispersing these multitudes. Fortunately, the climate at this season is favourable; the people seem not to dislike the assemblages in which they are gathered, and I hope no great harm beyond a somewhat prodigal expenditure of money

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* From what I saw of the activity of petty private trade, my impression is that for some time to come the bazars would be supplied in this way if it were not that the pressure on carriage for the transport of Government grain is beginning to interfere very seriously with the means of private traffic. Much complaint is now made that private people cannot obtain carriage, and that the bullocks and donkeys which hitherto supplied the bazars are taken up by the contractors. This is no doubt a great evil, and the local officers should do all that is possible to avoid it.

whether Western Rungpore and Bograh should draw any part of their supplies *viâ* Nowgong and the Northern Bengal Railway grain routes. If, however, you should decide to carry all the grain for these two districts along the routes previously settled, immediate pressure must be put upon the Magistrate Collectors of Rungpore and Bograh to increase their cart-power, and to carry away all these allotments before the rains.

7. Mr. Toynbee will be instructed to comply with your instructions and to shut off despatches for the Hyatpore route after Wednesday next, the 15th April, unless he hears either from you or Lieutenant Elliot that contracts have been made with cartmen for despatching grain after that date.

8. The Lieutenant-Governor desires me to add that, if you detect any error in the figures set out in the present letter, or if you consider that any of the arrangements now under contemplation should be altered, you should at once make a representation to Government. The Lieutenant-Governor will be glad to learn what explanation is given by Mr. Dawson in reply to your inquiry as to the large quantity of grain shown as "in transit" against Kooshtea.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 2255—S.R.

Copy, with copy of the enclosures, forwarded to Mr. Toynbee with special reference to paragraph 7.

No. 2256—S.R.

Copy of the letter, without enclosures, forwarded to the Commissioner of Bhagulpore, with reference to paragraph 4, and with the request that he will communicate with Mr. Molony as to the places at which he would wish the Purneah reserve supply to be stored, until the Mahanuddee rises.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Calcutta, the 10th April 1874. Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 669—S.R., dated Berhampore, the 29th March 1874.

Memorandum by E. W. Molony, Esq., Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division.

Copy of the following correspondence forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal Statistical Department, for information with reference to his endorsement No. 1,665—S.R., dated 21st instant, on Sir Richard Temple's memorandum therewith forwarded.

No. 668 C.—S.R., dated Berhampore, the 29th March 1874.

From E. W. Molony, Esq., Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division, to F. A. Dawson, Esq., Kooshtea.

I have the honour to forward to you a copy of a statement I have this day sent to Mr. Toynbee, and of my covering letter. I also annex the rice statement of this Division made up to the 28th instant.

2. I request your attention to the large quantity shown as in transit in column 4 against Kooshtea, and would request the earliest possible attention to those figures. The statement is compiled from your advices of receipts up to the 25th of March inclusive, and the advices of receipts received from the several receiving Golahs up to the dates shown in the margin against each. The principle on which the statement is made out, is to show all receipts advised in column 3, to write off amounts advised as received in column 5, and to show the balance in column 4.

Godagaree - - - -	25th March.
Rampore Beauleah for Dinagepore -	24th "
Ditto for District Golahs -	24th "
Ditto for Railway. No advices, figures up to middle of February.	
Dhapparee - - -	23rd "
Hyatpore - - - -	25th "
Mauick Chuck - - -	26th "

No. 670, S.R., dated Berhampore, the 29th March 1874.

From E. W. MOLONY, Esq., Commissioner of Rajshahye, to G. TOYNBEE, Esq., Calcutta.

In forwarding the accompanying statement of rice transport progress in this division, I have the honour to request you will inform me when you expect to have the full quantity supplied to Kooshtea, and whether you will be able to supply Shahebgunge with 50,000 maunds for Hyatpore *vid* the East Indian Railway, at the rate of 2,000 maunds per day.

2. I would also ask you to consult your despatch registers to check the figures of the divisional statement, inasmuch as, specially as regards Kooshtea, Mr. Dawson brings the bags on stock at over various weights, two maund bags sometimes up to 2-5-0, and some bags at 1-1-0 and 1-2-0, and I have not ascertained yet clearly, whether this is gross or net weight.

3. As the Kooshtea steamers will be shortly liberated, there will be no difficulty in getting up the 3½ lacs to complete the Bogra and Rungpore allotments.

4. I append a copy of my fortnightly statement up to the 28th, submitted to Government, and would explain that the principle upon which it is compiled is to show all receipts adviced by the receiving depôts in column 3, to write off the amounts acknowledged to have arrived at the depôts mentioned in column 5, and to show the balance in column 4, which, therefore, displays all short weight, loss in transit, and, in fact, all that is unaccounted for.

5. I would also explain that my figures in column 3, include under Kooshtea 4,160 maunds, and under Goalundo, 37,000 maunds. Of the Railway Burmah rice first sent, you will remember that there was a confusion about this, a great deal having been booked by you to Kooshtea which was intended for Goalundo. The figures also include of local purchases under Kooshtea 1,076 maunds, and Goalundo 42,324 maunds.

FORTNIGHTLY STATEMENT of RICE for the Fortnight ending the 28th March 1874.

Division.	Total grain allotted.	Received into Division.	In Transit from point of Receipt.	Arrival at final Destination.	Explanation or Remarks.
Rajshahye - -	Dinagepore - - 12,00,000	Kooshtea - - - 770,253	Kooshtea (*a*) - - 288,265	1. Godagaree for Dinagepore and Maldah - - - 294,039	(*a*) One boat containing 1,250 maunds sunk in the Ganges near Belwah in Rajshahye; considerable portion of the cargo was got up by divers, but it was not fit for storage.
	Rungpore - - 3,00,000	Goalundo - - - 227,757	Goaloundo (*b*) - - 91,501	2. Rampore B. for Dinagepore - 35,604	
	Bograh - - - 2,40,000	Kaligunge in Rungpore 115,517	Rajmehal and Shahebgunge - - - 6,182	3. Shabebgunge for ditto - 38,443	(*b*) A further quantity of 400 maunds was lost by a boat sinking in the Attrye.
	Maldah - - - 1,50,000	Serajunge - - - 10,000		4. Nowgong for ditto (*c*) - 20,358	(*c*) Of this quantity 53 maunds is damaged rice saved from wreck.
	Rajshahye - - 1,00,000	Sohagiparah - - 10,000		5. Rampore B. for District Golahs 18,638	NOTE.—The difference of 13 maunds between the totals of columns 4 & 5 with column 3, *Vide* explanation given in previous fortnight by statement.
	N. B. S. Railway - 1,00,000	Rajmehal - - 58,495		6. Bogra for self and Dinagepore 30,056	
		Shahebunge - 59,701		7. Kaligunge in Rungpore - 129,004	
		118,196		8. Nowgong for Railway - 43,859	
				9. Dhaparee for ditto - - 92,099	
				10. Rampore B. for ditto - - 25,529	
				11. Hyatpore - - 58,178	
				Manickchuck - 79,955	
				138,133	
	Total - - 20,90,000	1,251,728	385,948	865,762	

34336.

E.

DIVISIONAL ALLOTMENT of GOVERNMENT RICE for each DISTRICT of the RAJSHAHYE DIVISION, and the main routes by which it is to be supplied.

				Main Route No. 1.	Main Route No. 2.			
Name of District.	Gross allotment.	Adjustments by Transfer of 1,00,000 from N.B. State Railway.	Nett allotment to be stored by each District.	Quantity required by the Ganges route, Eastern Bengal Railway to Kooshtea, East India Railway to Rajmehal and Sahebgunge.	From Goalundo, by the Oorasagur.	From Goalundo, Calcutta, Serajgunge and Dacca by Berhampootra.	Viâ Purneah and Carogola.	Total.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Dinagepore - - -	12,00,000	A. 22,500	11,77,500	9,97,500	1,30,000	50,000	1,50,000	D. 18,27,500
Maldah - - - -	1,50,000	—	1,50,000					
Rajshahye - - -	1,00,000	A. 40,000 from N.B.S.R. B. 15,000 reduction on allotment.	45,000	19,440	25,560	—	—	45,000
Rungpore - - -	3,00,000	A. 22,500	2,77,500	—	—	2,77,500	—	2,77,500
Bograh - - - -	2,40,000	A. 15,000	2,25,000	—	10,000	2,15,000	—	2,25,000
Northern Bengal State Railway -	1,00,000	Add to Store for above districts. C. 1,00,000	2,00,000	1,62,000	38,000	—	—	2,00,000
Total - -	20,90,000	—	20,75,000	11,78,940	2,03,560	5,42,500	1,50,000	20,75,000
Received as by district statement to 28th instant :—								
Kooshtea, H. - - - - -		7,70,253 G.	E. 8,98,449	8,98,449	7,46,060			
Rajmehal, H. - - - - -		58,495						
Sahebunge, H. - - - - -		59,701						
For Northern Bengal Railway not shown in Statement		10,000						
At Goalundo, H. - - - - -		2,27,757	F. 3,63,274	—	3,63,274		K. It is not known but it is believed that all this is ready to be made over.	
At Kalligunge, H. - - -		1,15,517						
At Serajunge, H. - - - - -		10,000						
At Shusgeeparah, H. - - - -		10,000						
			Balance due -	I. 2,80,491	J. 3,82,786			

A.—These entries show half the quantities proposed to be stored at the places in each district by Major Lindsay's Note, submitted with his letter No. 1679, dated 5th March 1874.

B.—This entry is the amount proposed to be sent off from the district allotment in addition to the moiety of the railway rice. I should be inclined to increase it by Rs. 10,000 and to transfer Rs. 10,000 of the railway store at Sooltanpore to credit of Bogra, thus reducing the entry in column 3 against that district to 215,000, and the total of column 3 to 2,065,000.

C.—This amount has been reduced ratiably from the district allotment and is added here, as I understand the rice will be carried and stored by the railway authorities, and that they will simply hold half the stock available for indents of the District Officers, if required.

D.—The entries in this line are the totals for Dinagepore and Maldah, as at present I have no data to show exactly how the rice has gone by each route. The whole of the Maldah allotment must go by main route No. 1.

E.—Maunds of 1,076 of local purchase is included in these figures, the whole of the rest has been received from Calcutta.

F.—The local purchases are included in this sum, but it is not quite certain whether the whole of the Dacca supply has yet been finally received in Rungpore. There cannot be, however, a larger balance due than 3,000 maunds.

G.—Mr. Dawson's receipts are entered according to the railway weights, taken by average, and are therefore in excess of those shown by Mr. Toynbee's advices.

H.—The latest dates of receipt shown in the statement, from which these figures are taken, are as advised on the dates shown below:—

Kooshtea	25th March.
Rajmehal	26th „
Shahebgunge	27th „
Goalundo	25th „
Kaligunge	23rd „
Serajgunge	No more expected.
Shahazirpara	22nd March.

I.—Of this, it would be well to send 50,000 by East Indian Railway to Shahebgunge, and 230,000 by Eastern Bengal Railway to Kooshtea.

J.—Of this amount, I calculate that 41000, in round numbers had still to be sent by the Oorasagor on the 25th March. The balance 341,786 has to be sent either from Goalunda or Calcutta by the Brahmaputra.

K.—Mr. Hankey has informed me that this quantity can be easily given by Purneah, I therefore presume that it is not necessary to send an equivalent up the Mahanuddy for that district. If such is the case, extra steamers will be available during the latter part of April for the Brahmaputra.

Dated Calcutta, the 4th April 1874.

Memo. by G. TOYNBEE, ESQ., C.S., on special duty.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department, with special reference to paragraph 4.

Dated Calcutta, the 4th April 1874.

From G. TOYNBEE, ESQ., C.S., on special duty, to the COMMISSIONER OF RAJSHAHYE.

IN reply to your No. 670—S.R., dated the 29th March 1874, I have the honour to forward two statements, A and B, showing the position of your division as regards supplies of grain from Calcutta.

2. The balance of 2,24,611 maunds to be sent up to Kooshtea (and which includes 1,50,000 maunds for the Purneah district) will be easily finished by the end of April at latest. The 12,469 maunds for Sahebgunge will have been all despatched by the 6th or 7th April.

3. The weights brought on my books are the gross railway weights on which freight is paid, reduced to the standard of Indian maunds of $82\frac{2}{7}$ths lbs. I cannot say how the local officers have calculated the grain which they have received and despatched; but as my consignments are by tally and also by weight, and as I get receipts for them from the consignees, there will, I apprehend, be no difficulty in clearing up any discrepancies in the final account. Until despatches cease, it is only possible to keep a running account.

4. A copy of this letter has been furnished to the Secretary to Government, Scarcity and Relief Department, for orders as to the continuance of despatches to Sahebgunge by East Indian Railway.

STATEMENT A.

NAME OF DEPÔT.	Date up to which figures are given for each.	Amount received as per Mr. Toynbee's books.	Amount received as per local officers' accounts,	Difference (compared with column 1).		REMARKS.
				Excess.	Deficiency.	
		Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	
Kooshtea -	25th March -	7,75,980 (*a*)	7,70,258 (*a*)	—	5,727 (*a*)	(*a*) The difference is probably due to loss in transit, for which I believe Mr. Dawson makes allowance; includes 1,076 maunds local purchases.
Goalundo	25th „ -	2,18,562 (*b*)	2,27,757 (*b*)	9,195 (*b*)	—	(*b*) This includes 42,324 maunds of local purchases. I cannot account for the difference, but as I get receipts for all I send up, it is probably due to a confusion of dates, those entered on the railway receipts not being always the date of despatch, but sometimes the day after.
Rajmehal -	26th „ -	76,080	58,495	—	17,585 (*c*)	(*c*) The difference, is, I think, due to the omission in the Commissioner's statement of the quantity sent up direct to the Northern Bengal Railway storekeeper at Rajmehal before the route was used for divisional grain.
Kaligunge -	23rd „ -	1,15,652	1,15,517	—	135 (*d*)	(*d*) Probably loss in transit.
Sohagipara -	22nd „ -	20,000	20,000	—	—*	
Sahebgunge -	27th „ -	59,671	59,701	80 (*e*)	—	(*e*) Probably excess delivery by Railway Company.

* In the Commissioner's statement Serajgunge is mentioned as having received 10,000 maunds, but from here all rice for Bogra is consigned to Sohagipara.

B.

STATEMENT showing the BALANCE on 1st APRIL of RICE to be sent up from CALCUTTA to the RAJSHAHYE DIVISION, and the routes by which it is to go.

Route as per Commissioner's statement.	Balance remaining to be sent up as per Commissioner's statement.	Deduct amount despatched to the various depôts from dates given in statement A up to 31st March.	Balance remaining on 1st April to be sent up.	REMARKS.
	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	
Route No. I -	2,80,491	1,93,411	87,080	Of this 74,611 to Kooshtea + 1,50,000 for Purneah = 2,24,611, and 12,469 to Sahebgunge.
	For Purneah -	-	1,50,000	
Route No. II -	3,82,786	55,185	3,27,601	All this to go to Goalundo, and thence by steamers and country-boats. When the Kooshtea supply is completed, the steamers on that route will be available for the Brahmapootra.
Total - -	6,63,277	2,48,596	5,64,681	

G. TOYNBEE, C.S.,
On Special Duty.

APPENDIX D.

No. 117, dated Bhagulpore, the 27th March 1874.

From L. C. ABBOTT, Esq., on special duty with the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I AM directed to forward copy of a Minute, No. 57, recorded by Sir Richard Temple on the requirements of the Tajpore Sub-division.

MINUTE by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 57, dated Bankipore, the 24th March 1874.

The Commissioner, Mr. Bayley, has shown me two reports by Mr. Wace, the sub-divisional officer at Tajpore, regarding the grain requirements of that sub-division.

2. Mr. Wace's estimates are based on the numbers, calculated by per-centages on the total population in each tract, of persons who may be expected to need assistance.

3. The quantity thus brought out comes to 66,000 maunds of grain, out of which 8,000 maunds are already stored at Possa, leaving 58,000 maunds to be sent.

4. The question is whether the 58,000 maunds should be added to the total requirement of the Tirhoot district already presented (42,000 maunds).

5. I think not: the quantity required for Tajpore can be taken at the discretion of the Commissioner out of the general supplies of the Tirhoot district.

No. 1911—S.R.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioner of Patna, with a request that he will report from what allotment the additional supply for Tajpore should be taken.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, Scarcity and Relief Dept.,
The 28th March 1874.

No. 113, dated Bankipore, the 25th March 1874.

From L. C. ABBOTT, Esq., on special duty with SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I AM directed to forward copy of a minute, No. 59, recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding allowances for native officers sent to Behar from the North-Western Provinces.

MINUTE, No. 59, by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Bankipore, the 25th March 1874.

I HAVE consulted with Sir W. Muir and Mr. Inglis regarding the granting of allowances to the Deputy Collectors and other officers lent by the North-West Government for famine relief work; and Mr. Inglis, at my request, kindly drew up the accompanying note on the subject.

2. The proposals therein contained seem to me to be very moderate. I would strongly recommend that the allowances set forth in Mr. Inglis' note be sanctioned.

NOTE by Honourable J. D. INGLIS.

DEPUTATION allowance to be drawn by Deputy Collectors and other native officers sent to Behar.

The Deputy Collectors ordered down are—

Kour Luchman Singh;
Pundit Adjodya Pershad;
Mahomed Mohsin;
Enayat Hosain Khan.

Kour Luchman Singh draws Rs. 600 a month, the others draw Rs. 250.

The tehsildars sent down draw Rs. 200 a month, the peshkars draw Rs. 50 a month.

Deputy Collectors, when in camp, in these provinces draw a travelling allowance of Rs. 3 a day or Rs. 90 a month; considering that these men are to be employed at a distance from home and in a province where prices are at famine rates, I think they should, while in Bengal, receive a slightly higher allowance.

The duties that the officers of the rank of Deputy Collectors or tehsildars will be employed on will be of the same description. Their responsibilities and expenses will be the same. I would, therefore, propose that officers of these classes should draw a fixed deputation allowance of Rs. 100 a month and not an allowance calculated by a per-centage on their salaries.

The peshkars should, I think, get an allowance of Rs. 50 a month.

Allahabad, the 23rd March 1874.

No. 1899—S.R.

From A. MACKENZIE, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the DEPUTY SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

Calcutta, dated 28th March / issued March 1874.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit herewith copy of a letter No. 113, dated the 25th March 1874, from Mr. L. C. Abbott, forwarding Sir Richard Temple's Minute, No. 59, of the same date, relative to the allowances to be assigned to the native officers lent by the Government of the North-western Provinces to this Government for employment on famine duty in Behar.

2. I am to report for the approval of the Government of India that, in compliance with Sir Richard Temple's strong recommendation, the Lieutenant-Governor has, in anticipation of sanction, authorised the grant of consolidated allowance at the rate of Rs. 100 per mensem to the Deputy Collectors and tehsildars, and at the rate of Rs. 50 per mensem to the peshkars, so long as they may be employed in these provinces.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 109, dated Malda, 18th March 1874.

From G. H. R. HART, Esq., on special duty with SIR R. TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., to the Honorable C. E. BERNARD, C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I AM directed to forward, for submission to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of a minute by the Honorable Sir Richard Temple, No. 52, dated 18th March, summarising under one view the main points connected with the districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, Bogra, and Malda, as regards the anticipated distress therein.

MINUTE No. 52, by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., dated Malda, the 18th March 1874.

1. I HAVE now completed my journey through the worst portions of the four districts of the Rajshahye division where severe distress is expected, viz., the districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, Bogra, and Malda, which have been formed by the local Government into a separate relief division under Mr. W. Le F. Robinson as Commissioner. The observations and proposals which I have made regarding each of the districts will be found in the Minutes Nos. 45, 46, 47, 48, and 51, dated 11th, 14th, 16th, and 18th March. It now remains briefly to summarise the main points under one view.

2. The area and population of the four districts may be stated as follows:—

Districts.	Area in square mile.	Population.	Number per square mile.
Dinagepore	4,126	1,501,924	364
Rungpore	3,476	2,149,972	619
Bogra	1,501	689,467	459
Malda	1,813	676,426	373
Total	10,916	5,017,789	459

3. The number of persons which I have estimated, in consultation with the local authorities, as likely to need aid from Government during the worst months of the distress, together with the percentages of such numbers on the population, may be stated thus:—

	Numbers at worst from 2 to 4 months.	Percentage on population.	
Dinagepore	426,530	60 per cent. on	419,500
		30 ,,	582,766
Rungpore	127,400	20 ,,	123,000
		15 ,,	255,000
		10 ,,	120,000
		50 ,,	18,000
		5 ,,	145,000
Bogra	112,500	30 ,,	258,123
		20 ,,	175,243
Malda	62,433	30 ,,	92,011
		25 ,,	55,316
		15 ,,	48,999
		10 ,,	103,758
		5 ,,	65,548
Total	728,863		

4. The provision of Government grain, as already ordered by the local Government, or as now proposed by me, may be thus stated in maunds:—

	Already ordered by local Government.	Additional, proposed me.	Total.	Already advised in district up to 7th March.
Dinagepore - -	10,00,000	2,00,000	12,00,000	2,00,000
Rungpore - -	2,00,000	1,00,000	3,00,000	1,20,000
Bogra - - -	50,000	1,90,000	2,40,000	20,000
Malda - - -	1,00,000	50,000	1,50,000	29,000
Total -	13,50,000	5,40,000	18,90,000	3,69,000

5. I was particularly requested by the Government of Bengal to revise the relief arrangements in these districts, and to settle them wherever they remained to be settled. I found that this business was to some considerable extent done in Dinagepore, and partly in Rungpore. I have now, in consultation with the local officers, fixed all the circles. Their numbers are as follows:—

	No. of Circles.	European Officers.	Native Officers.	Subordinate Officials.		
				Civil.	Department Public Works.	Medical.
Dinagepore - -	13	9	4	29	13	13
Rungpore - - -	9	4	5	9	6	9
Bogra - - -	7	3	4	3	6	6
Malda - - -	3	3	2	5	3	3
Total -	32	19	15	46	28	31

6. All the officers (Native and European) have been appointed. Most, though not all of them, have joined. Of the subordinate officials, most of the civil have been appointed, but many have not yet joined. Few only of the medical or Public Works subordinate officials have been appointed, but I have made urgent application for them.

7. The relief works consist chiefly of roads and of tanks. The total length of the roads in miles I give below. The tanks are numerous, but number cannot be given. The number of laborers as known up to the latest report is also given, but it is increasing daily.

	No. of laborers as known up to 2nd week of March.	Total length of relief roads of district in miles.
Dinagepore - - - -	43,500	420
Rungpore - - - -	7,000	723
Bogra - - - - -	3,935	160
Malda - - - - -	2,252	187
Total -	56,687	1,490

8. The rate of wages for an adult male is 2½ annas in the Dinagepore, Rungpore, and Bogra districts per diem, task-work not being undertaken under 3 annas. The same rates prevail in Malda.

9. The number of circles in which I have authorised the sale of Government grain under the rules is,—

Dinagepore - -	4	Bogra - - -	None
Rungpore - - -	3	Malda - - -	1

10. The number of grain depôts in the several districts, nearly all of which depôts contain stores, is as follows:—

Dinagepore - - - - - -	30
Rungpore - - - - - -	15
Bogra - - - - - -	8
Malda - - - - - -	8
Total - -	61

11. The number of carts employed in the transport of grain in the several districts is as follows: if this number appears small as compared with other divisions, we must remember that in all the districts water carriage is largely used, sometimes by country boats and sometimes by steamers.

	Carts with pair of bullocks.	Country boats.	Steamers.
Dinagepore - - - -	5,000	250	...
Rungpore - - - -	450	50	1
Bogra - - - - -	250	20	1
Malda - - - - -	2,000	400	1
Total - -	7,700	720	3
Add carts from Purneah District employed in Dinagepore district - -	1,500		
Total -	9 200		

Pack-bullocks not having as yet been employed. A reserve of 1,500 carts has been ordered, 500 for each of the districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, and Malda.

12. The amount of advances as yet taken by zemindars for the assistance of their tenantry, and the money advanced to traders for the importation of grain from a distance, may be thus approximately given, though it is hoped the amount will be largely increased. In round numbers, zemindars have taken Rs. 90,000, traders Rs. 40,000.

13. The number of persons at present receiving charitable relief may be thus stated for the present, though it is to be feared that the number will now increase :—

	Daily.
Dinagepore - - - - - - -	None.
Rungpore - - - - - - -	3,460
Bogra - - - - - - -	None.
Malda - - - - - - -	2,936
Total - - -	6,396

In Bogra some relief is given by private subscriptions.

14. No death from want, or from disease caused immediately by want, has as yet been reported from any district.

15. The cause of the distress in all the districts is the partial failure of the summer or *aus* rice crop, and the still greater failure of the winter (hemantee) rice crop, from scantiness of rain in the summer and autumn of 1873, together with the absence of any considerable cultivation, in the distressed tracts, of spring crops, wheat and pulses, to make up for loss of rice.

16. The worst period of distress in all the four districts is expected to set in during May, and to last till the middle of August; but the distress will last in some degree till December.

17. Private import trade is tolerably active in the Rungpore, Bogra, and Malda districts, but not at all in Dinagepore. Again, the situation of the Dinagepore district is much more difficult than that of the other three districts, because it is isolated at all times, landlocked in the hot season, though enjoying some facilities of water carriage in the rains; whereas the other three are on the banks of the large rivers, navigable by boats or steamers all the year round.

18. Lastly, I desire to speak in high commendation of the Relief Commissioner, Mr. W. LeF. Robinson. His extensive local knowledge, his promptitude in action, and his thoughtful care for the people, entitle him to the confidence of Government in the execution of his very important duty.

No. 119, dated Bhagulpore, the 28th March 1874.

From L. C. ABBOTT, Esq., on duty with SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I AM directed to forward copy of a Minute No. 64, of 28th March, recorded by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the requirements of the Monghyr district.

MINUTE by the Honorable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 64, Bhagulpore, dated the 28th March 1874.

HAVING visited the Monghyr district and discussed its affairs relating to scarcity with the Commissioner, Mr. Barlow, and the Collector, Mr. Lockwood, and the principal relief officer, Mr. Currie, I have to record the following observations.

2. The district is divided by the Ganges into two parts, northern and southern. On both banks of the river, especially the northern, there are spring crops which have turned out excellently well, and thus a large portion of the district is placed beyond the reach of apprehension.

3. But in the northern part of the district there is a tract named Bukhtearpore, included in the thana of Gogree, which is separated from the basin of the Ganges by a belt of swamp, and in which the main staple, rice, has failed, having produced a one-anna to two-annas yield. In the southern part is also a broad tract comprising the thanas of Sheikhpoora and Secundra, dependent mainly on the rice crop, which for the most part failed, having a yield of only 3 annas. There is also a hilly tract (around a branch of the Vindhyas jutting out against the Ganges) within which the rice crop has failed, especially near Khurruckpore, belonging to the Durbhunga raj. Throughout the district there are autumn crops, Indian-corn, and the like, which last proved indifferent, with a yield of only 6 annas.

4. The general situation may be summarised thus:—Several tracts of the district have lost the greater part of its food-supply for nearly a year. But in juxtaposition with these there are tracts with excellent crops. There are as good facilities for trade and communication as could reasonably be expected in any district. At present the poorer classes in the distressed districts

are engaged in cutting the harvest in the flourishing tracts, and when this employment ceases (in a few days more), they will probably come in great numbers suddenly on the hands of Government for relief. Thus the period of distress will be probably at its worst from the 15th April till the 15th June, when, if the rains fall favorably, there will be again employment obtainable. But the distress, though mitigated, will last till the produce of the autumn crop comes in by the beginning of September, after which time the distress will cease.

5. I requested the Collector to estimate the numbers of persons whom he expects will need assistance from Government, and he would take 40 per cent. on the population of the Bukhtearpore portion of the Gogree thana, on the population of the Sheikhpoora and Secundra thanas, and on the population round Khurrukpore, which calculation gives this result:—

In what thana.	Persons who will need assistance from Government.
Gogree - - - - - -	42,000
Secundra - - - - - -	44,000
Sheikhpoora - - - - - -	79,000
Khurrukpore - - - - - -	7,000
Total - -	172,000

I would accept this part of the estimate.

6. It is further agreed that we must provide for the whole number for two months (from 15th April to 15th June).

7. The Collector thinks that from 15th June to 1st October we should provide for a quarter of the number. The Commissioner thinks that it would not be safe to take less than a half.

8. The result of the two calculations may be seen thus—

Estimate by Commissioner.

	Mds.
172,000 for 2 months, at ¾ seer per day - - -	193,500
86,000 for 3½ months, at ¾ seer per day - - -	169,312
Total - - -	362,812

Estimate by Collector.

172,000 for 2 months, at ¾ seer per day - - -	193,500
43,000 for 3½ months, at ¾ seer per day - - -	84,656
Total - - -	278,156

9. I concur in the Commissioner's estimate, and consider that 360,000 maunds, plus 5 per cent. for wastage (18,000 maunds), making 378,000 maunds in all, should be provided for the Monghyr district.

10. Already 300,000 maunds have been ordered by the local Government, of which 192,000 maunds have been stored. Besides this there are 20,000 maunds stored by the Court of Wards (Durbhunga) at Khurrukpore, which, added to the 192,000, makes up 212,000 maunds, leaving 166,000 maunds yet to be sent. But as the grain sent as yet consists of rice, the remainder can conveniently be supplied, if the Government sees fit, by mixed grain obtained in the North-Western Provinces.

11. After communicating with me on the occasion of my visit to Soopole, the Commissioner has fixed the following relief circles, which appear to be quite appropriate:—

1. Bucktearpore - - - - - -	North of Ganges.
2. Luckee Serai - - - - - -	South of Ganges.
3. Secundra	
4. Sheikhpoora	

The three last-named circles form a group, and have been constituted a relief sub-division under Mr. Currie, C.S.

12. The local Government has already appointed European officers to each of these circles. I had previously authorised the Commissioner to appoint one native officer to each circle. I have now requested him to appoint a second native officer to each circle, which he will be able to do immediately. There is at least one overseer for public works in each circle; a native doctor has also been appointed to each.

13. I have the pleasure to state that the Commissioner and the Collector speak in high terms of the conduct of the zemindars in the distressed tracts, who are keeping their tenantry from their own resources, taking advances from Government for this purpose, and constructing tanks and such like works in the villages. The number of such tanks is reported to be at least 34. The Durbhunga Court of Wards also, through Mr. Roberts, the local manager, is setting the best example to neighbouring zemindars by storing grain, constructing works, and assisting ryots.

14. The amount of cash advances obtained from Government is shown in the subjoined table; the amount is creditable to the district authorities :—

Monghyr District.

	Rs.
Advances for purchases of grain, under paragraph 4 of Circular No. 80 of 17th November 1873 - - - - -	56,800
For land improvement, under paragraph 21 of Circular No. 80 of 17th November 1874 - - - - - -	33,790
Generally for helping ryots, under Government orders No. 4004 of 18th December 1874 - - - - -	11,300
Total - - -	101,890

15. The length of relief roads amounts to 254 miles.

16. The number of relief laborers, including those employed by zemindars on their tanks and those employed by the Court of Wards, may be stated for the present time at 12,000.

17. This is less than the number for some of the previous periods. But, as already explained, the people have gone off to the harvesting. It is to be feared that they will soon return to the relief works in much larger numbers than ever.

18. In this district, however, relief circles are in working order, and adequate quantities of grain are stored at all the points of probable requirement. And I have seen no district better prepared than Monghyr to meet an emergency of this kind. The Collector, Mr. Lockwood, and the principal relief officer, Mr. Currie, merit the confidence of Government.

R. TEMPLE.

No. 121, dated Calcutta, the 31st March 1874.

From G. H. K. HART, on special duty, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I AM directed by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple to report the completion of his second tour in the distressed districts.

2. The various minutes, No. 39 to 62, 64 and 67, already submitted to the Government of Bengal, comprise all the remarks and recommendations which seemed from inquiry on the spot to be required. It is hoped that they will be found to treat of all the points adverted to in your letter No. 1236—S.R. of the 4th March, with one exception.

3. This exception is the case of Chota Nagpore, which country Sir Richard has been unable to visit by reason of the shortness of the time available.

4. I am to take this opportunity of submitting three minutes, namely, No. 63, summarising the statistics of the Patna division in relation to scarcity and relief, and No. 65 for the Bhagulpore division (which may be taken together with the previous minute No. 52 of 18th March, for the Rajshahye relief division), and No. 66, giving an abstract of the several summaries for the whole country comprised in the divisions of Patna, Bhagulpore, and Rajshahye, so far as the operations are concerned, which have come under Sir Richard Temple's cognizance.

5. He desires to tender his acknowledgments to his honour the Lieutenant-Governor for the support so promptly accorded to all the recommendations which have been made; and he trusts that the general result of the proceedings may prove satisfactory to the Government of Bengal.

MINUTE by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 63, dated Bhagulpore, the 27th March 1874.

FROM the latter part of January to the beginning of March, I was chiefly engaged in visiting the worst portions of the three districts in the Patna Division where severe distress is anticipated, viz., Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun. I have since passed through the districts of Shahabad and Gya and consulted the local authorities regarding the prospect of, and preparations for, the scarcity. I have also visited the Patna district, where no general scarcity at all is anticipated. That district is excluded from consideration in this Minute, which thus includes the whole of the Patna Division or Commissionership, except the district of Patna. The remarks and recommendations which I made will be found in the Minutes written during my visit, especially Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 13 to 15, 17 to 19, 22 to 24, 29 to 36, 40, 57, 60, 61, and 67.

2. I now desire briefly to summarise, under one view, the main points, with the remark that any apparent discrepancies between the figures given in this Minute and in my former Minutes above cited are to be accounted for by the accession of more recent information having modified the statistics first presented.

3. The area and population of the five districts are as follow :—

District.	Area in square miles.	Population.
Tirhoot	6,343	4,384,700
Chumparun	3,531	1,440,800
Sarun	2,654	2,063,900
Shahabad	4,385	1,724,000
Gya	4,718	1,949,700
Total	21,631	11,563,100

4. The number of persons whom I have estimated, after conferring with the local authorities, as likely to need aid from Government during the period of worst distress, together with the proportion those numbers bear to the total population concerned, may be thus set forth :—

District.	Number at worst period.	Per-centage on population.
Tirhoot	1,000,030	23 per cent. on whole population.
Chumparun	316,000	50 per cent. on 285,600.
		20 „ on 404,100.
		15 „ on 466,200.
		10 „ on 284,900.
Sarun	280,000	13 per cent. on whole population.
Shahabad	105,000	6 per cent. „
Gya	93,000	5 per cent. „
Total	1,794,000	

5. These numbers have been obtained after separate enquiry by the local officers under my own observation for each tract in detail in each district by taking on the whole population a per-centage representing those who are expected at the worst period to need assistance in some shape or other from Government, the per-centages varying according to the circumstances of each tract.

6. The figures below give the quantities of grain which I have recommended to be sent, and the quantities which have, up to the middle of March, arrived within the several districts. I understand that the whole of the quantities recommended have been ordered by the Government.

District.	Recommended and ordered.	Arrived in the district.
Tirhoot	4,200,000	1,230,000
Chumparun	1,150,000	604,000
Sarun	680,000	310,000
Shahabad	317,000	179,000
Gya	220,000	140,000
Total	6,567,000	2,463,000

Of this total quantity full 88 per cent. consists of rice, and the remainder, or 12 per cent., consists of mixed grain—wheat, Indian corn, &c., chiefly obtained from the North-Western Provinces.

7. In communication with the local officers on the spot, I ordered the establishment of relief circles under the rules sanctioned by the Government of India, where they seemed to be required, and recommended the early appointment of officers, one for each circle, to supervise the distribution of relief, the relief works, and the medical arrangements. The numbers of such circles are as follow :—

Tirhoot	32
Chumparun	6
Sarun	1
Shahabad	0
Gya	0
Total	39

8. Before leaving the Patna Division to inspect the Bhagulpore and Rajshahye Divisions, I had fixed the places for these circles, arranged that there should be one superior officer and one native officer to each circle (with one superior European officer over each set of circles), and obtained the services of many of the European officers and most of the native officers required for the establishment on the above scale. The native officers were chiefly men selected from the army.

9. Shortly afterwards Sir George Campbell proceeded to Durbhunga, and personally supervised the working of the circles, in several places enlarging the organization according as the distress developed itself. Among other things he obtained the services of a number of trained native civil officials from the North-Western Provinces.

Subsequently, with Sir George Campbell's approval, I have obtained the services of a further number of native officials from the North-Western Provinces. And it has now been arranged that each circle shall have at least one European or one superior native officer and two subordinate native officers, some circles having more, according to circumstances. I have arranged, with Sir George Campbell's approval, that the temporary establishment shall be made up to this complement. It may now be said that all the officers, European and native, have joined, or are on their way. Those who have not joined are being pushed on as rapidly as possible. These remarks apply to the Tirhoot and Chumparun districts.

10. For the districts of Shahabad, Gya, and Sarun, where the distress will not be of such a nature as to require the formation of circles, I have arranged that there shall be four superior native officials appointed as supervisors for each district, or twelve in all, to go the rounds of the villages and to see that all necessary measures are adopted.

11. The additional establishment for relief of the whole division may be approximately stated as follows :—

District.	European supervising officers.	Circle officers.	Native officers.	Total.
Tirhoot	5	32	64	101
Chumparun	2	6	12	20
Sarun	1	2	6	9
Shahabad	—		4	4
Gya	—	1	4	5
Total	8	41	90	139

These numbers are in addition to the ordinary civil establishment of the district, European and native, all of whom are actively engaged in relief, which indeed forms an integral part of the civil administration.

12. With all the relief officers there are associated very many private gentlemen, European and native, scattered all over the country as members of sub-divisional committees or sub-committees. I cannot now state the number of those non-official coadjutors, but it must be considerable and greatly exceeding the numbers of the relief officers. In Tirhoot, Chumparun, and Sarun, the indigo planters collectively and individually are rendering the most important aid. Many native zemindars are doing the same. It will be interesting hereafter to record the particulars of the non-official assistance thus rendered. I am sanguine that it will be found to be worthy of commemoration.

13. Before the period of my visit a permanent line of electric telegraph from Patna to Segowlee (north of Chumparun), *viâ* Mozufferpore and Motiharee, had been sanctioned and had been completed as far as Mozufferpore. But to save time I proposed that the remainder of the line should be made as a temporary line, and that there should be an extension to Bettia and Ramnugger. I then, after consulting the local officers, recommended that temporary lines should be made to all the principal centres of the Tirhoot district. This was sanctioned by Government, and the temporary telegraph lines, now complete and in work, may be thus stated :—

Line.	Miles.
Mozufferpore to Motiharee, Bettia, and Ramnugger	102
Mozufferpore to Seetamurhee	32
Mozufferpore *viâ* Durbhunga to Mudhoobunnee	48
Barrh to Durbhunga, with branch to Tajpore	60
Mudhoobunnee to Nuraya	30
Total	272

14. The great public works which subserve most beneficially the purposes of relief are—

	Miles.
The Soane canal	380
The Gunduk embankment	90
Total	470

and now the high level canal in the district of Chumparun, which is ordered to be commenced. The number of persons employed on, and the quantity of grain required for, these works are included in the total figures which I give for the several districts.

15. Besides these great works there are lesser relief works specially projected by the local officers. They consist chiefly of roads (earth-work) and tanks (excavation). The tanks under operation are numerous and scattered all over the country, and their number is increasing daily, and I cannot give it exactly. But the length of relief roads may be stated as follows :—

District.	Relief Roads.—Miles.
Tirhoot	710
Chumparun	520
Sarun	575
Shahabad	487
Gya	185
Total	2,477

Besides the work on all these lines of road, there are the special repairs being executed under European supervision on the lines of the transit of grain, as will be explained presently.

16. The number employed on relief works of all kinds may be stated as follows:—

District.	Number of persons.
Tirhoot	450,000
Chumparun, including Gunduk works	100,000
Sarun	90,000
Snahabad	2,000
Gya	1,000
Soane Canal Works	33,000
Total	676,000

If the number should seem small for Shahabad and Gya, then we must remember that the relief laborers of those two districts are chiefly on the Soane canal works.

17. The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief is small. According to the latest information, it did not exceed 4,200 in Tirhoot, and 1,200 in Chumparun.

18. For the supervision of the relief roads and tank, I have at various times applied for the services of overseers, which applications have been approved by Government, and the men have either joined or are on their way. Also several additional Engineer officers have been appointed. The number may be stated as follows:—

District.	Superintending Engineer.	Executive and Assistant Engineers.	Overseers.
Tirhoot	1	6	25
Chumparun	—	2	6
Sarun	—	2	3
Shahabad	—	—	2
Gya	—	—	4
Total	1	10	40

These are in addition to the establishment on the Soane canal works and on the Gunduk embankment, also to the ordinary Public Works establishment of the district, all of which assist in respect of relief works so far as they can.

19. For the work of the relief, I have applied for and obtained the services of native doctors and hospital assistants as below:—

District.	Native doctors and hospital assistants.
Tirhoot	60
Chumparun	14
Sarun	—
Shahabad	—
Gya	—
Total	74

I found the districts of Sarun, Shahabad, and Gya so far supplied with this class of men that more need not be applied for, especially considering the more urgent requirements of other districts, and the difficulty of procuring the men.

20. The grain supplied by Government is sent to depôts at places selected with reference to the area of distress. The number may be thus stated for the several districts:—

Districts.	Number of depôts.
Tirhoot	74
Chumparun	42
Sarun	32
Shahabad	30
Gya	17
Total	177

All these depôts contain stores of grain. From these depôts the grain will be distributed according to circumstances.

21. The grain is despatched from Calcutta by separate arrangements, and reaches the stations on the East Indian Railway from Mokameh to Mogul Serai. It then comes under the charge of the Relief Department of the Patna Commissionership. That portion (which is by far the greatest) destined for the Tirhoot and Chumparun districts, is conveyed to the south or right bank of the Ganges by four small branches near Mokameh, Barrh, Futwa, at Patna; of which four branches three have been made especially for this occasion. It is then placed on board steamers, or barges, towed by steamers, and conveyed to three points on the north or left bank, namely, Bunkur opposite Patna, Chumpta opposite Barrh, and a point opposite Mokameh.

At these points it comes under the charge of the inland transport service, and , carried to the depôts by certain main routes which may be described as follows:—

Point of departure.	Route.	Distance in miles.
Bunkur - - -	To Motiharree, Gobindgunj, Bettia, and Ramnugger - - - - -	155
	To Possa, Durbhunga, Mudhoobunnee -	77
	To Seetamurhee and Sursoond - -	* 80
Chumpta - - -	To Durbhunga and Nuraya, north-eastern corner of Tirhoot district - -	95
Opposite Mokameh -	To Durbhunga - - - - -	50
	Total - -	457

From these main lines there are branch routes, too numerous to mention here, to the various grain depôts.

22. The grain for Sarun is carried by carts from the station of Arrah, and crossing the Ganges, is carried to Hutwa and Sadowa, distance from 80 to 90 miles.

23. The grain for Shahabad is sent from the railway stations between Arrah and Mogul Serai and carted into the interior; average distance 50 miles.

24. The grain for Gya is sent from the railway stations at or near Patna, and is carted into the interior to a distance of 60 miles.

25. The means of transport at present employed may be approximately set forth in numbers as below.

District.	Steamers.	Country Boats.	Carts.	Cartmen.	Draught Bullocks.	Camels.	Pack-bullocks.
Tirhoot - - - -	5	900	58,000	60,000	116,000	2,000	3,000
Chumparun - - - -	—	200	8,000	8,500	17,000	—	—
Sarun - - - -	—	100*	3,500	3,600	7,000	—	—
Shahabad - - - -	—	—	1,000	1,050	2,000	—	—
Gya - - - - -	—	—	500	525	1,000	—	—
Total - - -	5	1,200	71,000	73,675	143,000	2,000	3,000

* The number of boats was much larger than is here set down, while the navigation of the Gunduk continued feasible. Double the number of boats now employed may be expected on the river as soon as the rains set in.

26. These various means of transport have been hired by Government. The carts and bullocks are for the most part brought into the field by five associations of European contractors. These contractors are indigo planters, gentlemen living on their own estates in the neighbourhood of the routes of transit. These contracts have been made by the local officers under my own supervision. The arrangements are at present working well, save in one case, where the contractors have not yet succeeded in carrying the full quantity engaged for. The remaining carts are furnished by small contractors, natives. It is remarkable that all the carts and bullocks are obtained within the limits of the Patna Division. The camels and pack-bullocks are furnished by a large native contractor from the North-Western Provinces.

27. Upon each of the main transit routes above mentioned there are several European officers to see to emergent repairs, to clear away obstacles, to construct temporary crossings, and the like; and with them there are also one regiment of Pioneers (natives) and five companies of Sappers; the whole being under the command of Colonel Macgregor, of the Quarter-Master-General's Department. At the two main points of departure, Bunkur and Chumpta, there is a special organisation on a large scale under selected European officers.

28. Besides these means I have, with the approval of Government, caused to be engaged a body of reserve transport of a strength equal to 4,250 carts drawn by 10,000 bullocks, capable of carrying (at the rate of 16 maunds a cart) 68,000 maunds per daily march of twelve miles; also, 6,000 pack-bullocks or pack-ponies. These carts and animals have for the most part been purchased for Government in the North-Western Provinces and in the Shahabad district. The carts are divided into detachments of 250 carts each, with a complete military organization under European and Native officers. This arrangement is being carried out under Mr. H. Rivett Carnac. This reserve is intended to remedy any mishap or failure which may occur with the contract hired carriage; and its organization is designed to render it as effective as possible for this end.

29. With a view to obtaining an additional resource on the route from Chumpta to Durbhunga, which is by far the most important of all the routes, I strongly recommended, at the end of January last, the construction of a tramway, distance 50 miles. The Government after consideration, sanctioned the project, with important additions, whereby the line becomes a railway. The work is progressing under the good auspices of Mr. Molesworth and Major Staunton.

30. The advances of money (repayable) obtained from Government by landowners for the assistance of their tenantry and by traders for the importation of grain may be set forth as below:—

District.	By zemindars for the ryots.	By native traders for importation.	Total.
Tirhoot	95,506	522,650	618,156
Chumparun	60,000	132,000	192,000
Sarun	286,890	129,700	416,590
Shahabad	—	3,300	3,300
Gya	8,800	10,000	18,800
Total	451,196	797,650	1,248,846

31. I ordered Government grain to be offered for sale under clause 9, Rule 3, Part II, of rules for Relief Committees, at the rate of ten seers to the rupee, in the several circles which form the eastern half of the Mudhoobunnee and Durbhunga sub-divisions. This order has been carried out. I afterwards directed that a rate of 12 seers to the rupee should be allowed. This order has not, however, been carried out as yet.

32. I cannot finish this summary without taking the opportunity of giving my testimony to the judgment, discrimination, and assiduity displayed by the Commissioner, Mr. Stuart Bayley, in the discharge of the extraordinary difficult duties which have devolved on him ever since the first threatening of scarcity in Behar. The ability with which he has sustained the pressure of so many urgent affairs, simultaneously presenting themselves for decision, entitle him to the commendation and the confidence of Government. I trust that he may in due course witness the successful result of his labours.

33. I also desire to commend to the notice of Government the exertions of Mr. J. Hewitt, the Deputy of the Commissioner of Patna. He has had a prominent share in the transit arrangements on both banks of the Ganges, and his general assistance to the Commissioner in all affairs relating to the scarcity has proved very valuable.

MINUTE by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 65, dated Bhagulpore, the 28th March 1874.

I HAVE on three separate occasions during my two recent tours visited portions of the Bhagulpore division or Commissionership. The observations and proposals which I have felt called upon to make will be found in my various minutes written from the places visited, viz. Nos. 25 to 28, 39, 41 to 44, 54A, and 64.

I now desire to bring together the main points in a synoptical shape, embodying in this minute the latest information received by me as to the result of the orders I gave and the recommendations I made in the minutes above cited.

2. There are four districts belonging to this division, in all of which distress, more or less, is anticipated, namely, Bhagulpore, Purneah, Monghyr, and the Sonthal Pergunnahs. I have marched through the worst parts of Bhagulpore and Purneah, and I have passed by one of the worst parts of Monghyr.

3. The area and population may be thus stated:—

District.	Area in square miles.	Population.
Bhagulpore	4,327	1,826,300
Purneah	4,957	1,714,800
Monghyr	3,913	1,812,900
Sonthal Pergunnahs	5,488	1,259,300
Total	18,685	6,613,300

4. The numbers of persons whom I have, in consultation with the local authorities, estimated as likely to require assistance from Government during the period of severest scarcity, together with the proportion between those numbers and the total population concerned, are as follows:—

District.	Number of people likely to need assistance.	Percentage on population concerned.
Bhagulpore	274,650	50 per cent. on 342,936 30 „ „ 344,587
Purneah	240,000	30 „ „ 364,266 15 „ „ 527,051 and 50,000 souls for rest of the district.
Monghyr	172,000	40 per cent. on 430,000
Sonthal Pergunnahs	60,000	25 „ „ 240,000
Total	746,650	

5. The quantities of grain which I have recommended to be provided, and the quantities which have arrived in the several districts, are as follow:—

District.	Amount recommended. Mds.	Arrived in district. Mds.
Bhagulpore	730,000	174,550
Purneah	650,000	345,000
Monghyr	378,000	212,000*
Sonthal Pergunnahs	135,000	10,000
Total	1,893,000	741,550

The grain consists almost entirely of rice.

6. I have, in communication with the local authorities, fixed the relief circles for the distressed tracts in Bhagulpore, Purneah, and the Sonthal Pergunnahs. The Commissioner fixed the circles in the Monghyr district after consulting carefully with me. The numbers are as below:—

District.	Number of relief circles.
Bhagulpore	7
Purneah	8
Monghyr	4
Sonthal Pergunnahs	2
Total	21

7. For the management of these circles the following establishments have been made up:—

Districts.	European supervising officers.	Circle officers.	Native officers.	Total.
Bhagulpore	3	7	14	24
Purneah	2	8	16	26
Monghyr	2	4	8	14
Sonthal Pergunnahs	1	2	4	7
Total	8	21	42	71

These establishments are in addition to the regular civil establishments of the district, who all assist in relief which is an integral part of the district work.

8. The relief works consist chiefly of roads (earth-work) and of tanks (excavation). The tanks are scattered all over the country, and I cannot give their number; but the length of the roads projected may be set down thus:—

District.	Length of relief roads in miles.
Bhagulpore	215
Purneah	505
Monghyr	254
Sonthal Pergunnahs	230
Total	1,204

9. The number of relief laborers are given below:—

District.	Number of relief laborers.
Bhagulpore	21,000
Purneah	12,000
Monghyr	12,000
Sonthal Pergunnahs	2,100
Total	47,100

10. I have, in communication with the Commissioner, proposed that the rate of payment for unskilled labour should be 1¼ annas for a man per diem, with proportionately less amount for women and children, and that 2 annas per diem should be given, under a system of task-work, to the more skilled or stronger laborers.

11. There is the following extra establishment employed for relief works:—

District.	Superintending Engineers.	Executive Engineers.	Assistant Engineers.	Overseers.
Bhagulpore	1	0	2	7
Purneah	0	1	3	8
Monghyr	0	0	1	4
Sonthal Pergunnahs	0	0	1	0
Total	1	1	7	19

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* Including 20,000 maunds stored by the Durbhunga Raj (under Court of Wards) at Kharrukpore.

These are in addition to the ordinary establishment of public works in the district, all of whom aid in the operations of relief so far as they can.

12. The number of grain depôts may be stated thus :—

District.	Number of Grain Depôts.
Bhagulpore	32
Purneah	30
Monghyr	13
Sonthal Pergunnahs	11
Total	86

13. The grain is conveyed to the depôts by the following means:—It is carried by the East Indian Railway to the stations of Sahebgunj, Colgong, Sooltangunj, and Monghyr, all on the south or right bank of the Ganges. From Sahebgunj it is carried across the Ganges by steamer, and from the other stations by boats or barges to points on the north or left bank of the Ganges, whence it is carried to its various destinations by carts.

14. The transport service consists of the following number of carts and country boats or barges:—

District.	Carts.	Draught Bullocks.	Cartmen.	Country Boats or Barges.	Steamers.
Bhagulpore	8,000	17,000	8,000	151	—
Purneah	8,000	17,000	8,000	200	1
Mongha	2,000	4,000	2,000	39	—
Sonthal Pergunnahs	200	400	200	—	—
Total	18,200	38,400	18,200	390	1

15. Zemindars and traders have been repeatedly invited to take advances from Government, the former to enable them to assist their ryots, the latter to enable them to import grain for sale. The result is that up to 28th March the following sums have been taken approximately:—

District.	By Zemindars for ryots.	By Traders for importation.	Total.
Bhagulpore	37,400	68,000	1,05,500
Purneah	32,150	60,700	92,850
Monghyr	11,300	56,800	68,100
Sonthal Pergunnahs	—	—	—
Total	80,850	1,85,500	2,66,350

Government advances to ryots in Kissengunge (Purneah) for the purchase of seed-grain, or for subsistence, have also been authorised.

16. Returns made up to 28th March show that the following numbers of persons were in receipt of gratuitous relief from Government:—

In Bhagulpore	1,300
„ Purneah	5,335
„ Monghyr	1,603
„ Sonthal Pergunnahs	—
Total	8,238

17. I have, on the recommendation of the local authorities, ordered the sale of Government grain at the rate of 12 seers to the rupee at the depôts in the thannahs of Bulrampore, of Kudbah, and of Kusbah Amour, in the Purneah district, in the parts of the Soopole and Muddehpoora sub-divisions of the Bhagulpore district, and at certain points in the Monghyr district.

18. In concluding this minute, I desire to cordially acknowledge the assistance I have received in my inquiries and proceedings from Mr. G. N. Barlow, the Commissioner, and to express my confidence in his ability to deal effectively and promptly with any difficulty that may arise in connection with the scarcity.

19. I also desire to bring to the notice of Government the very valuable services of Mr. H. Hankey, C.S., the Special Superintendent of Transport, both as regards the collection of country carriage under direct agency and the management of large contracts for the transport of Government grain.

MINUTE by the Honourable SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, K.C.S.I., No. 66, dated Bhagulpore, the 28th March 1874.

My minutes Nos. 52, 63, and 65 of 18th, 27th, and 28th March, present an abstract of what has been recommended, ordered and done during my tours through the divisions or Commissionerships of Patna, of Bhagulpore, and of Rajshahye; separate figures in those minutes are given for each district wherein severe distress is anticipated, and a total for each division. I now desire to draw up a brief resumé, giving separate figures for each of the divisions above-named, and a grand total for so much of Bengal and Behar as I have visited.

2. The total area and population of the three divisions is as follows:—

Division or Commissionership.	Total area in sq. miles.	Total population.
Patna	23,732	13,122,743
Bhagulpore	18,685	6,613,358
Rajshahye	17,694	8,893,738
Total	60,111	28,629,839

3. But it is only within certain tracts in each division that distress is anticipated. I give below the area and population of the districts or tracts in each division wherein severe distress is looked for, together with the proportion borne by the distressed parts to the whole of each division as respects area and population:—

Division or Commissionership.	Likely to be distressed.		Per-centage of distressed tracts on total.	
	Area of tracts.	Population of tracts.	Area.	Population.
Patna	16,666	8,124,164	70·22 per cent.	61·90 per cent.
Bhagulpore	7,623	2,957,607	40·8 „	44·72 „
Rajshahye	8,098	3,491,936	45·76 „	39·26 „
Total	32,387	14,573,707		

4. The number of persons which I have taken as being likely to need assistance from Government during the worst period of the scarcity, together with the per-centage of those numbers on the total population and on the population of the distressed tracts, are given below.

Division or Commissionership.	Number of people estimated to require aid at worst period.	Per-centage on distressed population.	Per-centage on total population.
Patna	1,794,000	22·08 per cent.	13·67 per cent.
Bhagulpore	746,650	25·24 „	11·29 „
Rajshahye	802,863*	20·87 „	8·2 „
Total	3,432,713		

* Including 44,000 persons in the Rajshahye district and, say, 30,000 on the Northern Bengal State Railway.

5. The following figures give particulars of the quantities of grain which I have recommended to be provided by Government, and the quantities which have already arrived in the districts:—

Division or Commissionership.	Provision recommended.	Arrived in the districts.
Patna	6,567,000	2,463,000
Bhagulpore	1,893,000	741,550
Rajshahye	2,090,000†	370,000
Total	10,550,000	3,574,550

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† Including the provision of 200,000 maunds for the Rajshahye district and the Northern Bengal State Railway.

6. The number of relief circles established, together with the numbers of officers allotted thereto, is given below:—

Division or Commissionership.	Number of circles.	Relief Officers.			Superintending Engineer.	Executive and Assistant Engineers.	Public works overseers.	Native doctors and hospital Assistants.
		European Superior Officers.	Circle Officers.	Native Officers.				
Patna - - -	39	8	41	90	1	10	40	74
Bhagulpore - -	21	8	21	42	1	8	19	18
Rajshahye - -	31	19	31	15	1	—	28	31
Total -	91	35	93	147	*3	18	87	123

* One Chief Engineer has since been appointed.

This special relief establishment is over and above the ordinary civil establishment of the districts, all of which aid in the distribution of relief, which is an integral part of the administration of the various districts. Besides these, too, is the establishment on the Soane canal, the Gunduk embankments, and the Northern Bengal State Railway.

7. The banks and other miscellaneous relief works cannot be stated numerically; but the length of the relief roads, of the Soane canal, of the Gunduk embankment, and of the Northern Bengal State Railway within the distressed tracts is given below in miles:—

Division or Commissionership.	Relief roads.	Soane Canal.	Gunduk Embankments.	Northern Bengal (State) Railway.	Temporary Telegraph.
Patna - -	2,477	380	90	—	272
Bhagulpore - -	1,204	—	—	—	20
Rajshahye - -	1,490	—	—	178	44
Total - -	5,171	380	90	178	336

8. The number of relief labourers as given in my several minutes may be thus abstracted:—

Division or Commissionership.	Persons employed on relief works.
Patna - - - - - - - -	676,000
Bhagulpore - - - - - - -	47,000
Rajshahye - - - - - - - -	63,700†
Total - -	785,800

† Including 7,000 labourers on the Northern Bengal (State) Railway.

9. The number of grain depôts opened, at all of which there are now stores of grain, is given below:—

Division or Commissionership.	Grain Depôts.
Patna - - - - - - - - -	177
Bhagulpore - - - - - - - -	86
Rajshahye - - - - - - - -	61
Total - -	324

10. The means at present employed in the transport of Government grain are tabulated below, the figures being, however, only approximate:—

Division or Commissionership.	European Officers.	Carts.	Cartmen.	Draught Bullocks.	Camels.	Pack Animals.	Country boats.	Steamers	Number of main routes of transport by land and water.
Patna - -	21	71,000	73,675	143,000	2,000	3,000	1,200	5	5
Bhagulpore -	7	18,200	18,200	38,400	—	—	890	1	4
Rajshayhe - -	5	9,200	9,200	18,400	—	—	720	3	11
	33	98,400	101,075	199,800	2,000	3,000	2,810	9	20
Government reserve	12	4,250	4,250	10,000	—	6,000	—	—	—
Total -	45	102,650	105,325	209,800	2,000	9,000	2,810	9	20

In order to strengthen the principal line of transit in Eastern Tirhoot, the railway is being constructed from Chumpta to Durbhunga, a distance of 50 miles.

11. Advances of money have been obtained from Government in the following sums :—

Division or Commissionership.	By Zemindars for assistance of their tenantry.	By traders for importation of grain.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Patna - - - - -	4,51,196	7,97,650	12,48,846
Bhagulpore - - - - -	80,850	1,85,500	2,66,350
Rajshahye - - - - -	90,000	46,000	1,36,000
Total -	6,22,046	10,29,150	16,51,196

Advances have also been authorised to ryots, both for their subsistence during the time which must elapse before their autumn and winter harvests are reaped, and for seed-grain to sow the autumn crops. But there are as yet no returns of the amounts of such advances made.

12. The approximate number of recipients of gratuitous relief from Government are :—

In Patna Division or Commissionership - - - - -	5,400
„ Bhagulpore Division „ - - - -	8,200
„ Rajshahye „ „ - - - -	6,400
Total -	20,000

13. In the three divisions the rates of wages for relief labor range from two to three annas per diem where there is task work, and one to two annas where there is not. The above rates are for men; proportionally lesser rates are allowed for women and children.

APPENDIX E.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 9th April 1874.

READ—

The Honourable Sir Richard Temple's Minute, No. 62, dated 26th March, upon the subject of the block at the Patna Railway Station.

The joint report by Messrs. Hewitt, Mangles, and Bisset upon the points referred for enquiry.

RESOLUTION.—The three officers deputed to make this enquiry were all thoroughly conversant with the circumstances of the case; they had the advantage of free communication with the railway officers upon the spot, and they have therefore been able to make a final report without any delay whatever.

2. The fact that there has been a serious block of private traffic at Patna Station during the last few weeks, and that there is, under present circumstances, no security against the recurrence of such a block, is set forth clearly in Sir Richard Temple's Minute. The present report does not touch upon the circumstances of the recent block, but is confined to practical suggestions for the prevention of its recurrence. The report shows that it is inexpedient and would hamper the traffic, at once to take in hand the whole length of the long-discussed road to the Patna ghât station.

3. The committee recommends—

First.—That the short length of this road from the ghât station premises, the point where two roads bifurcate, be at once taken in hand and carried through. If this short length was done, then one of the narrow roads at the point of bifurcation could be kept for the ingress, and one for the egress of carts going to the ghât station. From the point of bifurcation to the station-yard, the new broad road would enable carts to pass each other easily.

The report explains why a new siding could not usefully be put in at a point between the city and the Bhaugulpore stations, and the committee recommend—

Secondly.—That a siding be put in and worked as a part of the city station, and a point on the branch line, to the Patna ghât, within a quarter of a mile of the city station. At this point there is an open space which could be easily converted into a roomy station-yard.

4. The committee report that the Commissioner and the Magistrate are ready at once to open out roads of approach to the new siding; and they suggest that obstructions be removed from the city station-yard, and that additional mechanical facilities be afforded for unloading bags off wagons on the railway bank.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor understands that the East Indian Railway Agency have agreed to carry out at once the committee's recommendation so far as the putting down sidings, extending the stations, and clearing the station-yard is concerned; orders have, the Lieutenant-Governor is informed, been issued to the Railway Company's Engineers on the spot to give effect at once to the committee's recommendations; and Colonel Taylor, the Consulting Engineer, has already started for Patna to see to carrying out these orders. The local civil officers have been directed by telegraph to make over the land for the siding with the least possible delay, and to prepare for opening out roads of approach to the new station.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor is now pleased to direct that copies of the committee's report be forwarded to the Commissioner of Patna, with an intimation that the committee's recommendations are all approved by the Lieutenant-Governor after consultation with Sir Richard Temple. Steps should be taken at once to carry out the committee's *first* recommendation, summarised at paragraph 3 above, to make over the land for the new siding and station as quickly as possible, and at once to open roads, of sufficient breadth to the new siding. The Consulting Engineer will be requested to state whether the land for this siding is required temporarily or permanently. And the Commissioner will be requested to report upon—

(*a.*) The cost of opening the approaches to the new siding, and upon the best way of meeting that cost;

(*b.*) The cost, &c., of opening out the short length of the ghât station road, and

(*c.*) The best time and way of opening out the remainder of the ghât station road, and the sources from which the cost thereof should be met.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard.
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 2261—S.R.

Copy, with copy of the committee's report forwarded to the Commissioner, Patna, with reference to paragraph 6.

No. 2262—S.R.

Copy forwarded to the Consulting Engineer, with request that he will state for how long the land for the new siding and yard will be required.

No. 2263—S.R.

Copy forwarded to the Public Works Department of this Government.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. Bernard,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 9th April 1874.

Enclosure 3 to the 15th Special Narrative.

Comparative return of crime in the distressed districts for March 1874.

Districts.	Crimes committed in March 1874.				Total for March 1874.	Total for March 1873.	Total for March 1872.	Remarks.
	Dacoity.	Robbery.	Theft.	House-breaking.				
Moorshedabad	9	2	114	68	193	128	116	
Dinagepore	1	—	63	87	101	56	49	
Maldah	2	1	41	19	63	54	27	
Rajshahye	—	—	99	91	190	146	124	
Rungpore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Not received.
Bogra	2	1	37	40	80	66	44	
Patna	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Not received.
Gya	2	3	121	218	344	273	206	
Shahabad	1	—	79	138	218	130	97	
Tirhoot	—	—	—	—	209	118	—	Incomplete.
Sarun	—	1	75	144	220	245	232	
Chumparum	—	—	63	25	88	66	55	
Monghyr	2	1	23	26	52	28	61	
Bhagulpore	—	—	64	37	101	46	79	
Purneah	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Not received.
Total	19	9	779	843	1,859	1,356	1,090	

Enclosure No. 4.

RESOLUTION.

Scarcity and Relief Department.

Calcutta, the 14th April 1874.

Read—

The District Narratives of the Patna Division for the fortnight ending on the 4th April 1874.

1. *Patna.*—Prices have fallen in the Patna District, and the yield of the spring crops has been much larger than was expected. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to know that the suggestions, made by a committee of which Mr. Mangles was a member, for relieving the block of traffic at the Patna city station are being carried out. The Lieutenant-Governor is much concerned to hear that the coarse up-country grains in the Patna store-houses are being injured by weevils; he approves of their being sent across the Ganges for immediate use in North Behar. In other districts where there has been a demand for grain, the coarser grains have, under the orders of Government, been sold; and in the Bhagulpore Division the grain which was getting spoilt has been sold at a reduced rate. The Lieutenant-Governor will now cause the issue of separate

orders directing that the coarse grains in store in any distressed districts be examined, and sold off at once if they are getting spoiled. It will be necessary for the Tirhoot officers to watch carefully the storage and keeping of the northern grains now being delivered at Futwah ghât.

2. *Gya.*—From the Gya district, also, it is reported that the yield of the spring crops is very much better than had been anticipated. The Magistrate-Collector concurs in the view, which he believes the people of the district to hold, that Gya will not be afflicted by "anything like famine" if the autumn crops are good. So long as there is no general distress, and so long as the invalid gangs suffice to provide for the weaker laborers, the Lieutenant-Governor approves of Mr. Palmer's adherence to the payment-by-results system. But the progress of the works must be closely watched, so that no weakly may be turned off, or left with insufficient for their maintenance. As yet it will not be possible to send further grain-supplies to Gya, while the needs of North Tirhoot are so very urgent. 196 persons appear to be daily in receipt of charitable relief, and the arrangements for providing this relief appear to be sufficient for present needs. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to learn that the people of Gya have contributed liberally (subscribing Rs. 18,254) towards the district relief fund.

3. *Shahabad.*—The account of supplies of crops and of prices is favorable. It would be convenient that the Magistrate-Collector of Gya and Shahabad should, as do all other Magistrates, note the daily average of work-people for the fortnight under section B, instead of referring to a return which is to be sent some days after to another department of Government; the Narratives would then be complete in themselves. The Lieutenant-Governor can hardly think that a rich open district like Shahabad cannot produce enough carts to carry promptly the small quantity of grain allotted to Shahabad, as well as to lift the Sarun supply from the railway station to the river. All other districts have, by offering fairly liberal rates of hire, educed every ample means of transport, and the Lieutenant-Governor anticipates that Mr. Alexander will, if any necessity occurs, be equally successful. Charitable relief is, it seems, being given daily to 239 persons. The applicants are only professional beggars and persons who suffer from physical infirmities.

4. *Tirhoot.*—Private supplies of grain are said to be insufficient in parts of the North-western sub-divisions, and prices are very high, notwithstanding that Government stores have been opened largely for sales to the public. In Mudhoobunnee the effect of opening the Government stores appears to have been satisfactory; and the Lieutenant-Governor would wish in future Narratives to have more complete information regarding the conduct and effect of sales to the public. Arrangements will be made to send up to Durbhunga and Mudhoobunnee the required quantity of copper coin as soon as possible. The condition of the people in Seetamurhee appears to be tolerably good; and it is very satisfactory to receive such assurances as Mr. Macdonnell gives of the improvement in the condition of the people of Bahera. With regard to Mr. Magrath's remarks (paragraph 12 of the Narrative), the Lieutenant-Governor would observe that a sub-divisional officer, if he find more assistance absolutely necessary, must at once represent such needs, and must not content himself with vague references in his fortnightly Narrative. Mr. Magrath is in frequent personal communication with the Additional Commissioner, and he must report at once if further superintendence is required.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor sees the difficulty which prevents the Saraisur tobacco-growers from disposing of their produce, and he will await anxiously any practicable recommendations the Commissioner may make upon the subject. He would hope that the transport department might be able to help dealers with backward empty carts or wagons on the Durbhunga railway, if only purchasers will come forward, and efficient arrangements are made to prevent delay in putting the tobacco on vehicles. At present, Sir Richard Temple would not entertain a proposal for Government to buy the tobacco, though he would quite approve of advances being made through zemindars on its security.

6. It is satisfactory that Mr. Worsley should be able to report that the condition of people in the head-quarter sub-division is as yet good. Of the deaths reported in paragraph 16, as having occurred in the Mudhoobunnee sub-division, it would seem that perhaps five may have been really due to privation. No famine-deaths are reported from other sub-divisions.

7. The figures given for relief laborers would seem to be wrongly copied; and they differ, moreover, from the numbers telegraphed from the sub-division on about the same date that the Narrative was written. Mr. Magrath telegraphed on the 6th April 250,000 people on the Mudhoobunnee works, whereas the present Narrative gives 192,000. Possibly, the latter figures may be the daily average for the fortnight.

8. The amount of grain stored in Durbhunga is still very small compared to the allotment and the requirements of this great sub-division. Next Narrative will, it is hoped, show that the Durbhunga railway has begun to pour grain into the sub-division.

9. The Lieutenant-Governor does not fully understand Mr. Magrath's remarks at paragraph 23, and he begs that the question of the best way of making advances to ryots may be brought up before him when he reaches Durbhunga this week. He wishes advances to be given to substantial ryots who may be in need, but he desires that such advances may be in grain rather than in money.

10. On the whole, the Lieutenant-Governor is satisfied with the progress made in getting the relief organisation thoroughly to work. In regard to the plan, explained at paragraph 30, of paying salaries to the assistants of planters who may efficiently supervise extensive relief operations, separate orders have been issued on a reference made by the Commissioner. Meanwhile, the arrangement described at paragraph 30 may stand until the Commissioner reports it for sanction with his recommendation.

11. *Sarun.*—The bazars seem to be on the whole well supplied, and at only one mart out of thirty is Indian-corn quoted at a dearer rate than 14 seers per rupee. Mr. Drummond is dis-

posed (paragraph 14) to take a less hopeful view of the spring crop yield than he did before, and it is clear that the hail-storm of the middle of March did much destruction over a considerable area. The condition of the people, however, in the parts where failure of crops was greatest has not grown worse during the fortnight; though the numbers coming upon the relief works have risen during the fortnight from 90,000 to 135,000. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that misunderstanding, such as is alluded to at paragraph 29 of the Narrative, will not recur; if the Wards' estate where relief works are required cannot afford the outlay, the works must be continued from Government funds, and people must be on no account turned away. Any question as to the source from which the outlay is to be met can be subsequently discussed and settled.

12. The question, raised at paragraph 33 of the Narrative, as to Government taking over certain extra grain (28,000 maunds), ordered for miscellaneous Wards' estates in Sarun, can be settled when the Commissioner's recommendation shall be received. Meanwhile, the grain can be received, transported, and stored as a part of the Government allotment for the district, and the Calcutta grain officers will be directed, pending further orders, to reckon this quantity (28,000 maunds) as receipts towards the Sarun allotment.

13. The Lieutenant-Governor notices with satisfaction that the Magistrate-Collector of Sarun continues to give large advances to zemindars for the maintenance of their ryots. The Lieutenant-Governor would wish that these advances should for the future be make, as far as possible, in grain, at the rate of Rs. 2-8 a maund for Burmah cargo rice, and Rs. 3-4 a maund for the better kinds of clean rice.

14. Seeing that the system of relief works has shielded the district so far from general distress, the Lieutenant-Governor will not press the Magistrate-Collector to make more extended or elaborate arrangements for charitable relief, beyond what is described in his paragraphs 36-38.

15. *Chumparun.*—The Chumparun Narrative is, the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to find, very satisfactory. The people, whether on the works or in their villages, are getting into better condition; few cases of emaciation are seen, and no cases of starvation are heard of. Supplies of grain are, with help of the Government stores which have been opened in the worst tracts, sufficient, though clean rice is nowhere selling cheaper than 11 seers the rupee. The Lieutenant-Governor quite approves of the action of Mr. Oldham and some of the other relief officers, in exacting light task-work from the work-people who have not recovered their strength and condition.

The quantity of grain finally stored in the district is now 500,000 maunds, and should suffice for the work-people, and for advances to ryots. The Lieutenant-Governor is very anxious that this business of making advances to ryots should be pressed on systematically and actively; and he has been much interested in reading Mr. Howe's account of the system under which he makes his advances. Seeing how very badly off the ryots in Ramnuggur are said to be, and how very doubtful (the areas given at page 4 as the total spring and cheena breadths in a large tract are almost incredibly small) the prospect of the millet crops is, the grain advances to ryots cannot be begun too early. Those who happily have grain of their own will not take the Government grain when they know they have to repay it. If the difficulty about material security for advances be very great, the relief officer must be content with the security of the village headman, or the collective security of a body of ryots.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 2399—S.R.

COPY, with copy of the District Narratives, forwarded to the Commissioner of Patna, whose attention is invited to paragraphs 1, 5, and 11; to the Relief Commissioner Durbhunga, whose attention is invited to paragraphs 4 and 9; to the Commissioners of Rajshahye, Bhagulpore, and the Relief Commissioner, Rajshahye, whose attention is drawn to the remarks in Patna Narrative, about injury done to the coarser grains in store, and who are requested to take steps for giving effect to the orders in paragraph 1 for the examination and disposal of these grains; and to the Magistrate-Collectors of Patna, Gya, Shahabad, Tirhoot, Sarun, and Chumparun.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 14th April 1874.

No. B, dated Bankipore, the 5th April 1874.

From A. C. MANGLES, ESQ., Collector of Patna, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit the following narrative for the fortnight ending Saturday the 4th instant.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. The bazars at the head-quarters and the interior of the district are still well supplied with grain of all descriptions, and I have not heard of there being any deficiency anywhere.

3. I have during the fortnight been busily engaged in endeavouring to clear the block at the Patna city and ghât stations, and I am glad to say that I have to a certain extent succeeded in doing so, inasmuch as the Company have been able to unload all their wagons, and none are now standing under load. To do this, however, I have been obliged, besides visiting the stations myself, to depute Mr. Assistant Magistrate Allen to the Patna city station, and one of my Deputy Magistrates to the ghât station, to look after the railway clerks, and at the same time to see that the mahajuns come to take delivery of their goods. This can hardly be said to be the legitimate work of district officers; but still as I am satisfied that unless there is proper European supervision a block would again occur, I am still rendering the assistance to the Company, in the hope that it will soon take this responsibility upon itself, and appoint officers to settle all disputes arising between the clerks and the mahajuns regarding the charge of demurrage, and the giving and taking delivery of goods.

4. The following were the prices of grain obtaining during the fortnight:—

Patna.	Seers.
Rice, best	11
Rice, common	13
Wheat	16
Barley mixed with gram	21
Jowar	21
Maize	19
Gram	20
Behar.	
Rice, common	12¼
Maize	15
Wheat	13
Barley	17
Gram	17½
Dinapore.	
Rice	11½ to 12¼
Maize	15½ to 17½
Wheat	13 to 15½
Khesaree	18 to 19
Mussoor	18 to 19

No return has been received from Barrh as yet.

5. From the above, it will be seen that the prices of all sorts of grain, not excepting rice, have fallen in the principal marts; and in the mofussil also, owing to the harvesting of the rubbee crops, there has been a slight tendency to cheaper rates, and this even in those parts of the district where we expected to have the greatest distress, the rice and bhadoi crops having been almost failures.

6. We had no rain during the fortnight, and it was not required, as what we wanted was dry weather to allow of the cold-weather crops being cut and harvested. This has now nearly been completed, and the outturn is better than was expected. On this subject the Deputy Collector of Behar writes: "There has been a full 16-anna crop over the land that had been sown with rubbee. "Taking the average of the yield of the former years, this year's produce is by no means less "than three-fourths." In the Barrh sub-division I should reckon the crop as a 14-anna one, and in the Sudder and Dinapore sub-divisions at not less than 12 annas. During the fortnight I deputed one of my Deputy Collectors, Syed Ameer Hossain, to visit the south- and south-west portions of the district, they being the parts concerning which I had the greatest anxiety, and I was glad to learn from him that nowhere had there been less than an 8-anna crop, whilst in some parts there had been full 16 annas.

7. No case of misery or starvation was brought to light during the fortnight; and though the high prices are to a certain extent felt by the lower classes, they have, during the late harvest, been able to collect a certain amount of grain which will assist in keeping them till the next bhadoi crop comes in. There is an abundance of grain in this district; so that all we want is to provide labour, of which there is plenty on our roads for those seeking it.

8. No case of grain-robbery was reported during the fortnight, and the 8 cases of theft were all of a petty nature.

9. The statement of crimes, prescribed by the Government circular of 20th December last, not having yet been received from the District Superintendent, cannot be submitted with this report, but it will be forwarded as soon as possible.

10. 124 emigrants for British Burmah were registered during the fortnight. Of these 75 have already been dispatched to Calcutta, and the remaining 49 will be sent immediately. Of the 124, 56 were residents in this district, 24 of Gya, 14 of Sarun, 10 of Tirhoot, 1 of Chumparun, and 9 came from the North-Western Provinces.

B.—Relief Works.

The daily number of laborers on our relief works and local roads is fast increasing; and now that the harvesting of spring crops has been completed, I expect it will continue to do so. By the latest returns received from the Executive Engineer, which bring us up to the 28th of March, there were 10,015 laborers employed on the different works throughout the district, or some 1,000 in excess of the number reported in my last fortnightly.

12. In my original scheme for relief works, submitted to Government through the Commissioner in December last, I had, in addition to the works on the roads, estimated for Rs. 32,000 to be expended on the excavation of tanks where found necessary; and in my last fortnightly I informed that I had selected the sites for six such tanks. As the work in the fields is now daily becoming shorter, I have applied to the Commissioner for sanction to commence on some of these tanks, and for this purpose have asked that Rs. 10,000 out of Rs. 32,000 estimated may be placed at my disposal.

13. During the fortnight we received Government sanction to the proposed work of reclaiming a large swamp at the back of the Patna city, which work will be taken in hand at once; and as it is to cost some Rs. 50,000, should afford labor to all those seeking it in the city and its surrounding villages for some months to come, or at any rate till the rains, when they will be able to again find employment in the fields.

C.—Transport of Grain.

14. The subjoined figures will show the quantity of grain imported into the district during the fortnight ending the 28th ultimo:—

—	Rice.	Wheat, Oats, and Barley.	Janera.	Other Grains.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
By rail - - -	2,28,472	64,357	62,172	1,81,016
By river - - -	550	100	3,610	1,540
Total -	2,29,092	64,457	65,782	1,82,556

Or a grand total of 5,41,817 maunds, exclusive of wheat, was received at the Futwah branch line for Government, but inclusive of the Government grain received at the Barrh and Mokameh. The figures showing the actual quantity of such Government grain have not been obtained; but it is roughly estimated to have been about 1,50,000 maunds, leaving the balance of 3,91,817 as private importations.

15. During the week ending the 28th ultimo, the private importations at the Patna ghât station have again fallen below those at the Patna city station, as shown by the following figures:—

	Mds.
Patna ghât - - - - - - - -	66,990
Patna city - - - - - - - -	86,252

And I am satisfied that the increase of receipts at the Patna ghât, as shown in my previous narrative, was only owing to the Railway Company having compelled consignees to consign their goods to the ghât during the block, and to ease the city station.

16. Our means of transport continue sufficient to meet all requirements; and now that large batches of bullocks and carts are continually coming from the North-Western Provinces, I hope that I shall not again be compelled to have recourse to our local means of transport in the conveyance of treasure to other districts, and shall be able to leave it entirely for the use of private traders.

17. In my last fortnightly narrative I informed that I had made arrangements for the supply of 85,000 maunds of fodder for Tirhoot, and I have now made other arrangements for another 15,000 maunds, thus completing the lakh which I was called upon to supply. Behar has already commenced sending in its share, consisting of 25,000 maunds to Chumpta, and my supplies for Bunker ghât will begin coming in from to-morrow. I propose starting it for the purpose of weighment, &c., in the old jail buildings at Deegah, which are on the banks of the river, and from whence therefore there will be no difficulty in sending it on to its final destination.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

18. No further supplies of grain have been received in this district, and no alterations have been made in the distribution of that which had been previously stored. All the golahs in the Sudder Sub-division were visited during the fortnight by the Deputy Collector, Syed Ameer Hossain, who has been appointed district grain officer. He reports favorably regarding them; and states that, so far, the grain stored has not been damaged by climate or insects; but I am sorry to say we have not been so fortunate in the Barrh and the Behar Sub-divisions, from whence the sub-divisional officers report that all the coarse grains have been attacked by weevils and other insects, and are fast being destroyed. I have obtained the Commissioner's sanction to sending the Barrh stores across the river to Tirhoot for immediate use, and if the same cannot be done with the grain now in Behar, I will direct the Deputy Collector to sell it for what it will fetch. The Dinapore Sub-divisional officer also reports that his grain has, to some extent, been damaged; and as it is not likely that we shall ever require any of it, I intend asking the Commissioner's sanction to be allowed to dispose of all the up-country grain assigned to this district.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

19. No advances for purchase of grains were made during the fortnight. I have already expended the sum allotted me for the purpose ; and so long as our markets continue as well stocked as they are at present, I do not consider that any further advances are necessary, especially as those who have taken them and have purchased grain find considerable difficulty in disposing of it, as the prices in the local markets are quite as low as they could afford to sell at.

20. The sum of Rs. 9,500 was advanced during the fortnight to different zemindars in the Behar Sub-division for agricultural improvements. Some other applications were received but rejected, as from inquiry it was elicited that the money was not intended to be spent on the works entered in the petitions, but either to cover law expenses or to be used in paying debts, &c.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

21. Nothing was done under this head during the fortnight, there having been no necessity for it. Some of the native gentlemen, both in the city and in the interior of the district, have opened almshouses, which at present meet all requirements.

No. 507F, dated Gya, the 6th April 1874.

From A. V. PALMER, Esq., Collector of Gya, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Relief and Scarcity Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit my fortnightly report on relief and scarcity in Gya district for the fortnight ending Saturday 4th April.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. The Bazars continue to be sufficiently supplied with food-grains of all sorts. The annexed table will show the reported price-currents during the past fortnight. It will be observed that food-grains are generally somewhat cheaper than they were a fortnight ago. This is the result of the reaping of the spring harvest, some of which produce has already come into the market.

3. The rates, as here detailed, may be taken as being the highest rates that obtain, and there is no doubt that agriculturists and field labourers obtain their supplies very much below the rates here stated

Bazars.	Wheat.		Barley.		Rice, best sort.		Rice, common.		Millet.		Maize.		Gram.	
	Week ending 4th April.	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 4th April.	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 4th April.	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 4th April.	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 4th April.	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 4th April.	Week ending 21st March.	Week ending 4th April.	Week ending 21st March.
	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
Gya - -	11 8	10 4	17 8	17 4	8 0	8 0	10 0	10 0	15 4	15 0	14 0	14 0	14 8	14 8
Nowada - -	13 8	11 8	18 0	16 0	—	—	11 4	11 12	15 0	14 0	13 0	15 0	16 0	15 8
Jehanabad -	13 0	13 0	15 0	15 0	9 0	9 0	10 0	10 0	—	—	13 12	13 12	16 0	16 0
Aurungabad -	12 10	12 6	16 4	15 0	9 12	9 12	10 12	10 12	15 8	14 8	15 8	14 8	15 10	15 0
Daoodnuggur -	13 0	12 0	17 8	16 0	10 8	10 0	11 4	10 8	—	—	16 0	15 0	17 0	16 0

4. There has been no rainfall within the district during the past fortnight. The weather has been everything that could be desired for gathering in the harvest. The sufficient rain in February brought new life to the rubbee crops, which resulted in the ears of corn being well-filled and the crops heavy. From every part of my district I am assured that the outturn has realized the most sanguine anticipations. Since the heavy rain in February we have had occasional showers up to within the last fortnight, during which bright weather and a wholesome westerly wind have prevailed.

5. I dare say that a more favourable weather for the harvest could not have been. For the past month at least I have neither seen nor heard of caterpillars, blight, or such like crop-destroyers.

6. I am happy to be able still to pronounce the condition of the people to be generally good.

7. It is extraordinary, with all the preparations around and the unusual action of the Government in importing food, to notice the apathetic character of the people. They at any rate have no gloomy anticipations, nor do the higher classes of natives anticipate anything like a famine. In this view I concur. I think that after the rubbee crops are threshed and stored, we must be prepared to find labor for the laboring and other classes, as distinct from agriculturists.

8. That the time has not yet arrived is clear from the indifference with which laborers come to our works, and the terms they wish to enforce before working at them.

9. No cases of misery or starvation have happily yet been heard of. Measures are being taken by which the state of each tract is ascertained, and where any real distress is apparent immediate relief has hitherto been afforded.

10. Grain thefts and robberies are not materially increasing, but offences against property generally, as previously noticed, have been steadily increasing for several months past.

11. The annexed comparative statements will exemplify at a glance what I have just stated.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of CRIME in which Grain was stolen in the Gya District for the month of March 1874, as compared with the corresponding month of 1873 and 1872.

—	Theft in which Grain was stolen, Sections 379 and 380.					House-breaking in which Grain was stolen, Section 457.					Total of all Crimes.				
	Up to Rs. 10.			Above Rs. 10 and below Rs. 30.	Above Rs. 30.	Up to Rs. 10.			Above Rs. 10 and below Rs. 30.	Above Rs. 30.	Up to Rs. 10.			Above Rs. 10 and below Rs. 30.	Above Rs. 30.
	1874.	1873.	1872.	1874.	1874.	1874.	1873.	1872.	1874.	1874.	1874.	1873.	1872.	1874.	1874.
Gya Sub-division	27	10	3	—	—	5	3	1	—	—	32	13	4	—	—
Nowada Sub-division	16	5	1	2	1	1	1	—	—	1	17	6	1	2	2
Aurungabad Sub-division	14	2	1	3	10	2	—	—	1	—	16	4	1	4	10
Jehanabad Sub-division	11	4	4	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	12	6	5	—	—
Total	68	21	9	5	11	9	6	2	1	1	77	29	11	6	12

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT showing the Number of true Cases of Dacoity, Robbery, Theft and House-breaking in the Gya District for the month of March, as compared with the number of such cases in the corresponding month of 1873 and 1872.

—	Dacoity.		Robbery.			Theft.			House-breaking.						Total of all Crimes.		
	Heading Nos. 30 and 31 of Crime Return AI.		Heading Nos. 32 and 33 of Crime Return AI.			Heading No. 48 of Crime Return AI., including Cattle Theft.			Heading Nos. 35 and 42 of Crime Return AI.								
	1873.	1872.	1874.	1873.	1872.	1874.	1873.	1872.	1874.		1873.		1872.		1874.	1873.	1872.
									With Theft.	Without Theft.	With Theft.	Without Theft.	With Theft.	Without Theft.			
Gya Sub-division	2	1	1	1	1	57	24	12	39	68	29	63	32	38	165	119	84
Nowada Sub-division.	—	—	—	1	—	24	9	11	13	12	8	18	—	11	49	36	22
Aurungabad Sub-division.	—	—	1	2	—	26	9	13	41	11	34	13	16	12	79	58	41
Jehanabad Sub-division.	—	—	1	—	1	14	12	7	18	16	15	33	27	24	49	60	59
Total	2	1	3	4	2	121	54	43	111	107	86	127	75	85	342	273	206

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

12. The statement to be submitted two days hence to the Public Works Department of the Bengal Secretariat will, at a glance, give all detailed information of numbers of work-people employed. This information I have not by me at present in a complete form.

13. The marking out of the Puraya road has not yet been reported completed. I have begged the Executive Engineer to hasten it as much as possible, as I am anxious to commence work there by the 10th of this month. During the fortnight the Warisligunge road has been started in the Nowada Sub-division, an invalid gang having at the outset been employed.

14. There appears to be some hesitation with laborers to do work on the payment-by-result system. This I attribute to one or two cases in which duffadars on invalid gangs have freely dealt out daily payments without in the least degree exercising themselves in seeing that a fair amount of labour was given in return.

15. I have very great difficulty in obtaining competent duffadars, and also in getting them promptly looked after. Food in some cases is obtainable at a greater distance than I should wish; but many laborers bring their food with them; and as long as the laborers themselves are content with the existing arrangements, it is impolitic to make fresh ones, which, though for their benefit, would not be so construed, and might serve as a ground for discontent. The Magistrate of Jehanabad asserts that the able-bodied persons coming for work object to the payment-by-result system, inasmuch as they distrust the duffadars and Government.

16. If the system as indicated in my last report is followed and the work measured up every other day, and these measurements be again tested by a superior officery every 7 or 15 days, it is simply impossible that cause for distrust should exist, and I am quite satisfied that, if the sub-divisional and other officer superintending the work will personally take a little trouble to set the work going, this form of relief is by far the best adapted for able-bodied men seeking employment. These men should not be permitted to overcrowd the invalid gangs, the cases of the two sets of men being altogether different.

C.—Transport of Food.

17. The annexed table will give in a compact and condensed form an approximate account of food-supplies privately imported during the fortnight.

Private Importations.

Bazars.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, best sort.	Rice, common.	Millet.	Maize.	Gram.	Total.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Gya - - -	476	241	193	1,404	36	228	372	2,950
Nowadee - - -	—	—	—	12	—	—	35	47
Jehanabad - -	65	75	23	64	—	52	74	353
Aurungabad - -	154	—	15	300	—	8	145	622
Daoodnuggur - -	2,300	600	1,700	1,700	—	100	1,200	7,600
Total - -	2,995	916	1,931	3,480	36	388	1,826	11,572

18. This gives a total of 11,572 maunds against 9,599 maunds imported during the previous fortnight. This increase of 1,973 maunds is satisfactory.

19. Similarly there has been an improvement in the private importations reported in the Sudder Bazar of Gya as hereunder shewn:—

Bazars.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, best sort.	Rice, common.	Millet.	Maize.	Gram.	Total.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Fortnight ending 4th April	476	241	193	1,404	36	228	372	2,950
Do. do. 21st March	477	137	65	1,212	22	367	217	2,497

20. There is at present a diminution in the supply of carts. This is attributed, and rightly so I think, to two causes.

1st.—The very high rates and quasi-impressment of carts entering Patna for service in carriage of grain to the north of the Ganges.

2ndly.—To the large number of carts at present secured by the Opium Department for conveying opium jars to the Patna godown. The opium season in this district has been a bumper one. I trust that the latter cause will cease to exist before I am required to transport from Patna my newly allotted supply of grain.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

21. The following is a summary of grain already stored in the district:—

	Mds.
In Sudder sub-division - - - - - - -	46,490
In Jehanabad - - - - - - -	34,850
In Nowada - - - - - - - -	35,116
In Aurungabad - - - - - - -	28,800
Total - - - -	1,45,256

22. I have about 5,000 maunds still to receive of my former allotments (1,50,000 maunds), which I have requested Mr. Toynbee to send to Bankipore. Under Sir Richard Temple's instructions a further allotment of 70,000 maunds has been advised, and which I have distributed thus:—

Sub-divisions.	Grain.	Rice.	Total.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Sudder Sub-division -	10,000	25,000	35,000
Jehanabad „ -	5,000	5,000	10,000
Nowada „ —	5,000	10,000	15,000
Aurungabad „ - -	5,000	5,000	10,000

23. And I have requested the Commissioner and Mr. Toynbee to send these quantities to the Railway Stations, Bihta, Bankipore, and Buktearpore, respectively.

24. I do not apprehend that it will be necessary to incur further expense for housing this grain. Of the 70,000 maunds, 50,000 will go to Gya and Nowada, at both of which places I have arranged with the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent for accommodation.

E.—Advances to Private Parties.

25. These advances are—

1st.—For purchase of grain.
2nd.—For land improvement.

1st.—*For purchase of grain.*—During the fortnight there have been three applications; of these one has been granted and two are under inquiry.

2nd.—*For land improvement.*—The first of the annexed statements will show the transactions during the past fortnight, and the second what the total number of applications have been and how disposed of.

Advances taken for Land Improvements.

Name of Applicant.	Nature and Locality of Work for which Advance has been applied for.	Amount of Advance applied for.	Period within which the Work is to be completed.
		Rs.	
Mungar Mahto ryot	1 Pucca well in Dhanonte	125	4 months.
Juglall Singh ryot	Repairs to a pucca well and embankment in Saidpore Chuk Zubra Pergunnah Okree.	50	3 do.
Fakeera Khan, Soochit Singh and Lukhee Koeri ryot.	1 Pucca well in Dhungawan	200	4 do.
Chitoo Mahto ryot	1 Pucca well in Kooraree	96	5 do.
Gunga Mahto and Ukul Mahto ryots	1 Pucca well in Dhungawan	175	4 do.
Baharee Mahto ryot	1 Pucca well in Futtehpore Nogawan.	125	3 do.
	Total	771	

Statement of Applications under Land Improvement Act for Fortnight ending 4th April 1874.

Sub-divisions.	Number of Applications received during the Fortnight.	Number of Applications received previously.	Total Number of Applications received.	Number disposed of.					Pending.
				Applications granted.	Applications rejected or Withdrawn.	Applications reported to Commissioners.	Returned.	Total disposed of.	
Gya	3	22	25	3	12	—	—	15	10
Aurungabad	—	78	78	27	35	2	—	64	14
Jehanabad	9	48	57	18	15	—	2	35	22
Nowada	2	5	7	2	—	1	1	4	3
Total	14	153	167	50	62	3	3	118	49

F.—Charitable Relief.

26. Relief by distribution of cooked food has been afforded in the Sudder, Aurungabad and Nowada sub-divisions.

27. The persons thus relieved are lepers and persons incapable of earning a livelihood for themselves, and who as far as can be ascertained by summary inquiry have no relatives capable of supporting them. In the Sudder a daily average of 147 persons have thus been fed. The daily average in Aurungabad is 35 persons, and in Nowada 14 persons.

28. The giving of raw cotton to be converted into thread has also been had recourse to as a method of relief in Aurungabad and Sudder station. In the former locality seven females are thus assisted, and in the latter 227.

Statement showing the progress of Charitable Relief during the Fortnight ending 4th April 1874, called for in Bengal Government No. 1251, dated 5th March 1874.

Number of Committees and Sub-committees as yet appointed.		Number of Workhouse or Centres for the Distribution of Food Gratuitous Relief.	Number of Men, Women, and Children, with Total in Receipt of Gratuitous Relief in any Shape, &c.
Sudder Sub-division	1	1	2,066
Nowada	1	3	194
Jehanabad	2	—	—
Aurungabad	4	1	248

N.B.—It has been settled by Sir Richard Temple that no special relief circles are required in this district. That eight ecial officers will be appointed to thoroughly examine any tracts likely to be distressed, and to visit generally the villages the mofussil, with a view to employment being found or relief administered.

29. It may not be out of place here to mention that for famine relief purposes a sum of Rs. 18,254-13 have already been collected within the district, and that this amount will still further be supplemented. The contributions are very creditable to the contributors.

No. 28F, dated Arrah, the 7th April 1874.

From H. W. ALEXANDER, Esq., Collector of Shahabad, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit my ninth narrative for the fortnight ending the 4th April.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Abundance or scarcity of supplies in the bazars.

The supplies in the local markets in the Arrah, Sasseram and Buxar sub-divisions have not in the aggregate fallen off in quantity.

In Bhubhooa, matters in this respect are reported to be normal.

Large quantities of grain are still being imported into the district by rail, and the new rubbee is coming into the market.

Kinds and prices of grain selling at one or more specified principal marts.

2. In Appendix A. is given the kind and prices of grain selling at the chief marts in the district. It will be noticed that on the whole the prices are slightly more favorable than they were last fortnight.

Rainfall, if any, state of crops, condition of the people, actual facts as to any known cases of misery and starvation, grain-thefts and robberies, condition of any particular tracts.

3. No rain has fallen. The rubbee has been generally harvested, and I think may be regarded as a much better crop than was at first anticipated. In the Arrah and Buxar sub-divisions, excluding the Deearah lands, the crop may, I think, be estimated as a fair average one; similarly so in the Sasseram sub-division.

In Bhubhooa sub-division, Mr. Eyre estimates it as a 12-anna or ¾ crop, while the Deputy Collector estimates it as less. I am inclined to accept the former's as the more accurate calculation.

In regard to the condition of the people I have nothing new to add to my last report. In large towns such as Arrah, Buxar, Chousa, Sasseram, Nasrigunge, Akherpore, Bhubhooa, Chynepore, where professional beggars congregate, and where many helpless indigent people belonging to the lower class are living, gratuitous relief and in-door subsidised relief has become now necessary, and in part has been commenced in one or two of the above-named places. In rural tracts no such necessity has at present arisen.

No cases of actual misery and starvation have as yet been brought to light. There has been no remarkable increase in the number of grain-thefts and robberies. Most of the cases reported have been petty thefts of crops, which are of yearly occurrence.

In the Sasseram sub-division, one theft occurred in a building, in which case 6 maunds 20 seers of wheat were stolen, and in another case 4 maunds 9 seers of rice were taken.

The comparative statement of crimes (Appendix B.) shows an increase by 88 over the cases in 1873, and by 121 over the cases in 1872.

I have nothing more to add in regard to the condition of any particular tracts; if any material change does take place, it will, I think, show itself in June.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

Full details in regard to all such works will be furnished in the statement called for in circular No. 5718, dated the 3rd December last, which is due on the 8th instant.

In the Arrah sub-division, work will be started immediately on the road from Gurahnee to Bihta *viâ* Sikrita.

In the Buxar sub-division, the village road from Chousa to Jumooaon has been completed, and the continuation of it from Jumooaon to Dhunsahi has been commenced.

In the Sasseram sub-division, work is being carried on upon the roads from Chenari to Mullipore, and from Akherpore to Juddoonathpore. There was a considerable falling off in the number of laborers at the relief works during the cutting of the rubbee crops. Now that the harvest has been gathered the numbers resorting to the works are daily increasing, and will continue to do so, I am inclined to think, up to the end of this month.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

There has been no falling-off in the importation by rail of grain by private traders in the Arrah and Buxar sub-divisions. The quantity so imported will be submitted in a separate return (which will follow), directly I receive detailed figures from the Traffic Department, East Indian Railway.

By river no importations are reported.

	Maunds.
The private importation in the Sasseram sub-division during the fortnight have been—By rail - - - - - -	3,865
From other districts - - - - - - -	[illegible]
In Bhubhooa—	
By rail - - - - - - - -	210
From other districts - - - - - - -	222

The means of transport are at present sufficient for all requirements. The Collector of Sarun is anxious now to employ only carts of this district for conveying his grain from the Arrah railway station to the river ghât; in other words, something more than 600 carts.

I now expect that further consignments of grain will be sent to me very shortly for this district, and I shall certainly not be able to convey it away if the Sarun grain is to absorb so much of the means of transport belonging to this district. One result has already shown itself, and that is, that I cannot convey grain at the same rate as I did when storing grain in January and February owing to the demand for carts which has thus arisen.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

In the Arrah sub-division, 117 maunds 7 seers of rice was received during the fortnight and despatched and stored at once.

In the Buxar, Sasseram, and Bhubhooa sub-divisions, no grain has been received or stored during the period under report.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

In the Arrah sub-division, an advance of Rs. 2,000 has been made to Nowrun Singh of Chandi for land improvements, and Rs. 300 to Jugdeo Sing of Aeer for the purchase of grain. No other advances of any kind have been made.

F.—Charitable Relief.

I have nothing further to add to my last report in regard to headings Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, of circular No. 1251 S.R., dated 5th March.

For the Arrah sub-division, three supervising relief officers have been appointed on Rs. 40 a month, whose chief work at present will be to make a village-to-village inquiry in order to ascertain what persons are fit subjects for gratuitous relief, or subsidised in-door relief, or who can be employed on light out-door labour, such as rope-making and cotton-spinning. Poor-houses will be at once opened at Gurhanee and Arrah, at which it is supposed that the chief recipients of charity will be professional beggars, who, from physical infirmities, are incapable of performing any work.

Rope-making and cotton-spinning will be provided also for those who are able to do such light work; 36 persons are now receiving subsidised in-door relief, and 44 persons gratuitous relief daily at Arrah.

In the Buxar sub-division, 119 persons in all, including men, women, and children, have received gratuitous relief daily at the following places:—Buxar, Doomraon, Nawanuggur, Choura Khyree. Two supervising relief officers on Rs. 40 a month have been entertained for this sub-division.

In regard to the Sasseram and Bhubhooa sub-divisions, Mr. Eyre reports—" No charitable " relief has yet been commenced in Sasseram beyond the subsidised in-door relief of rope- " making specified in my last narrative. The weekly returns of this relief are not to hand, and " I cannot therefore supply them. Gratuitous relief has been commenced in Bhubhooa. I " visited that place on the 31st ultimo, and personally supervised the relief. I could only find " 41 persons fit recipients of relief, and some of these were fitted for light work. I left full " instructions, and have since sent registers-tickets, and iterated the instructions already given. " I am afraid this relief is being misapplied. The day after I left, the number of recipients is " entered as 81; 40 was the number of the previous day. I will be at Bhubhooa on the 8th, " and will specially report on this matter. Details regarding sex have been called for, and will " be submitted in the report."

No. 891F, dated Mozufferpore, the 8th April 1874.

From C. F. Worsley, Esq., Officiating Collector of Tirhoot, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to submit my narrative of scarcity and relief in the Tirhoot district for the fortnight ending Saturday, 4th April 1874.

A.—State of the Country.

2. In Seetamurhee sub-division the supply of grain is sufficient, except in Cherout and Jelley where the people are dependent on Government supplies.

3. The Durbhunga sub-division, the supply in the Durbhunga and Rowserah bazars "still continues ample," but in the interior all articles of food are dear and scarce. In Hattee sub-division, it has been found necessary to supplement private trade by Government sales.

In Mudhoobunnee sub-division, the sale of Government grain at Mudhoobunnee has caused [illegible] grain of all kinds to be brought to market, and has also had the effect of lowering prices [illegible]. The bunyas, however, are stated to have recouped themselves to a certain extent, by [illegible] the number of local pice given in exchange for rupee coins, and the sub-divisional officer considers that it would be a good opportunity to introduce the standard pice coins. I would recommend that two lakhs of pice be forwarded if possible *viâ* Barrh and Chumpta Ghât for circulation in Durbhunga and Moodhubunnee sub-divisions.

5. In Hajeepore, Tajpore, and Sudder sub-divisions, the bazars have been sufficiently supplied.

6. The subjoined statement shows the kind and prices of grain selling at some of the principal marts:—

Name of Marts.	Wheat.	Barley.	Common rice.	Lesser millet.	Maize or Indian-corn.	Gram.
Seetamurhee - - -	10½	14	10	14	14	14
Jalley - - - -	—	—	10	—	—	—
Mudhoobunnee - - -	10	14	10	12	12	12
Khajowlee - - -	11	16	11	12	12	13½
Durbhunga - - -	12	—	10	13	12¼	—
Bahera - - - -	11¼	—	9¾	13	14¼	—
Singhya - - - -	9½	—	9	12½	11¼	—
Hajeepore - - -	13	19	11	—	16¾	16¾
Mohoowa - - -	18½	18	11	—	15	17½
Dulsingserai - - -	12¼	17	11	—	15	16¼
Sarmastipore - - -	18	16	9	—	14	15
Mozufferpore - - -	10	—	9	—	12½	14

7. In some of the western parts of Seetamurhee sub-division, the majority of the ryots are reported to have sufficient grain for their own wants. Elsewhere no additional information has been obtained regarding stocks, though the hoards of grain invariably disclosed by outbreaks of fires indicate the existence of hidden stores. I have directed the district superintendent to depute clever officers to specially investigate these cases, which have of late been very frequent.

8. There has been no fall of rain in any part of the district.

9. In Seetamurhee sub-division, the cheena and moong crops are suffering from the drought, and the same may be said of these crops in all parts of the district. In the western part of the Sudder sub-division, where sowings were probably made under as favorable circumstances as in any portion of the district, these crops are being fast dried up by the scorching west winds that have prevailed during the last fortnight, and when I was in that direction a week ago, the cultivators thought that they could not hold out for more than 10 or 12 days without rain.

10. In Seetamurhee sub-division, the condition of the people has improved generally, but isolated cases of distressed women and children are still to be found. For all such cases the sub-divisional officer is specially providing. The condition of the people (some 50,000) who attended the recent large Seetamurhee fair was fairly good; and as all came provided with grain for their own consumption, and fodder for their cattle, no difficulty was experienced in supplying them with food.

11. In Durbhunga, the sub-divisional officer has observed a marked improvement among the people, especially in the direction of Bahera. He writes: "I had myself grouped round Behera, where I have no doubt the distress was as pronounced as in any other village in the sub-division. These were the villages in which I, in a former report, declared that famine had commenced; as then, so now. I had all the poor assembled, and were it not that I was assured by the jeyt ryot putwaree, and group inspector, that no famine deaths had occurred, and that in the people now before me I saw the starving creatures of a month ago, I scarcely could have credited the change. I visited the village when the putwaree, was distributing the daily allowance. There were no complaints whatever, and the improved condition of the recipients proved that the village headman had not deprived them of the Government charity. Indeed, this system of village relief everywhere I went I found working well. Mr. MacDonnell and the sub-divisional officer of Hattee, are now directing their attention to the relief of cultivators and small farmers whom it is difficult to bring to our relief works. To these they are making advances in money for seed-grain, and in grain for their own support. The principle they have adopted is that of making advances to the applicants by whole villages, the applicants entering into an association or system of frank pledge for repayment, their estimate being based on returns submitted by putwarees showing the quantity of land cultivated by each applicant, and the quantity of seed-grain required, being calculated at the rate of 20 seers per beegha. In some instances they have persuaded zemindars to take the seed advances into their own hands, and one zemindar, Baboo Bunsee Dareer, of Ragopore, proprietor of nearly half the Lehra circle, is specially mentioned for the public spirit and humanity which he has displayed in this respect, and in the administration of relief operations on his estates under their directions.

12. The *Mudhoobunnee* sub-divisional officer writes: "The time has now come when I must say that distress is general throughout the sub-division. A few favoured tracts, such as the neighbourhood of Ladma and Hurlaki thannahs, are still comparatively fairly well off, but the fact that we have little less than half the population on our hands shows that distress is severe in general. But for the Government roads, we could not have hoped to cope with it; and though as our organisation becomes more complete we may hope that village works will relieve us of the feeble part of the population, it is idle to suppose that anything but a vastly increased superintendence, much more largely supplemented than it is at present by European energy, will enable us to bring food to the mouths of four-fifths of the population (whom I expect to have to feed), if we have them scattered throughout the country in their own villages."

13. In *Hajeepore sub-division*, excepting perhaps the extreme northern tract, the condition of the people has not been changed for the worse. There is still little demand for employment, owing, as the sub-divisional officer considers, to the high rates of wages paid on the Gunduck embankment by the Public Works Department. Local agency at present is quite sufficient to deal with all cases of distress.

14. The sub-divisional officer of Tajpore reports that "the people seem to keep up fairly," but that in the direction of the Tal Bareyla they are becoming pinched, and he looks for a marked deterioration in their condition in the next month or six weeks. The south-east portion of the sub-division, also, causes him some anxiety. The difficulty of disposing of tobacco produce, on which this sub-division greatly relies for its means of support, is thus noticed by Mr. Wace: "I should not be far out in saying that anxiety in the sub-division centres chiefly now in the question what is to be done with tobacco. There are a few buyers going about but there is a considerable balance over from last season, and a very fair crop of this year to be disposed of. The North-West merchants have, I suppose, taken alarm at the famine, and if they were here I do not know how they would transport their purchases. The carts now carrying rice to the north-east would in ordinary years be carrying tobacco up to barter for rice to bring down, or carrying tobacco down to the river. The matter deserves our earliest attention, for we have reckoned much on the wealth of Saraisa to tide it over the coming trial, and its chief source of wealth is tobacco."

Mr. Wace suggests that the tobacco might be conveyed down to the Ganges from Nagarbasti by rail, or that advances should be given by Government on security of the tobacco. Both suggestions are good under certain provisoes. If purchasers can be found in the Patna district, the conveyance of the tobacco to the banks of the Ganges will be a great boon to the cultivators; and I would be glad if the Commissioner would kindly authorise the Collector of Patna to ascertain whether purchasers are likely to be found in his district. With regard to advances, they might certainly be made, but if the tobacco is to be treated as actual security, it must either be delivered and stored at Poosah, in which case a temporary special establishment must be entertained or loans might be attempted through zemindars, who could be left to arrange the question of security between themselves and the cultivators. The only other course that occurs to me is for Government to buy up all the tobacco at the ordinary current rates, and to despatch and consign it to agents in the North-West Provinces for sale.

15. In the Sudder sub-division the condition of the people is good, so far as their outward appearance is concerned, but the demand for employment is increasing daily. I have lately made a tour through the whole of the western portion of the sub-division comprised within the jurisdiction of thannah Paro, and have met with no cases of distress except such as are being relieved gratuitously through the managers of factories. Having previously seen bad accounts of the extreme western tracts, I sent notice of my visit to the inspector of the thannah and desired him to produce before me some of the worst cases which he had reported. On my arrival, however, I was told that no "real distress" existed, but that professional beggars required relief, and work was wanted. On a tank-work adjoining the thannah, which had been opened two days previously, I found about 200 laborers, all of whom were in very fair condition. Similarly, on all the works which I visited (some 10 or 12), I found the people healthy and strong, and I was particularly struck with the good appearance of the children. I think very few of the laborers had become so destitute as to be wholly dependent on relief works for their support, but that they were certainly glad to avail themselves of employment offered to them near their houses. A large proportion of the population in this part consists of gowals and other agricultural castes, and I have no doubt that the numbers on our relief works will increase very largely during this month, as there will be no work in the fields to employ the people, and they have not sufficient food or means to maintain themselves in idleness for the next few months. Distress (which term I understand to mean actual bodily suffering and enforced privation of food) did not appear to me to have yet arisen to any extent. The state of things, however, will require constant watching, and the arrangements now made with the Commissioner's sanction, and which will be detailed further on, will be quite sufficient for all purposes of relief.

In the north and north-east of the sub-division the condition of the people, as reported by the police, gives cause for more anxiety. I intend to take an early opportunity of visiting those parts. In the meantime Mr. Deputy Collector Warde-Jones has been deputed to make inquiries, and the relief superintendents are engaged in organising their circles and opening works.

16. Some cases of death from starvation are reported from the Mudhoobunnee sub-division, but from the accounts given of them it is impossible to say how far they were owing to want of food. The following is Mr. Magrath's description of the cases:—

"Of known cases of starvation I have few to report; notably two people have died at Mirzapore; one man was found by Mr. Metcalfe and myself, the other, an old woman, by myself some days after. The man was not so attenuated, but that other causes than starvation may have led to his death, and had come along with all his people, who however decamped when they heard that I was enquiring for them. The old woman was very old, and died within 20 yards of where grain was being distributed. The report of the circumstances of death has not reached me, and as the police do not make any inquiry, but merely state that so many persons died of starvation in their reports, I do not hope for any additional evidence in the matter."

From Kutchra circle, four cases of death were reported in mouzah Dhangah, pergunnah Jorail, the property of the Maharajah of Durbhunga. I at once sent notice to Mr. Nicholay, sent off an officer to the village, and late in the day visited it myself. After a careful inquiry it appeared that not one of the cases reported had occurred within the month, and that the friends of the people who died were not in a starving condition, and that there was reason to suppose the whole story untrue, more especially as the Beneputtee head-constable who reported the matter had not been in the village for two months, and had made no inquiry whatever, taking the statement of the chowkeedar for gospel.

As, however, there were a certain number of helpless people in the village Mr. Nicholay made arrangements for their receiving a sufficient supply of rice on the ticket system. I have had only one other report of the sort from that circle, viz., of an old man in ill health at Damodapore, and as Mr. Nicholay has 26 tanks, and the ticket system is at work in all but one of his eight circles, I have little doubt that the distress there will be efficiently met.

Mr. Williams reports that soon after his arrival in Motipore, seven deaths from starvation were reported in that circle, two of them very old women, one at Bijai, and another at Thowa (these person were in receipt of Government relief); the third death was that of a mushar who came to work on the Motipore road from the village of Chapahi. As the Chapahi zemindar (a woman) has been giving relief largely to her people, the reason of his leaving his village is not apparent. A fourth came from a great distance, no one knew whence, for relief. He must have passed by places of relief whatever way he came. The other three died in the villages of Gandanti and Sima, to which Mr. Williams called attention on his first arrival at Motipore, and where relief has been extensively given, though unfortunately too late to save the lives of these people. Had my circle officers been sent to me at the time I joined, as I was promised they should be, I have no hesitation in saying that most of these deaths would have been avoided. In his later letter, Mr. Williams, who has now visited his whole circle, takes a more hopeful view of the general state of things, and concludes: "As long as the Mirzapore and Motipore road is in construction, " I have no reason to apprehend any heavy distress in the villages in the west and north of my " circle."

From the Mudhoobunnee circle, Baboo Ishree Pershad reports that of the four cases of starvation reported to him, one was of a man found in good health working on the roads; a second, that of a person who on inquiry proved never to have existed; the third case was not traced, and the fourth proved to be that of a man who, after working for one month on the Government road, died of dysentery, from which he had long been suffering. He observes that the villages near and about Pandaul are those in the greatest distress, and attributes the poor condition of the Dosadhs to the difficulty they have now in finding anything to steal. Mr. Kisch, from Bhakwa, which he has only recently joined, reports that of two cases of starvation reported to him, one man died of a disease from which he had been suffering for two years, and the other of old age. He, however, found severe distress in Barawn, but relieved it at once. Whilst I was with him distress in Dhatwar was brought to his notice, but he took prompt measures for its relief.

"Mr. Azanne from Jhanjarpore reports one death at Meljhain from starvation. This village, although very close to Jhanjarpore, appears to have suffered considerably from distress. Mr. Azanne however, on his arrival, at once relieved those who were in want. Four deaths also occurred at Jhanjarpore; two of them had been fed for 19 days; the third man came from a distance, and was very ill when he came; the fourth had been at work on the tank for seven days. He reports the village of Nanour as in great distress, but has only heard of one death there, which was not alleged to have been from want. He also found five children deserted by their parents and made arrangements for their support."

17. No cases of starvation are reported from other sub-divisions.

18. The annexed statement shows the number of thefts, &c., committed during the month of March:—

Sub-division.	March 1874.	March 1873.
Mozufferpore	87	50
Tajpore	28	19
Durbhunga	29	21
Hajeepore	Figures not given.	
Seetamurhee	65	28
Mudhoobunnee	Figures not given.	
Total	209	118

B.—Relief Works.

19. The number of laborers employed on relief works is as follows:—

Seetamurhee sub-division—

160 Government works	32,547
Private works	5,000
Total	37,547

Of the Government works, 46 have been taken in hand during the past fortnight—

Durbhunga sub-division—

Village works in Hattee sub-division	16,000
Ditto in Durbhunga circle	2,352
Ditto in Mohomedpore ditto	30,000
Durbhunga Bahera Road	38,754
Bahera Pooprce road	2,643
Durbhunga Mohomedpore road	1,364
Anar Road	4,145
Railway embankment	5,122
Works under Executive Engineer in Hatti sub-division	47,000
Works under Mr. Stevens	5,829
	153,209

Mudhoobunnee sub-division—	
80 works	196,486
Hajeepore sub-division	4,400
Tajpore ditto	2,550
Sudder sub-division under Executive Engineer	1,624
Under planters, 49 works	21,900
Roads, tanks, &c., under local agency	8,695
Total	32,219
Grand total of laborers	426,411

C.—Transport of Food.

20. Of private importations the sub-divisional officer of Tajpore writes: "I can say but little. "Zemindars and traders find in the difficulty of procuring carriage a ready and plausible excuse "for a natural disinclination to turn southwards instead of northwards for supplies." The other sub-divisional officers do not notice this subject. As regards the Sudder sub-division I have observed that grain still finds its way into Mozufferpore town in sufficient quantities, and the difficulty, or rather the increased cost of procuring carriage seems to have produced no worse result than a slight enhancements of prices. At Sahebgunge, too, a large mart on the river Gunduck, I found the grain market well supplied, and the dealers admitted to me that they experienced no difficulty in obtaining boats to import grain either from Patna or Revilgunge (in Sarun), both which places they have been drawing on for supplies. In short, all that I have seen and learnt confirms me in the opinion that the allotment of grain for which we have applied will be quite sufficient. It may perhaps be objected that if private trade is doing so much there can be no necessity for laying in more Government grain at all, but to this I would reply (1) that the sub-division has not hitherto depended wholly on imported food for its support, and that it would therefore be hazardous to trust entirely to private dealers when local stocks are exhausted; (2), that we ought to be able to exercise some control over our prices, which we can only do by becoming grain holders; and (3) that it is desirable during the season of cultivation, and in the rains, to lower prices to at least 12 seers per rupee.

21. Transport arrangements having been now placed under the immediate direction of Colonel MacGregor, it is unnecessary for me to say more on this head than that the companies on the western side of the district are working thoroughly well, and that the Durbhunga sub-divisional officer reports a great improvement on the part of the Southern Alliance Company. Though he declines to commit himself to any distinct statement, he believes that the Company will henceforth be able to carry between 3½ and 4 lakhs a month.

C.—Storage of Grain.

22. The amount of food grain already stored is as follows:—

Seetamurhee	333,678
Durbhunga	132,312
Mudhoobunnee	291,458
Hajeepore	5,179
Tajpore	19,624
Muzufferpore	44,677
Total	826,928

E.—Advances.

23. During the fortnight the following advances have been made—

Sub-Division.	Nature of Advance.					Total.
	To grain dealers.	To zemindars for support of their ryots.	To ryots for their own support.	For wells.	For land improvement.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Seetamurhee	50	1,050	1,100	40	1,260	3,500
Durbhunga	Not specified.				—	4,700
Mudhoobunnee	—	—	—	—	2,400	2,400
Hajeepore	—	—	—	525	—	525
Tajpore	—	—	—	—	—	—
Muzufferpore	—	—	—	—	100	—

On the subject of advances Mr. Magrath writes—"My remarks apply to the case of respectable ryots to whom at present no advances are being made. I should like something to be done for them at once, as otherwise they will go in with the rank and file of paupers. The working of Sir Richard Temple's loans up to the amount of Rs. 50, through the relief superintendents would, I am sure, be a great boon. The landholders also apply for loans; I was granting loans to them till the Additional Commissioner stopped me. I should like permission to be given to the relief superintendent also to give such advances up to Rs. 50.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

24. The Seetamurhee officer under this head submits only a statement which I insert below:

Number of sub-committees and committees as yet appointed	1
Ditto of special relief sub-divisions opened and officered	2
Ditto of regular relief circles opened and manned by special officers	10
Number of relief circles opened and managed by planters, zemindars, and other residents	10
Number of work-houses, or centres, for the distribution of food and gratuitous relief	8

Number of men, women and children, in receipt of gratuitous relief in any shape, through the charitable relief organisation daily.	Men	3,000
	Women	1,500
	Children	800
	Total	5,300

25. The sub-divisional officer of Durbhunga thus reports—"I have already explained the "machinery of charitable relief as it existed when first set in action. I have now to refer to an "extension of the system, by which, while retaining our former organisation, we are enabled "to render the administration of relief more searching and certain. It consists in having pre-"pared through the jeyt ryot-putwarree of each village a list of all these who are in want of "relief in the village, and according to this list the group store-keeper dispenses weekly to each "village in the group the quantity of grain required for the week's consumption. The distribu-"tion is made in the village, by the village headmen and the putwari. Among the other duties "of the inspector will be that of seeing that in this respect the village headmen are up to their "work. This sub-division has been divided into 12 circles. The Banhar and Warisnugur "circles being outside the area where distress was most pressing, were not taken in hand till "now. Of the other circles, the grouping has been completed in all except Lehera, Gungdak, "and Hya ghât, where some villages still remain ungrouped. But before this week ends the "work will be completed in these. In all of these villages the officers are at work, having the "village list of distressed people made out, and looking to the fact that as our groups are made "up, and inspectors appointed, this work can go on simultaneously in every group, it ought to "be completed within a fortnight at farthest. My returns of those on charitable relief are in-"complete, some circle officers having been unable to send in any returns, and others only "returns for some groups. From these fragmentary returns I learn, that the daily average on "charitable relief is 14,563. I believe this, however, to be much under the real number."

26. The Mudheebunnee officer writes—"Charitable relief is now everywhere at work on the "ticket system. The system of giving out cotton, too, is taking root, particularly under Messrs. "Ozanne, Williams, Nicholay, and Baboo Ishree Pershad. I am establishing, through the "relief superintendent at most places *quasi* hospitals under the native doctors, for care of those "who are, either by starvation or disease, unfitted to go to their own people or to work. I "would have the distribution of cooked food, where it is given, also under the superintendence "of native doctors if a European is not present, as natives are slow to enquire into cases in "which care and extra attention is required."

27. The Hajeepore officer reports—"I have appointed three inspectors on Rs. 70 per mensem "to carefully find out all the really indigent in the north part of "the sub-division. I have advanced Rs. 1,200 to the gentlemen "noted in the margin* who have all undertaken to relieve the "really distressed round them at the rate of Rs. 1-8 to Rs. 2 a "month. I have directed the inspectors to put themselves directly "in communication with these gentlemen, who have shewn the "most earnest desire to co-operate with me, and in whose hands "we may safely leave the distribution of charitable relief. I have received one return, viz., from "Mr. James Smith of Shahpore. The others promise returns next week. With this organisa-"tion we shall be able to meet all cases of distress as they arise ; at present they are scattered "about the place, and I have no apprehension that in any part will there be any thing like "universal distress."

	Rs.
* J. Smith, Esq.	500
C. H. Pope, Esq.	200
— Campbell, Esq.	100
C. Blake, Esq.	200
R. Park, Esq.	100
— MacGregor, Esq.	100
	1,200

28. The Tajpore officer reports—"It has been arranged that we should start at once a regular "system of village supervision. The manager of every factory will receive through his putwaries, "and jeyt ryots of the villages in farm to him, reports of the state of the village. For villages "not in farm to a factory, which will be picked out on receipt of lists now coming in from "factories, there will be a special organisation, either through sub-committees of which we "propose to have four, or paid agency, reporting either to the nearest factory or the nearest "sub-committee.

"It is further arranged that for the present every manager should give, in bad cases, gratuitous relief from the grain at his factory whether bought under Government advances or not, and that the price of this should be made good to him out of the relief funds.

"A subscription list has been opened. The donations made and promised up to date amount to only Rs. 676, and the monthly subscriptions to Rs. 67; no factory has yet subscribed. Three managers have promised subscriptions, while two have replied that they prefer to dispense charity from factory and private funds on the spot, to contributing to a general fund."

29. In the Sudder sub-division, gratuitous relief is administered in the town by a sub-committee as previously reported. The subjoined statement shows the numbers relieved during the past week:—

Date.	Member of committee in attendance.	Adult men.	Adult women.	Children.	Total.	Approximate amount of food distributed.	Kind of food.	REMARKS.
						M. S.		
29th March	R. J. Richardson, Esq.	58	172	7	237	2 36¾	Janera, salt, and gram	None but the blind, lame, aged, sick, very poor, and weakly have been relieved; each adult has received ½ seer, and each child ¼ seer of jenera or gram (uncooked), with a small quantity of salt daily. The distribution each morning at 7 A.M., has been made under the superintendence of a member of the committee. A long shed is available for those who may wish to reside on the spot; as yet the building is unoccupied. Professional beggars and persons at all able to work have not been received.
30th " -	Babu Wooma Churan Bose.	56	170	8	234	2 35		
31st " -	Babu Poorna Chunder Mitter.	52	153	11	216	2 25¼		
1st April -	Mahomed Ally Khan.	269		16	285	3 18½		
2nd " -	Baboo Nobin Krista Banerjee.	235		16	251	3 1½		
3rd " -	Baboo Kooldeep Sahey	323		16	239	2 36½		
4th " -	Baboo Wooma Churn Bose.	249		29	278	3 11¾		
					1,740			

In the interior, gratuitous relief is given in the western part of the sub-division by the managers of the Sahebgunge, Seraiah and Jeypore factories, and in other parts by superintendents of relief circles. The officers having only recently joined their appointments, have been fully occupied in arranging their circles, and reports of progress made will be submitted in next Narrative.

30. With the Commissioner's approval, I have arranged to place all the villages in the Paru thannah and some in the head-quarters thannah, amounting together to about 700 under the direct management of planters and their assistants. I found, on making enquiry, that six factories held in lease or owned 695 villages; and as each manager was willing to take charge of his own villages, and of any others lying within the outermost limits of his lands, and to give the aid of his assistants for supervision of relief works, and administration of charitable relief, I considered the scheme to be admirably suited for the particular locality. The circles will be constituted as follows:—

Name of head factory.	Name of managers.	Names of outworks.	Names of assistants in charge of outworks.	Number of villages.	Cost of supervision monthly.
Kantce - -	Mr. Browne -	Rajshye - -	Mr. Llewhellin -	140	546
Moteepore - -	" Fraser - -	Muradpore, Chak Larwan.	" Barclay, Mr. Abbott.	135	606
Shahebgunge -	" J. Macdonald -	Manian - -	Both, one other to be appointed.	115	556
Dooria - -	" Studd - -	Majowbe, Karrumwaree.	Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Robertson.	130	596
Seraye - -	" H. Macdonald -	Kewulpoora, Azeezpore.	Mr. Macintosh, Mr. Thomas.	125	576
Jeytpore - -	" Abbott - -	—	—	50	188
					30,638

31. It will be seen that the superior agency consists of six managers and nine assistants. The former give their services gratuitously, but to each of the latter a remuneration of Rs. 100 per month are allowed. A local man on Rs. 10 is to be placed over each group of four villages. The rest of the establishment is composed of clerks, golahdars, payadas, and peons, details of which it is unnecessary to mention here. The supervision of these six circles will be my own special duty, and Mr. Gordon will have similar charge of the other circles in the sub-division, viz., Belsund, Toorkee, Katra, Raj Khand, and the Sudder, which will be worked in the ordinary way by relief superintendents.

32. The main advantages of administering circles through planters are: (1) that we shall always be able to prevent the congregation of people in large numbers; (2) that the planters' local knowledge and experience will enable them to detect all cases of imposition; (3) that planters can and do succeed in extracting from labourers more real work than we can hope to get by direct management; (4) that Government grain can be stored in the factories, and sold at the local hâts with great facility and without disturbing the markets, and (5) that the system is economical.

I do not propose to try the system more extensively in the Sudder sub-division, because factories in other parts are comparatively few, but I think it may be applied, if necessary, in the Tajpore and Hajeepore sub-divisions.

33. Good progress appears to have been made in the grouping of villages in circles of the Durbhunga and Mudhoobunee sub-divisions.

34. I would respectfully suggest that the form and headings of some subjects of the Fortnightly Narrative be now altered, as they seem scarcely suited to the system of relief circles, and there appear to be some points on which it is no longer necessary for district officers to report (*e.g.*, transport); uniformity of practice in reporting on relief circles is very desirable. I would also recommend that more detailed instructions be issued regarding the information to be submitted under head (F.), charitable relief.

No. 1477F, dated Sarun, the 8th April 1874.

Memo. by J. E. DRUMMOND, ESQ., Officiating Magistrate-Collector, Sarun.

FORWARDED to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department, Calcutta, for information, with reference to his circular No. 80 of the 17th November 1873.

NARRATIVE of SCARCITY and RELIEF in the SARUN DISTRICT for the Fortnight ending 4th April 1874.

(A.)—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazaar.

1. With the exception of Bussuntpore, where supplies are reported to be somewhat scarce, the bazars of the district are everywhere sufficiently supplied with grain, and though the importations have somewhat fallen off, private trade still holds out.

2. In the Sudder sub-division, during the fortnight the private importations were, to Revelgunge 63,365, of which 12,750 were maize, 7,600 barley, 4,600 wheat, 7,050 rice, and the rest other grains; to Dooreegunge, 2,625 maunds, and to Maharajgunge, 1,382 maunds; while the imports from Chumparun were only 268 maunds. The exports of grain to Tirhoot and Chumparun amounted to 6,164 and 848 maunds respectively.

3. Mr. Hudson writes as follows of his sub-division:—

"My own observations, made in the Parsa thana, assure me that the bazars are very well supplied indeed with every kind of grain and every description of ordinary food—vegetables, small fish, goor, &c. In Bussuntpore and Mashrakh the result of my inquiries shows supplies to be running short. In the latter thana I have the testimony of 103 putwarees to the existence of a deficiency."

4. The following is Mr. Wright's account for the Sewan sub-division:—

"There is no falling off in the supplies in the bazars in this sub-division; the supply is always more than the demand. During the fortnight under report the private importations amounted to 8,861 maunds at Guthoni, Siswan, Darawlee, and Sewan. The above amount was made up of 2,836 maunds rice, 693 maunds gram, 308 maunds Indian corn, and small quantities of barley, wheat, and other grains. These importations were chiefly from Gazipore, Azimgurh, and Goruckpore, on the other side of the Ghogra River, and small quantities from Patna and Bhagulpore."

Mr. Rattray reports under this head as follows:—

"Importations still continue, and the supply in the market is equal to the demand. The importation of Indian corn has stopped, as the grain will not keep, and the stocks are said to be sold off."

5. Of the Hutwa estate Mr. Hodgkinson writes:—

"There has been no failure in the supply of grain during the past fortnight, but the firmness of the prices after the harvest points to the necessity of the supply being supplemented by sales of raj and Government grain before very long. Rice has, I regret to say, risen in price, only 15 and 16 seers kucha (9 to 9⅜ pucka) being now procurable for a rupee. But as other grains, of which the late harvest has given a new supply, form the staple-food of the poorer classes of the people at this season, I do not propose to open our stores while these may be expected to hold out, although rice has gone below the limit of 10 seers.

Prices of Grain in Pucka Seers.

	Hutwa Basar.	Meergunge Basar.		Hutwa Basar.	Meergunge Basar.
Common rice - -	10⅝	10¾	Barley and gram - -	16	16
Makai - - -	14¾	14¾	Wheat (jow kerao) - -	13	13

It is observed that Mr. Hodgkinson's prices differ from those returned by the police, and that the price of rice quoted in his remarks is not borne out by the price-current given by him below.

Kind and price of grain.

6. The kind and price of grain selling at the principal marts and at the thanas and outposts are given in the annexed statement. Prices are exceptionally high at Garhha, Bussuntpore, Dighwara, Goothnee, and Raghoonathpore, where, while the price of rice ranges at less than 11 seers, at the same time more than 14, 15, and 16 seers of grain of any kind are not procurable for the rupee.

Stock of food in the hands of the people.

7. Opinions seem to differ as to the ultimate destination of the crops just harvested, but, as stated in the last narrative, my own view of the matter coincides with that of the sub-divisional officer of Sewan, who reports as follows:—

"Up to the present, almost the whole of the grain of the rubbee crops which have just been reaped is in the hands of the cultivators; but they will not, I feel certain, retain much of it; the greater portion will be sold in the bazars, and a large quantity will also find its way into the hands of the mahajuns. It is only the better class of cultivators who will store any of it. The common class of cultivators in this district are not in the habit of storing grain, but depend on the bazars for their supplies. Very little of the food-grain sold in the markets by the cultivators is carried out of the district. Most of it is brought up by the dealers in the bazars, who keep it to resell at a profit afterwards."

Mr. Rattray says, that "the yield of the rubbee harvest has been reserved for private consumption, except where proprietors are much in debt to mahajuns." The Sub-Deputy Collector, on the contrary, says "that they are paying the greater portion of their creditors and keeping the smaller for their own use.

"Besides satisfying the mahajun's debts, the cultivators have to pay their rent to their landlords; very few of whom, including even the largest zemindars in the division, will forego or even postpone their demands, and to meet these claims, the poorest class of ryots must dispose of the grain obtained from their rubbee crops, and would therefore be able to store very little for their own consumption even if they wished to do so; but, as I have already stated, it is not their custom to store it; they prefer depending on the local marts for their daily wants."

A contrary report, however, is made by Mr. Hudson, who writes:—

"(1.) From personal inquiries made by me in the villages chiefly of the Parsa circle,

"(2.) From the report of the police of same circle made after investigation,

"(3.) From information given by the putwarees of 130 villages in the Bussuntpore and Mashrakh circles, it appears that the rubbee harvest, which has just been reaped, has been stocked by the ryots for their own consumption, and has not found its way into the hands of the zemindars and mahajuns."

And again he writes:—

"It is generally ascertained that the rubbee harvest throughout the three thanas is stocked by the assamees for their own consumption, and this supply, it is estimated, will last them for about two months. There can be no doubt that zemindars have stocks of grain in many places, but it is not generally admitted. At Sotihar, however, and other places in Parsa thana, where I made inquiries, the zemindars informed me that they were supporting their ryots with advances of grain; and this proves that they must have grain in stock.

"Two-thirds of the putwarees of Mashrakh and Bussuntpore, who have been questioned on the subject, deny that there are any stocks of grain at all; but as regards the recent harvest, I am convinced that this is a misrepresentation; and indeed the rest of the putwarees examined admit stocks in the hands of both ryots and zemindars, and confirm the result of my own investigation as to the rubbee crop."

Of course the crops just reaped are yet in the hands of the cultivators, but I doubt much their being permitted to retain them.

Rainfall.

8. There has been no rainfall during the fortnight.

State of the crops.

9. The rubbee crops have now nearly everywhere been gathered, but complete returns of the yield have not yet been received. The principal planters have been asked to furnish information on this head, but answers have as yet only come in from a few. In the next narrative I hope to give the final result for each thana. As feared, the damage done by the hail-storm of the 16th has proved on inquiry to have been very serious. From the report of the canoongo it appears that the destructive part of its course was in a north-easterly direction from Ghorahat on the Gogra, 5 miles north-west of Manjhee, and that it extended thence for a length of 18 miles to within a few miles south of Mashrakh, with a breadth of from 2 to 4 miles. The thickness of the hailstones on the surface of the ground is reported to have been somewhere three inches and somewhere four to five inches, while in some places they are said not to have melted away within 50 or 60 hours after the shower. The area affected by the storm is computed to be 45 square miles in extent, and about 80 villages are reported to have suffered, in more than 30 of which the loss to the crops has been 8 annas and upwards. It is estimated by the canoongo that one-third of the rubbee food-crops on an area of about 10,000 acres has been altogether lost. He writes also that "the villages that happened to be on the skirts of the storm line have suffered far less than those occurring in the centre of it, which have sustained damage nearly 10 or 12 annas," and he adds that "the grain recovered after the hail-storm will barely suffice for a month's consumption." The action of the landholders in preventing cutting of the crops pending settlement of the rents has occasioned greater loss than would otherwise have occurred.

10. Mr. Macrae, of the Arrowah indigo concern, who has outworks also in the Mashrakh and Parsa thanas, writes as follows with regard to the crops:—

"About 12 annas only of the land usually applied to rubbee were actually sown, and the rest abandoned for want of moisture and facilities of irrigation in the pergunnahs of Bal and Goa. In the month of January, the intense cold for some days greatly injured the crops of rahar, cotton, kerao, and mussur (pulses), and reduced their outturn to only about 4 annas yield; but the wheat and barley, which were helped by irrigation and some rainfall in February, have been very successful, and fully more than an average yield generally; but in the middle of March a destructive storm of hail and rain passed over a portion of the above pergunnahs, taking a direction from the village of Roosee to Mashrakh, some 10 koss in length and from ½ to 2 koss in breadth, and within that space the injury to the rubbee crops generally has been very serious. Of the opium crop, about 12 annas had been collected previous to the storm, and the balance was lost.

"Exclusive of the poppy, there has been of all rubbee crops about an average yield of 10 annas in pergunnahs Bal and Goa.

" In pergunnah Makair crops have been generally worse. A less area has been sown in rubbee, and less secured by irrigation from want of water, and the loss by cold and frost was in the same proportion as in the other pergunnahs, and little more than a 6-anna crop is reported."

Pergunnahs Goa and Makair comprise the whole of the Parsa thana and considerable portion of Mashrakh.
J. E. D.

11. Mr. Tullock, of the Nowadah factory, in the south of Parsa thana, writes that he estimates the actual yield of the rubbee crops in his "dehat" as under:—

Barley - - - - - - -	8 annas.
Wheat - - - - - - -	8 "
Rahar - - - - - - -	12 "
Gram - - - - - - -	8 "

12. The report of the yield to the north of the Bussuntpore thana is, as was expected, very unfavorable, Mr. Exshaw of Bala factory writing that the rubbee crop has not yielded more than 4 annas in his neighbourhood.

13. Mr. Hudson writes as follows:—

" The outturn of the rubbee crop for Parsa circle may be taken at 12 annas for half the cultivated area, and 4 annas for the remainder, the former representing the irrigated, and the latter the unirrigated soil. The outturn for Bussuntpore may be estimated at 4 annas."

14. The following is Mr. Wright's account of the state of the crops in the Sewan subdivision:—

"The rubbee crops are now almost entirely cut. A field or two of rahar may still be seen in places, but otherwise the country looks bare. The ryots are busy having their crops trodden out, and, as far as can be known as yet, the yield is pretty fair throughout the division."

Mr. D. N. Reid of Saddowah has been good enough to supply the following estimate of the rubbee crops in the Barowlee thana for this season, as compared with that of former average seasons:—

	Season 1873–4.	Former Season.
Wheat - - - -	$\frac{9}{16}$	$\frac{14}{16}$
Barley - - - -	$\frac{7}{16}$	16 annas.
Peas - - - - -	$\frac{7}{16}$	16 "
Gram - - - - -	$\frac{4}{16}$	16 "
Rahar - - - -	$\frac{10}{16}$	16 "

Of the crops in the Darawlee thana, the Sub-Deputy Collector reports that " the average out-" turn of barley and wheat is 13 maunds* per beegha against 15 " maunds of previous years. Rahar yields at an average rate of " 7 maunds per beegha."

* Probably kutcha maund.—J. E. D.

Of the Sewan thana, the Sub-Deputy Collector says that " the average outturn of these crops " (wheat and barley) in the jurisdiction of this thana is 9 maunds per beegha against 11 maunds " of previous year," is confirmed by my further inquiries.

And Mr. Rattray, in reporting of the crops throughout pergunnah Pachlakh, states as follows:—

" I have been over the whole of the Pachlakh pergunnah. There are scarcely any crops to be seen in the fields, as the gathering of the harvest is nearly completed. Rahar and a few fields of sugar-cane are all that remain to be cut of the rubbee crops. The yield of the rubbee has not on the whole been very much below the average of previous years."

After all, the present state of prices is the best test of the yield of the recent harvest, and under the circumstances one is justified in distrusting the view that the outturn " has not on the " whole been very much below the average of previous years," save in the case of dearah lands, and where exceptional means of irrigation were available.

15. Regarding the Hutwa estate, Mr. Hodgkinson writes as follows under this head:—

" I have nothing to add to my remarks in last report regarding the crop outturn. Cheena has been largely sown in opium and potato lands where water is procurable. The crop, as far as I have seen it, is healthy, but certainly thin."

Condition of the People.

16. The continuous high prices of food are beginning to tell still more upon the people, as is evident from the increased numbers on the relief works, but owing to the ample means of employment provided for the people in the immediate vicinity of their homes, there is no general distress of an extreme nature.

17. Mr. Hudson reports as follows:—

" There is no alteration, as far as I have had the means of judging, in the condition of the people. My experience in Parsa thana during the past fortnight tells me that they are in tolerably easy circumstances. Notably I have received spontaneous replies to this effect at Sotehar, Dhernee, Dighwara, Rasoolpore, and many other places throughout the south and west of the thana circle. I inquired at nearly every village along the road on my way from Garka to Teraiza, and everywhere received the answer 'hal achha hae.' All is well here at Mashrakh itself, and the Sub-Inspector makes a good report of the surrounding neighbourhood, but the putwarees of Mashrakh and Bussuntpore generally report distress amongst the people of their villages, and say that there is considerable resort to the relief works. I have not had much opportunity lately of forming a personal opinion myself as to the condition of these two circles, having been absent in Parsa during the past fortnight. The planters whom I have met with continue to assure me that there is no distress in the villages leased to them."

18. Under this head the following is the report of the sub-divisional officer of Sewan:—

"There has been no material change in the condition of the people since the date of my last report. They are still employed in the rubbee harvest and on the numerous relief works throughout the division."

Under this head Mr. Rattray says "that the laboring classes are finding work in the gathering of the harvest, and there is ample work for the poorer classes on the public roads and tanks which are keeping many, now pinched for food, from lapsing into a state of starvation, and, so far as I can judge of the prospects before us, it appears to me that relief measures will have to be continued for the next five or six months."

The following is extracted from Mr. Rattray's diary of the 27th March, written from Sreenugger in the vicinity of Mairwah:—

"Bhaban Singh, the principal zemindar in the neighbourhood, informs me that there is no distress, and that the poorer classes are finding work in the gathering of the harvest and on the tanks being excavated in this part of the country. He tells me that there is no want of grain in the markets, though not to be had except at high rates; rice selling at 12 seers for the rupee. He does not think matters any worse than when I was in the neighbourhood in the beginning of January last. On the contrary, he thinks that matters are somewhat better with the gathering of the harvest. So far as I can gather from him, he does not think that matters will be any worse at any time during the year than they are at the present moment."

It is to be hoped that Bhaban Singh's sanguine view of the situation may be justified.

Known cases of Misery and Starvation.

19. There have been no cases of starvation, and the means of relieving distress, which cannot be met by the relief works, are largely available throughout the district.

20. Mr. Hudson reports as follows:—

"No cases of starvation have occurred (as far as can be ascertained), nor have any exceptional cases of distress come within my experience, or been reported to me."

21. And Mr. Wright makes the following report from Sewan:—

"No cases of the kind have been reported. Mr. Rattray says that there is no serious distress at present, and I have seen no misery or destitution in the villages."

Grain-Thefts or Robberies.

22. There have been ten cases of grain-thefts during the fortnight.

23. The accompanying comparative statement shows the number of offences against property involving an intention of theft committed in the month of March during the years 1872, 1873, and 1874, as called for in Government Circular No. 4081, dated 20th December last.

It will be seen that the number of such offences is slightly fewer than in the two previous years, a result which, considering the nature of the season, is, I think, attributable only to the exceptional means of relief afforded to the people in the present year.

Condition of any Special Tracts.

24. The Chupra, Manjhee, Bussuntpore, Mashrakh, and Parsa thanas are the worse situated so far as the numbers on the relief works afford an indication of distress, the numbers in the Sewan sub-division being comparatively few, owing probably to the extensive sugar-cane production in that sub-division having given employment to the poorer classes for some months past.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

Progress of Relief Works, &c.

25. The annexed statements show the relief works in progress, and the number employed thereon. The average number daily employed during the fortnight has been 120,129, and the number on the last day was 135,079.

Now that the numbers are showing a rapid tendency to increase, it is of the last importance that the great works of the bank channel to the north of the district, and the proposed Gogra embankment to the south, should be put in hand at once. Already many have had to be placed on village roads to find employment for the people, and during the rains it will be still more difficult to provide continuous work. The per-centage of persons belonging to the non-laboring class amongst those now employed is 33 per cent. During the fortnight ten additional works have been started.

26. Mr. Hudson writes as follows:—

"The results of personal inquiries made at random amongst the coolies show that they receive their due amount of wages in the currency of the place, and that the work is freely open to all classes."

27. Under this head Mr. Hodgkinson reports as follows:—

"Harvest operations have continued to keep down the number employed on relief works. The cowrie system, which has been invariably adopted on the raj works, has, after an experience of four months, been found to work admirably. The condition of the laborers is itself a sufficient proof that no evil results have followed from exacting work under this system, and it is most satisfactory to find that while persons of all ages and sizes, young and old, weak and strong, have been employed and none turned away who sought work, the outturn of work has been proved by measurement to be in almost every case not less than half the amount which able-bodied laborers alone would be expected to show in ordinary seasons; in other words, the cost is only double the amount which the cost estimated at the ordinary ticca rates would come to. In places where the works have been more directly under European supervision, still more favorable results have been obtained. The payment of the coolies for each basket-full of earth has been so regulated, that even the weakest and youngest on the works can earn sufficient for their livelihood; and it has not been found that the stronger have been able to make more than a fair day's wage. While the works have drawn the women and children of the laboring population to them in large numbers, the men of the family have kept to their fieldwork and not been enticed from it, as they would have been if they found the cowrie system yield them unduly high wages."

28. The cowrie system is being tentatively introduced by the executive engineer, but unless increased remuneration is given to those who are old and infirm or of tender age, in which case many complications might ensue, it is difficult to understand how these can earn sufficient for their livelihood, while at the same time only subsistence allowance is obtained by the able-bodied for a full day's work. It is not enough that none should be turned away who seek work on the conditions offered, but it is also necessary that the system should be such that none are deterred from seeking work by the conditions of employment given. Mr. Wright reported that the introduction of the cowrie system at Sewan resulted in large numbers deserting the works, a result which was claimed by him as an advantage; but as the presumption is that these would not have come on the works at all unless in need of the means of subsistence, the probability is that the relief intended to be given failed in a corresponding degree. Mr. Hodgkinson, with the extensive agency available on the Hutwa estate for seeking out and relieving in other ways cases of distress not met by the relief works, could perhaps afford to overlook this consideration, but with the limited agency at command at the outset in other parts of the district, serious danger might have been incurred by the general introduction of the cowrie system. Doubtless that system is the best, as far as the cost of the work is concerned, but it seems to me that the element of cost is quite a secondary consideration, and that the question is how best to ensure the saving of the lives of the people, and not how best to carry on the work given for that end. Perhaps the best solution of the problem would be to have the two systems in operation together on one and the same work, the one for the able-bodied and the other for the weak and infirm. But there are difficulties attending this plan also. As to the argument that persons would have deserted their field work for the relief works, if they had found the cowrie system yield them unduly high wages, I do not think that there is much force in it, as practically the ordinary wages of agricultural labor, being paid in kind, are much higher in a season like the present than any that could be carried on relief works, and where such laborers come on the relief works at a time of agricultural operations, it is because their employers prefer, during a period of scarcity, to perform themselves the labor which they would have hired in ordinary years, while if the cultivators who employ such labor are alluded to, it may be pointed out that it has never yet been found in any famine that this class are in the habit of neglecting the agricultural operations on which they depend for subsistence for the sake of a merely temporary employment on relief works, nor is it reasonable to suppose that they would do so. The comparatively low rents prevalent on the Hutwa estate, affording as they must exceptional facilities for the employment of agricultural labor, probably go far to account for the comparatively small numbers on the relief work there.

29. The relief works on the wards' estates were temporarily stopped owing to the Commissioner having demurred to the cost of such works being borne by the Court of Wards, except in the case of entire estates owned by minors in a thoroughly solvent position; and having objected also to loans being raised for the purpose. But the Commissioner having since explained that he did not mean to refuse conditional sanction to such works being carried on in certain cases, the general manager has been authorized to re-open the works to the limited extent conditionally sanctioned by the Commissioner.

State Emigration to British Burma.

30. Ninety-three emigrants have been despatched to Calcutta during the fortnight. More are coming into the depôt here.

C.—Transport of Food.

Approximate amount of private food supplies, &c.

31. Such information as is available under this head has already been given.

32. Regarding the Hutwa grain supplies, Mr. Hodgkinson furnishes the following statement:—

	Mds.
Stored Hutwa granaries	66,016
Embankment granaries	4,874
Returned by collector	13,006
Revelgunge	6,900
Between Patna and Revelgunge	1,000
	91,796

33. The Commissioner having refused to sanction the 28,000 maunds contracted for the General Wards' estates, at a time when the prospects of the future food supply for those estates warranted alarm and seemed to justify the fullest precaution, basing his refusal apparently on the alteration for the better, caused by the more favorable outturn of the rubbee crops, the grain delivered at Revelgunge in accordance with previous contract should, if not sanctioned for the Wards' estates, be taken over on behalf of Government, and can, if so directed, be made available in reduction of the balance of the district allotment still remaining to be received.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

34. The accompanying statement shows the storage places, the distribution thereat of the grain allotted, and the amount of grain received at the different storage places up to the end of the fortnight. The total amount of grain received had been 4,02,920 maunds, of which 3,74,003 maunds had been finally stored and 24,334 maunds were in transit.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

35. Rs. 177-7 have been advanced during the fortnight for purchase of grain for sale, and Rs. 35,817 to zemindars for grain or money advances to their ryots, making up the total as yet advanced on these accounts to Rs. 1,39,877-7 and Rs. 3,44,904 respectively; and for land improvement Rs. 18,872 have been advanced, bringing up the total on this account to Rs. 81,146.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

36. The number receiving charitable relief, so far as the returns obtained show, is noted below—

Thana	Names of circles whence relief has been given.	No. of persons relieved.	Amount paid.
1 Chuprah - - - -	1 Arrowah - - - - - -	79	90 0 0
	2 Garbha - - - - - -	78	78 0 0
2 Manjhee - -	3 Banwar - - - - - -	141	95 9 3
	4 Parsa - - - - - -	294	8 15 4
	5 Ramghar - - - - - -	7	7 0 0
3 Dighwarah - -	6 Dighwarah - - - - - -	23	7 0 0
4 Parsa - - - - -	7 Parsa - - - - - -	165	10 15 0
	8 Sitalpore - - - - - -	15	13 0 9
	9 Tehtee - - - -	47	100 0 0
	10 Jelalpore - - - - - -	49	100 0 0
5 Bussuntpore - -	11 Bagowra - - - - - -	58	81 13 0
	Total - -	956	532 5 4

37. Mr. Wright reports as follows under this head:—

"During the fortnight, the subscription to the charitable relief fund amounted to Rs. 140; the sums collected during the same period amount to Rs. 157."

In my last report I mentioned that Rs. 3,150 had been sent to the different circles for gratuitous relief of poor people who may be found unable to work. Up to date I have received intimation of only Rs. 3-13 having been paid. Of this sum Mr. D. N. Reid of Suddowah gave one rupee to a women "whose husband was reported as having died from starvation," but on enquiry Mr. Reid discovered that the report was false, and that the man had died from natural causes. The balance (Rs. 2-13) was paid by Maulavi Gholam Abbas of the Harpore Circle to six persons."

38. And Mr. Hodgkinson writes thus:—

"The number receiving charitable relief still continues very small.* The enquiries through village agency have been completed in some instances, and tickets will now be distributed to those who are reported to be incapable of working for gratuitous relief. In some cases this has been already done. Judging from the returns sent in I don't think that gratuitous relief will be necessary in more than for 800 to 1,000 cases in the Hutwa sub-division; but even after tickets are distributed, I do not expect that this number will be reached for some time to come. In my next fortnightly narrative I hope to be able to give the results of the enquiry and the steps taken on it in detail."

*Hutwa - -	14
Sreepore - -	8
Sonowhula -	3
Bhorey - -	15
Chumokha -	16
Nuniarah - -	5

No. 967F, dated Champarun, the 9th April 1874.

From H. KEAN, Esq., Collector of Champarun, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit the fortnightly narrative of Scarcity and Relief for this district for the fortnight ending 4th April.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

I propose to deal with each relief sub-division according to its number.

Sub-division No. 1.—This sub-division, which comprises thanas Moteeharee and Adapore, is in charge of W. B. Oldham, Esq., C.S. He reports—"That none of the bazar supplies of the

“ grain usually offered for sale at this time of the year have fallen short, but rice is scarce, while there is still an abundance of maize, and gram is quite equal to the demand.” At Segowli (the head-quarters for the present of this sub-division), coarse rice has been selling at 11 seers for the rupee. At Ramgurwa, six miles to the north of Segowli, it was rather dearer. The great annual mela at Adapore (on the Nepaul frontier) had been held during the fortnight, and there Mr. Oldham found that common rice was selling at between 10 and 11 seers.

At Kutkenwa (another frontier outpost) seven miles east of Adapore, and where the supply had shown signs of running short, the same price (nearly 11 seers for the rupee) obtained, while there was an abundance of maize at nearly 15 seers. The market at Kutkenwa had suddenly lightened within the fortnight, which Mr. Oldham assigns to the excellent rubbee crops existing just north of Kutkenwa in the Nepaul territory, and which had begun to be harvested.

With regard to supplies of grain in the hands of zemindars, &c., Mr. Oldham says:—“There are indications that the people still have considerable supplies; a large fire occurred at Segowli which destroyed 35 houses; only one of these was a grain dealer's, the others belonging to petty tobacconists and shop-keepers. In several of the latter, I found large supplies of maize and oilseeds, and some rice. One tobacconist stated that he had lost 600 maunds of rice. Another indication is the fluctuation in the numbers of the laboring gangs. In checking the relief distribution at Koraiya, a frontier village, reported as the most distressed in this sub-division, I found some persons who had been relieved, and despatched to the relief works lately opened there, in their houses. They explained to me that they did not care to work every day. Again, at Kutkenwa, which was also thought to be badly off, on very light task-work being introduced on the relief works there, the number of laborers fell one day from over 1,300 to 600.”

There had been no rain during the fortnight. The crops, with the exception of “cheena,” were being harvested; the barley, wheat, and dâl crops have been and are certainly not less than eight annas of an average season. The poppy crop is said to be very fair. The “cheena” was looking poor at present, on account of the west winds, where not irrigated. A large portion, however, had been irrigated from the local streams, and none is irrecovetable if even a little rain would fall. Of the rice lands, *i.e.*, those unfit for any cultivation but rice, fully two-thirds have been prepared for the next sowings.

Of the condition of the people Mr. Oldham reports very favourably; he says:—“Their condition is very much better than I expected, and they show no signs of sinking. All the gangs employed on the relief works consist of able-bodied people, all of whom are fit to have task-work exacted from them. They still swarm to the works, but show an independence both as regards their choice of sites for working, and when it is attempted to make them give a due return of labor, which is very significant; for instance, I found numbers of persons from villages near to and south of Segowli on Mr. Lethbridge's works at Ramgurwa, while work on the tanks being made here by the Public Works Department is very poorly attended. On the works under me I have been trying to introduce light task-work, that is, to exact at least 1,000 cubic feet from each gang of 50 persons, containing not less than 15 able-bodied men with tools. The result of trying to get only two-thirds of this work from the laborers at Kutkenwa has already been noticed. On introducing it at Sripore, 13 miles north of Motiharee on the road there, the coolies employed struck work altogether.”

This description of the condition of the people is very significant and speaks for itself. Mr. Oldham had only seen two cases of emaciation during his tour through his sub-division. One was an old Mussulman cultivator who had come into the Ramgurwa poor-house for food. He lived only two miles off and had three beegahs of land, which his son cultivated; he was himself long past work.

The other case was that of an old Rajpoot in a village about three miles from Ramgurwa factory; his grandchildren were in good condition, and he had two bullocks. He said he had starved himself to give his grandchildren food. He was supplied with a maund of maize and 20 seers of rice.

The spinning relief which Mr. Oldham is introducing will meet these cases.

Just before Mr. Oldham went round his sub-division, charitable relief had been distributed. This no doubt accounts partly for the good condition of the people. The usual number of beggars swarmed, Mr. Oldham says, at the Adapore “mela,” and they were all in good condition. The mela, however, was not so numerously attended as usual. Of the whole sub-division the northern two-thirds, Mr. Oldham says, is the portion which will require most attention, and of that tract, the fifty square miles adjoining the Ramnuggur country (*i.e.*, sub-division of Bulthur, which forms a portion of the Ramnuggur relief sub-division) are the worst off. This portion consists almost entirely of oily rice soil, and is, moreover, more thickly populated than the rest of the rice tracts.

Relief sub-division No. 2.—This sub-division, comprising thanas Dhaka and Modhubun, is in charge of Mr. S. Kilby. Regarding bazar supplies Mr. Kilby says:—“There is no difficulty experienced in obtaining supplies at any of the bazars; a very small quantity of the new rubbee crop had found its way into the markets, as the cultivators seem very loth to dispose of it.” With regard to the prevailing rates of food, Mr. Kilby gives the following table:—

Rice - - -	9 to 10 seers.	Rahar - - -	16 seers per Re.
Maize - - -	12½ to 13 „	Cheena - - -	15 „
Barley - - -	13 „	Kodo - - -	15 „
Wheat - - -	12 „	Murwa - - -	15 „
Gram - - -	13 „	Mussur - - -	16 „
Peas - - -	17 „	Oorid - - -	13 „
Kerao - - -	17 „		

There had been no rain, and the prospects therefore of the "cheena" crop (which is not irrigated to any large extent in these thanas), are very bad; indeed, unless rain falls shortly, this crop will be a failure except in low-lying and irrigated lands. Regarding the condition of the people, Mr. Kilby reports that in consequence of the numerous relief works that have been opened out, their condition is satisfactory. No cases of death from starvation have occurred, though some cases of emaciation have been met with. These persons have been regularly fed and they are now able to work on the roads. Funds have been supplied to each member of the sub-divisional committee, and to the police at Dhaka and Modhubun to enable them to provide gratuitous relief to all who from bodily infirmity cannot be referred to the works. About 80 persons had been thus relieved during the fortnight.

The central portion of this sub-division is stated by Mr. Kilby to be the worst, as it is for the most part a rice-growing country. The "rubbee" was being harvested, and a great portion had been threshed. The outturn, it is estimated, will be about as follows:—In the north of the sub-division (around Ghorashan), a ten-anna crop is expected; about Meerpore not more than a five-anna crop; further south to Seeraha about a four-anna, and in the neighbourhood of Modhubun and south to the Tirhoot boundary, an eight to ten-anna crop.

Relief sub-division No. 3.—This sub-division, comprising thanas Gobindgunge and Kessuriah, is in charge of Mr. Weekes, C.S. He reports as follows:—

"The state of the crops is again altered for the worse. There is hardly any moisture in the " soil, except in some of the lowest lying lands. The indigo does not germinate, or germinates " and dies, and the millet is being scorched up." With regard to the rubbee, Mr. Weekes reports that the crops are very much better in the west and north-west of his sub-division than in the north and south-east; the crop is being rapidly harvested, but the produce is in many places indifferent. The "kodo" crop is also said not to have germinated.

The harvesting of the cold-weather crop had caused a lull in the progress of distress. He is of opinion that the agriculturists will be able to tide over April, and the more fortunate part of them half through May with the assistance of the cold-weather crop.

In particular tracts, *i.e.*, from Gobindgunge along the Gunduck, past Burhurwa, Serni, and along towards Arrey Raj the fortunate villagers will be able to last through the whole of May and longer, but it is different, he thinks, with the rest of the division; no confidence can be placed in the millet crop. The two lowest classes (the incapables and the day-laborers) are provided for by the relief works and charitable relief. The ryots of all grades are clamorous for loans. If this estimate of the condition of the people is correct, Mr. Weekes should lose no time in organising village-to-village relief, and this I am glad to see he is doing. He says—

"The relief works reach most of the day-laborers. To ensure the relief of those unable to work, the aged, infirm, and the sick, I have been constantly in tents and on the move, and, with the assistance of the planters, have established a satisfactory system. The principle is to keep the people as much as possible in their villages. The putwaree of each village brings all incapables in his villages to the planters (who are members of the sub-divisional committee and relieving officers of the several circles), and their names, caste, residence, &c., as guaranteed by the putwaree, are entered in a register; each putwaree then receives every 7 or 15 days enough rice at ½ seer per head, to support those who are entered in the register, and residents of his village." This plan, Mr. Weekes says, is answering very well. Store-houses and centres are being selected, but he does not propose to build many granaries as there are many empty ones, he says, which he intends to fill when the need arises from the main stores, which are situated principally at factories within easy reach of each centre. Mr. Weekes has also used every endeavour to promote cotton spinning and weaving, and with considerable success. All the putwarees have been directed to extend this kind of relief, and are strictly enjoined to see that each person in want applies for and obtains the mode of assistance best suited to his or her case. Domes have either had separate earth-work assigned to them or been employed in making baskets; this has been found necessary, as other people object to work in company with Domes. Mr. Weekes has also pushed on the work of granting land improvement applications as fast as possible, and the pains he has taken has had the desired effect of increasing the number of applicants. The putwaree agency is indented upon largely also in this species of relief, each putwaree having to testify to the quality of the security tendered in every case in which Mr. Weekes does not personally inspect the property, and in each case in which money is advanced inquiries are made into the use to which it has been devoted. Another class of loans had been made through the European planters who have, both in this sub-division and in all the others (where planters reside), taken advances from Government for the assistance (in grain or money), of their ryots. These gentlemen, as Mr. Weekes observes (and as has already been frequently brought to the notice of Government), have shown great public spirit and humanity in this and in many other ways.

These loans (for assistance to ryots) have been of great value, reaching (as Mr. Weekes points out), "the main body of the middle class, who are the only large body, and at the same time by " far the most important class, who are not reached by other relief measures."

Relief sub-division No. 4.—(Thanas Bettiah and portion of Lowrya.) Mr. Samuells reports that the state of the bazars remains as before, and that no scarcity of supplies is felt. The price of rice was reported to have risen above 10 seers at Rutwal, but it was found to be incorrect, and when Government grain was offered for sale it found no purchasers. The people are said to be fully employed in harvesting the rubbee, and in their sugarcane fields. The price of rice had been steady at 10 to 11 seers. No cases of starvation had occurred and no increase in crime.

Relief sub-division No. 5.—(Bugha and portion of Lawrya.)—Mr. Howe reports from this sub-division as follows:—

"No rain has fallen during the past fortnight, and matters are much the same as when I last wrote. The sale of Government grain has proved a great success, and is much appreciated; it will, I think, have soon to be extended to the east of the sub-division, where supplies, though procurable, are getting scarcer. Rice has been selling during the last fortnight at the following rates:—

Rumnuggur Government rice through the traders, 11 seers cleaned, 12 seers uncleaned.

Shikarpore, varying from 9 to 10.

Harnatour, 10 seers.

Bughaha, from 9 to 10½ seers.

'Makai' has been selling at Ramnuggur at 13 seers, and at Shirkapore at 12; it has been procurable in sufficient quantities. In the east, rice (as above stated) had become more scarce, and the sale of grain will soon be necessary; at Harnatour (north-west), on the other hand, it had become more plentiful. This, Mr. Howe attributes to the fact of sufficient advances having been given. The Jharoos are more or less independent, and the demand being less, the owners of grain stores are more anxious to sell, perhaps, because they fear that Government rice may be brought to the market.

With regard to the general condition of the people, Mr. Howe reports—" Generally speaking, " our relief measures have very beneficially affected the condition of the people. During the " fortnight the daily average receiving support by working on the roads was over 9,000 during " the first, and over 12,000 during the second week, and the total number employed was 143,000. " Large advances (*vide* heading E) have been made to Assamees, and though the condition of " the latter in some parts of the sub-division is still far from satisfactory, there can be no doubt " that the advances already made have saved the Assamee population from starvation. The sale " of Government grain, by bringing ample supplies into the most distressed parts at cheaper rates " has greatly diminished the general distress, and restored the confidence of the people, whose " condition by these measures has been assimilated to that of ordinary years." There had been no cases of starvation, nor had grain thefts occurred, and fires had been much fewer, and all were accidental. Speaking of special tracts, Mr. Howe says, " In Tuppah Butsura I have been able " to obtain, through the European members of the sub-committee, accurate statistics of the " 'cheena' and rubbee crops. The area under cultivation was as follows:—

" Cheena - - - - - - -	307 beeghas.
" Rubbee - - - - - - -	365 "

" Owing to insufficiency of rain the out-turn has not been good. As mentioned in my last " narrative, the manufacture of sugarcane gives employment and support to many, and the worst " time for the tuppah will be when this employment ceases. The arrangements for meeting " distress are, however, fully advanced, so that we are prepared for the worst."

" In the Ramnugger tract, and generally, throughout the east and south, there has been no " 'rubbee' to speak of."

" In Ramnugger and the south, the people now, in some form or other, depend almost entirely on indirect Government help; while in the east we are rapidly coming to this condition. By this, I mean that in the former tract trade has failed to bring in supplies, and that but for the sale of Government rice there would be great scarcity and suffering; secondly, that the Assamees depend for food-supplies on advances made, and to be made, by Government; and thirdly, that our works keep alive a large portion of the population. But the number of persons who receive direct gratuitous aid from Government is comparatively trifling. In the east, food is gradually becoming scarcer, and as soon as the necessity of selling Government grain becomes inevitable the measure will be adopted.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

The following is a list of the relief works, and the number of persons employed:—

Sub-Division No. 1.

Roads.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Motiharee station road - - -	9,579	8,205	2,422	20,206
Segowlee to Rajoul - - - -	23,965	13,142	11,451	48,558
Ramgurwah to Adapore - - -	11,954	4,448	3,470	19,872
Adapore to Kut Kenwa - - -	4,485	5,306	3,324	13,115
Kut Kenwa to Motiharee - - -	8,084	9,125	3,507	20,716
Narkatya to Goraghat - - -	1,020	880	592	2,492
Total - - - -	59,087	41,106	24,766	124,959
Tanks.				
Ramgurwa - - - - -	Not received.			
Sakrar - - - - -	Ditto.			
Pursutampore - - - -	3,506	4,828	2,928	11,262
Narkatya - - - - -	921	1,783	777	3,481
Total - - - -	4,427	6,611	3,705	14,743

Sub-Division No. 2.

Name of work.	Number of people employed.
Dhaka to Nepaul boundary - - - - -	2,562
Jamoah to Suraha - - - - - -	31,724
Dhaka to Pareywa - - - - -	1,862
Dhaka to Belwaghat - - - - -	12,110

Name of work.	Number of people employed.
Motiharee to Dhaka	21,168
Dhaka to Pudumkair	29,288
Ghorashan to Kut Kenwa	17,066
Pareywa to Tilhara	6,692
Pareywa to Pakri	10,010
Pakri to Buraor	7,686
Pakri to Etwaghat	9,618
Modhubunghat to Seeraha	18,046
Seeraha to Modhubun	16,940
Kuttahaghat to Madhuba	180,940
Sullypore to Simraghat	6,720
Tanks—	
Nusrouli	2,352
Surata	7,084
Bandar	3,864
Dhaka	4,732
Pursoni	4,270
Mudwaha	6,986
Kahargawah	22,274
Total	261,794

The returns for sub-division No. 3 are so imperfect that they cannot be given in detail, but the approximate number of men, women, and children employed on the works in that sub-division during the fortnight were—

Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
18,951	17,371	12,595	48,917

Sub-division No. 4.

Name of work.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Bettiah to Gobindgunge	25,230	26,230	14,434	65,894
Bettiah to Tangraghat	18,945	23,436	6,335	48,716
Lalseryah to Bettiah	17,787	15,083	8,686	41,556
Dhokraha to Pursa	2,893	5,416	1,543	9,852
Lawriah to Bettiah	5,414	2,680	1,125	9,219
Lawriah to Bugha	1,449	728	404	2,381
Total	71,718	73,573	32,327	177,618

Sub-division No. 5.

Name of work.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Ramnuggur to Bugha	8,021	8,785	3,227	20,033
Ditto to Shaeya	18,293	21,605	4,097	43,995
Ditto to Chankee	12,028	14,695	2,903	29,726
Shikarpore to Lawriah	1,503	1,618	701	3,822
Ditto to Bulthur	2,823	3,544	1,045	7,412
Bettiah to Bhoura	900	842	490	2,232
Bugha to Harnatur	2,259	3,890	1,394	7,543
Harnatur to Tirbeni	1,318	3,844	1,710	6,872
Total	47,661	60,337	15,826	123,824
Lower Gunduck Embankment	79,189	406	840	80,435

Therefore, the grand total number employed is 832,290 and the daily average is—

59,449	
18,000	Upper Gunduck Embankment.
77,449	

Regarding circle No. 1, Mr. Oldham writes:—

"There is a full supply of food in the neighbourhood of all the works, except at Ramgurwa, where temporarily grain payments are being made. At some of the works, where the men were getting only 4 pice on the task-work system, when the 6 pice rate was started, they refused to work, saying that they preferred the 4 pice without the measurement."

All the laborers, Mr. Oldham says, are in a fit state for task-work to be rigorously exacted, and, indeed, for the able-bodied to be turned away and drafted to the Public Works Department works.

To prevent the task-work system pressing too hard, an invalid gang has been started at each work, to be composed purely of persons who are unfit for task-work. Experiments in spinning relief on a small scale have been made, and were eminently successful. Cotton was given to some

30 persons only, all of whom gladly received it, and have spun it into very fair thread, and accounted for it strictly. Unfortunately, cotton is not procurable in any large quantities, and Mr. Oldham has therefore written to Gazeepore for some.

Mr. Kilby also reports that in circle No. 2 food is procurable near all the works, and that no complaints had been made to him on that score. Wages are distributed daily. The work-people being their own tools, and higher wages are given to men who bring their own kodalis, viz., 9 pice (1¼ anna). Mr. Kilby has started the "cowri khep" system, and finds that it works admirably. The maximum wage of 9 pice is given only to men who perform a full day's work, 7 to 8 pice being given to others. The Public Works Department has lately taken charge of most of the relief works in this sub-division, and much credit is due to Mr. Eckstein, the Assistant Engineer, for the trouble he has taken to break up the gangs, which were getting unwieldly and putting matters altogether on a better footing, He has commenced several tanks, and has introduced the petty contract system, under which men with kodalis get on an average 2 annas a day, and others 6 or 7 pice. Baboo Durgapersad, of Modhubun, a wealthy landed proprietor, is constructing a road from Modhubun to Kodduporeghat, for the relief of his ryots.

In circle No. 3 Mr. Weekes has several tanks in progress, and he also has tried the "cowri "khep" system with success. Mr. Weekes has been working hitherto without assistance from the Public Works Department. Mr. Arnot, who has lately joined the district, has now, however, been deputed by the Executive Engineer to the charge of the works in this circle.

Sub-division No. 4.—In this circle, Mr. Samuells has also been working without assistance, except from the planters. The district has now been divided into East and West Champarun, and an Executive Engineer and staff * of officers placed, in charge of each division. It will now be possible to systematise matters, and put the whole of the relief works on a more satisfactory footing.

**Bettiah sub-division, styled West Champarun.*
Mr. Armstrong, Executive Engineer,
„ James } Subordinates.
„ Smart }
„ Scallon }
Sudder Division, styled East Champarun.
Mr. Handcock, Executive Engineer.
„ Eckstein } Subordinates.
„ Arnot }
„ Wells }
„ Johnstone }
„ Saunder }

Some of these officers have been deputed to Mr. Howe's circle also. The daily average in this sub-division, No. 5, has reached 12,000 or 3,000 more than in the previous week. "People of all classes," Mr. Howe says, "flock to the roads and "tanks, the poorer among the cultivating classes coming in "very large numbers. The roads which attract most laborers "are those around Ramnuggur, in which tract distress has "been more severe than in any other part of the sub-division. The health of the laborers is "good, and a marked improvement in their condition is perceptible. They have now had regular "employment and good pay for some months, while food has become plentiful and comparatively "cheap since Government rice has been sold to the public. These causes have had the effect of "considerably improving the condition of the labouring classes, and of all who come to the relief "works; there are, however, of course a large number still who, from weakness, are unable to "perform a full day's work." "On the three roads branching from Ramnuggur, traders who purchase rice from Government retail it to the workmen at 11 seers. In the east and west portions of the sub-division, where the system of selling rice to the public has not yet been introduced, sales to our workmen under Rule A. continue. At Harnatur and Bughaha the rate is 10 seers. The Executive Engineer, Upper Gunduck embankment, reports that rice was less plentiful than before, and was selling at 9 seers per rupee. The laborers are still purchasing maize and other grains at 12 seers and 13 seers. The Government sale had been very small. He states that the Burmah rice is not liked, and that a good deal of paddy is mixed with the rice.

About half of the earth-work has been finished. He complains of the inefficiency of the sub-overseers, and states that as portions of the embankment are finished, the coolies working thereon return to their villages, and are seldom persuaded to go further on for work. Out of the total assignment of grain, 150,000 maunds, 128,000 had been stored. The daily average of persons employed was 18,743.

C.—Transport of Grain.

The contract for the transport of grain is working most satisfactory, even more than the stipulated amount having been conveyed per week into the district. The contractors complain that grain is not delivered to them fast enough at Bunkurghat. The route through Sarun to Gobindgunge is in full working order.

D.—Storage of Grain.

The construction of storage golahs is still going on. The following is the amount actually stored on the 3rd April:—

	Mds.	
In the Ramnuggur tract - - -	168,543	Includes embankment grain.
In the Bettiah sub-division - - -	175,457	
In the Sudder district - - -	153,247	

E.—Advances to Private Persons.

The following sums were advanced during the fortnight:—

	Rs.
I. For storage of grain - - - - -	Nil
II. For assistance of ryots - - - - -	7,500
III. For land improvement - - - - -	2,315

The total amount expended up to date under these three heads has been—

	Rs.
I.	1,32,000
II.	1,33,726
III.	22,507

F.—Charitable Relief.

Sub-division No. 1.—Mr. Oldham reports as follows regarding this heading—"The arrangements for charitable relief are completed. I have now the following members in my sub-committee, and shall have added to their number within the next fortnight:—

Mr. R. Lethbridge, Ramgurwah factory.
„ Thorp, Huroliah.
Captain F. Knowles, Commanding 2nd B. C., Segowlie.
Mr. A. Edwards, Motiharee.
„ W. F. Gibbon, Tirkowleah."

Mr. Oldham has also two sub-committees under him. He says: "Mr. Lethbridge's assistance is invaluable. He has undertaken, and is actually looking after, the whole of the tract in farm to his factory, which embraces a great part of that which will require most attention. There is a poor-house and hospital at Ramgurwah, both of which are being enlarged under Mr. Lethbridge's supervision. I found that he had started the ticket system as followed in Orissa, and up to date tickets for grain have been issued from his centre to 320 persons. The two inspectors under me have now visited almost every village in the sub-division, and distributed money relief as they went, as have also done the Sub-Deputy Collector, Baboo Jugeshwar Singh, and Moonshee Durbari Lal. These distributions, with Mr. Lethbridge's arrangements, have fully alleviated all present distress, and left time for the grain-ticket system, which has now been started in all but the south-west portion of the sub-division, to come into operation. The inspectors have also convened and established 'punchayats' in all the villages visited by them, to whom they have made over the sums for the maintenance of the persons charitably relieved, and, on checking the visitations, I have found that the 'punchayats' had acted very well, nor did I hear a single complaint against any of them."

Sub-division No. 2.—Mr. Kilby writes—"The sub-division is being divided into 10 circles, each containing 40 villages; a member of the sub-divisional committee will be placed in charge of each circle, having an inspector and 3 sub-inspectors under him; each sub-inspector will be put in charge of 15 villages."

In this way Mr. Kilby proposes to account for the whole of his sub-division, each portion being placed under the charge of some responsible person, and each village provided for. This scheme differs from the system adopted by Messrs. Oldham and Weekes in the 2nd division, and Messrs. Samuells and Howe in the Bettiah division. In that the sub-agency to be employed is paid, and will be somewhat costly, but it has its own advantages. One of the members Mr. Macqueen, has started the system in 90 villages. Mr. Begg, another member, is making arrangements for his circle, and Mr. Kilby has commenced the scheme in 60 villages. These three circles comprise the worst portions of the sub-division, and the other circles will shortly, Mr. Kilby reports, be in working order. Mr. Kilby states that he is almost swamped with applications for loans, which, although not really required in most cases, necessitate enquiry in all; arrangements are being made to provide Mr. Kilby with assistance. A hospital has been erected at Pakree, but the health of the people is so good that there have been no admissions. A village-to-village enquiry has been, and is being made by Mr. Kilby and his inspectors; those who are incapable of working, receive gratuitous relief from the members of the sub-divisional committee, and in a few instances funds have been supplied to the village punchayats for distribution.

The measures adopted for charitable relief in subdivision No. 3 have already been notified in this report. In sub-division No. 4 (as reported in a former narrative for the fortnight ending the 21st February), Mr. Samuells has divided his jurisdiction into eight relief centres, each centre being placed in charge of some responsible person. The agency employed is altogether unpaid. Poor houses have been opened at Rutwal and Bettiah, and about 4,000 persons receive charitable relief daily throughout the sub-division.

Sub-division No. 5.—Regarding the arrangements in this sub-division, Mr. Howe writes: "The questions of the most pressing importance are, first, to provide the 'Assamee' population with sufficient good grain; secondly, to provide them with, or to enable them to obtain seed-grain. Almost the entire population of the sub-division is agricultural, and the proportion of the cultivating class that comes to our works is small, though the actual numbers are large. The remainder now depend almost entirely on the advances they have received either from their zemindars or from Government, nor have they anything except advances to look forward to until the next rice crop is reaped. The best of them are poor and in debt, and it is from this fact that the question of advances becomes so difficult. On the one hand, unless advances are immediately made on a large scale, the 'Assamee' population will be reduced to starvation; while on the other hand, there is the risk that, unless great care is taken in investigating each case, the security will be insufficient. To make advances too readily (except in the comparatively small class of cases coming under Rule F.), tends to demoralise the people, and renders them reckless in getting still further into debt. The difficulty is to combine sufficient promptness with sufficient caution, and to make a searching investigation without thereby losing the right moment for action." Mr. Howe has submitted a scheme which has been sanctioned, and on which he has been acting. The following is an outline of this: a register (mouzahwar) is prepared in each tuppah, in which the amount required approximately for each village is entered. This register is prepared in the first instance by the inspector of the circle, assisted, where possible, by any influential member of the committee resident in the tuppah. It is then carefully tested by the officer in charge of the circle, who can alter (increase or lessen) the total amount fixed in round numbers. As soon as this has been done, a certain quantity of grain is sent to each village, where it is kept in charge of the headmen of the village, from whom due security for its safe custody is taken. The class of cases requiring most immediate relief, *i.e.*, "Assamees" coming under Rule F (which fortunately are comparatively few) will then be taken up and disposed of summarily. These men can be readily found, as there are but few in each village. The object of sending grain to each village, Mr. Howe explains, is—"first to give confidence, for "experience shows that the mere presence of grain in a village (if the object of its being brought "is known) has this effect; secondly, to enable the advances under Rule F to be made at once.' The summary inquiry preceding distribution under Rule F will be carried on simultaneously, and, having once decided to whom to give under this rule, there is nothing like immediate action, which of course can only be taken if the grain is ready. Thirdly, because now is the best time for carrying grain throughout the interior, and we should therefore avail ourselves of it. Having provided every village with an amount of grain which, approximately, will suffice for advances, and having relieved the worst cases under Rule F, a register in the following form will be prepared and carefully tested by circle inspectors and officers in charge of circles:—

1	2	3	4	5
NAME OF MOUZAH.	Amount already distributed either by Rajah of Bettiah, or under Rajah of Ramnuggur's loan.	Number and names of Assamees requiring advances, with amount required by each.	Nature of security.	REMARKS.

When this return has been carefully tested, the zemindar will be called upon either to make the advance or to go security, Government making the tuccavee distribution. If he declines, the best security available will be taken, and the procedure laid down in Circular No 1088 of 25th February will be followed, *i.e.*, the zemindar will be warned that Government reserves the right to recover the advance by legislation or otherwise. There are numerous landholders, jaghirdars, aritdars, &c., whose security will be sufficient. The other landholders in the sub-division are the Rajahs of Bettiah and Ramnuggur. Mr. Howe has addressed Mr. Gibbon, the manager of the estates belonging to the former, and he will no doubt afford his cordial co-operation. Under the Rajah of Ramnuggur's security Mr. Howe has advanced 5,094 maunds, and Colonel Boulderson about 4,000. There are numerous villages, he reports, not belonging to the Rajah, where advances have to be made direct to Assamees, and where the procedure under Circular 1088 of 25th February will have to be followed. The tuppahs in the south belonging to the Rajah of Bettiah also require attention, the advances made by Mr. Gibbon being either incomplete, or having proved insufficient. Mr. Gibbon has been addressed on this subject, with regard to the very important question of providing seed-grain to the assamees. Mr. Howe promises to submit a report as soon as he had completed some further inquiries he is making. There is very little seed-grain, he says, in his sub-division, and he fears that it will be withheld in order that high prices may be obtained under the special head of charitable relief. Mr. Howe writes:—"The "sub-division has been divided into four large circles with 11 sub-circles (corresponding with "tuppahs), in each of which there is a sub-inspector who prepares and tests the register of those "unable from weakness to work. The poor-houses at Ramnuggur and Bagaha are in full work-"ing order. The principal feature in the charitable relief scheme is the village-to-village relief "system (Rule 4); about 1,400 poor are supported each day. Colonel Boulderson manages the "circle in the east (Balthur), with five sub-circles; Mr. Joakim is at Hurnataur, where a similar "system is in force; while I manage the Ramnuggur circle with four sub-circles. The Bagaha "sub-committee supervises tuppah Butsorah and the poor-house at Bagaha. In this way every "part of the sub-division has proper supervision, and the rules are being carried into practical "effect. The congregation of large masses at any place is avoided, while no case of distress can "occur without being brought to notice and relieved."

Enclosure No. 5.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 14th April 1874.

READ—

The district narratives of the Bhagulpore division for the fortnight ending on the 4th April.

RESOLUTION.—*Monghyr.*—The supplies in the bazars of the Monghyr district appear to be sufficient, and all who have money can get food; prices, except in Buktiarpore, are nowhere below 11 seers per rupee. The condition of the people generally is unchanged. Village to village visitation is going on in the worst tracts, and the people are found to be generally in good case, except in Buktiarpore, where the relieving officer had at his village visitations to deal out grain to 350 persons. It is reported that no deaths have occurred from actual starvation; at the same time it is said that on a road near Buktiarpore was found the body of an old traveller who must have suffered from want.

2. Relief work can, it is said, be had by all who want it, yet the numbers so relieved are not large, viz.—

On Government relief works - - - - -	3,071
Commissioner of Wards' works - - - -	4,000
On works executed from advances - - - -	1,103
Total -	8,174

It is explained, however, that the people have not yet come back from their work in the harvest fields. The Magistrate-Collector and the Commissioner must be careful to watch the rubbee country, wherein a considerable quantity of Government grain is already stored, so that they may be able to declare as soon as possible how much of the grain may be held as reserve, available for the wants of more necessitous tracts.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees for the most part in the views expressed by Mr. Lockwood, in regard to making advances for purchase and storage of grain; he believes that Collectors and their subordinates exercise an intelligent discretion in the matter. And that being so public money will go further in advances for purchase of grain, and in advances for land improvements than it could do in any other shape. It is satisfactory to learn that in all cases of advances to ryots, the Monghyr authorities have been able to employ the services, and get the security of superior landholders. At the same time it must be remembered that, where ryots are really in need, advances of grain should by no means be withheld merely because the superior landholders will not come forward to share the responsibility. On this particular point the Lieutenant-Governor does not at all follow the view of the Collector. It ought to be possible to afford some aid to distressed ryots to sustain life till the new crop shall come in, without causing the abuses and demoralisation which the Collector seems to apprehend.

4. 3,459 maunds of grain have been sold to the public, and about 20 maunds to work-people. 1,367 persons are daily in receipt of relief; and the relief officer in the worst part is sending grain to distressed villages, and distributing it through the local village agency in a manner which seems to be successful.

5. *Bhagulpore.*—Though the spring harvests have been decidedly good, yet prices have not fallen in Soopole and Muddehpoorah. Nothing is said of the condition of the cheena crop, of which the breadth is said to be beyond anything known in previous years. No ascertained cases of famine-death are reported, except that of an infant of thirteen months. The numbers employed on relief works have risen greatly during the fortnight, and are now

On Government relief work - - - -	8,300
On Soopole works, under the Court of Wards' - -	25,435
Total -	33,735

The number employed on private works seem to be less considerable than in Mongh

6. The transport of Government grain has gone on very satisfactorily and efficiently, except that the supply delivered at the railway stations, was for some days less than the transport contractor required. Four lakhs of maunds of Government grain were stored in North Bhagulpore before the end of March. 157 maunds was sold to relief laborers, and 340 maunds to the public. The sales to the public appear to have operated satisfactorily, and not to have stopped such private trade as there was. Sales to the public are now beginning at three other places in North Bhagulpore. 1,633 people are in daily receipt of charitable relief; many of the applicants are people from Tirhoot. Registers of people for house to house relief are being completed. Zemindars have taken considerable advances for helping their ryots; but it has not been necessary to make direct advances to ryots on any considerable scale.

7. *Purneah.*—The supply of grain in the bazars would seem to be fuller than at the time of last Narrative. The Lieutenant-Governor approves Mr. Kemble's action in stopping sales to the public at Dengraghat, when he saw that local traders were coming forward to sell; still we need not regret that sales were temporarily begun, seeing how very low the supply in the bazars at one time fell. On the whole, the condition of the people seems certainly not to have grown worse during the fortnight, and the information obtained regarding the possession and importation of seed-grain by the Purneah ryots is satisfactory.

8. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that there is much merit in the plan described by the Collector of advancing grain to village communities on the collective security of the community; and this method will be suggested for consideration in other districts.

9. The number of people on the relief works has risen greatly during the fortnight, the daily average being now 17,250. Government grain is being sold at 12 out of 16 of the larger relief works; but the quantities as yet taken are not large. The transport operations in Purneah are well forward. The charitable relief arrangements appear to be working well, and the circle officers are carrying out the rules intelligently. The average number of people in receipt of this form of relief is 2,178 daily.

10. The Sonthal Pergunnah's Narrative has not yet (10th April) been received.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 2374—S.R.

COPY, with copies of the district narratives, forwarded to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhagulpore, Rajshahye, to the Relief Commissioners, Dinagepore, and Durbhunga, and to the Magistrate-Collectors of Monghyr, Bhagulpore, Purneah, and the Sonthal Pergunnahs. The attention of Commissioners is invited to paragraph 8 of the present orders regarding the advisability of making advances to ryots on the collective security of the village community.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
C. BERNARD,
Calcutta, the 14th April 1874. Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

P.S.—The Sonthal Pergunnah's Narrative has now (13th April), been received. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to find that Mr. Boxwell has visited the neighbourhood of which the Reverend Missionaries reported so badly, and has found the people all in very good condition, though there is cause for fearing much scarcity and distress a month hence. The works which have been at once opened, and the Government grain which is being carried into the district should enable the Magistrate fully to relieve distress, and to give advances of food to carry ryots through the rainy season. The goodness of the mowah crop will greatly help the people. The great rise in the numbers of the work-people, who now amount to 26,869, would seem to show that the people had been much in want of work. There seems, as yet, to be no need for charitable relief in the Sonthal Pergunnahs; but the Deputy Commissioner will have to arrange by what means he will make advances of grain to ryots such as he adverts to at paragraphs 30 and 31 of his Narrative. Happily the village organisation in the Sonthal Pergunnahs is very well preserved, and the Government officers will be able to work through village headman as well as through zemindars.

NARRATIVE of SCARCITY and RELIEF of the DISTRICT of MONGHYR for the Fortnight ending 4th April 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

THE bazars generally continue to be well-supplied, and the price of grain remains almost stationary. The rubbee grain has not yet come into the market in large quantities, but when it does come in, I do not anticipate much change. Rice is selling from 10 to 12 seers per rupee, gram and peas from 17 to 18, and wheat from 15 to 16 seers per rupee. The deficiency in the Buckteerpoor market, however, continues, and had it not been for the prompt measures taken in opening the Government golas, there would have probably now been a famine in that part of the district; as it is, about 2,000 maunds of grain have been disposed of, and Mr. Manson, the Relief Superintendent, anticipates that all our stores there will be readily purchased before the next rice harvest. Mr. Manson with the zemindars calculates that the rubbee grain cut in those parts will only feed the people for a fortnight; but as I have been over a good deal of that part of the country myself, I consider that this estimate is under-stated. I calculate that the rubbee now cut should supply the Buckteerpoor market for at least two months, particularly as high local prices and scanty carriage will, I hope, induce the owners to sell what they have in the pergunnah instead of exporting it as is generally done in favorable years.

In consultation with relief superintendents, I am of opinion that during the fortnight the condition of the people has not materially changed. The poorer classes have not yet returned in any considerable numbers from the rubbee cutting, but the harvest will not last much longer, and the miserable hovels of the low-caste people found in every village will soon be occupied again. I have made inquiries from every one likely to give me information on the subject, and it appears that each person employed as a labourer in cutting the crops, on an average, will bring home about a maund of grain, so that these persons, numbering probably 600,000, will have at least a month's supply to go on with. Indeed, if all goes well with the crops remaining to be gathered during the year, the poorer classes will probably look back on the past time between the rice and the rubbee harvest as the most trying period of the year. The mowah prospects are excellent. Mr. Roberts at Khurrukpore agrees with me in putting it down as a 16-anna crop, and the mango prospects, although not so good as at first anticipated, promise fairly. On the whole the cheena is looking well, but the Indian-corn sown after the February rain looks poor, except where it has been freely irrigated. The early maize will not have any perceptible influence on the price of grain as it is too limited in extent. Mr. Currie, Mr. Baillie, Mr. Money, and their assistant Shah Abdool Hossein, express anxiety for the next three months; but I think the gigantic efforts which have been taken to give relief wherever necessary should remove all real anxiety as to the future, supposing that prices return to their normal state after the next general harvest. There has fortunately been no rain during the fortnight, and the district has reaped a good rubbee crop under very favorable circumstances. Khalians with piles of grain are now to be seen all over the rubbee country, and the samples of corn, barley, gram, and rahur which I have examined have been excellent; even the oats, which in most years are little better than wild oats, have some little amount of grain within the husk.

I have lately sent to the Asiatic Society Museum in Calcutta specimens of 27 kinds of jungle roots and seeds which are largely consumed by the poor people in this district. They were collected by Major Waller during his recent cold-weather tour of police inspection. The native names and manner of cooking them are described, and Major Waller has also recorded his opinion regarding their flavor and general advantages as food. Some of them appear to be highly poisonous unless carefully prepared, and I hope that some one sufficiently learned in botany may be able to identify them.

Mr. Roberts, the Assistant Manager at Karakpore, continues to report favourably on the Durbhunga estate at Khurrukpore. He has issued notices inviting persons to apply to him for *bonâ fide* tuccavi advances, and on any local distress being reported he at once goes to the place, and if necessary affords work or gratuitous relief. In all the other Court of Wards' estates and Government estates labour is being provided whenever necessary, but fortunately these are nearly all favorably situated, and require very little assistance. A report just received from Mr. Currie shows that since the 1st of April, Mr. Wight, Superintendent, Luckiserai, and his assistant Nowab Willayet Hossein, have visited 44 villages, and that although relief has been given without stint, the total amount given is small. Regarding the country north of Luckhiserai Mr. Currie writes— " The people say they are provided for the next month or six weeks, and here about the Mushurs, &c., who have returned from the rubbee harvest, say with perfectly happy faces that they have grain for 10 days. They take no thought for the morrow of the 10th day. The sickly smell of mowah is strong round their villages, and that will support them a few days more. I should not be surprised if in a fortnight or three weeks, we had distress rather bad; the mowha and mango crops may help to eke out a living, but I cannot think they will support the people altogether. For myself I do not know how the people live, yet with the exception of one or two in every village, and six or seven in the large villages, they seem plump and happy.

"I was at Owri on the 1st and found the place in a bad way; the ground looks as if it had been fallow; not a grain was got from 1,072 beegahs either of paddy or rubbee. Large tuccavee advances are being taken by the zemindars, but the place is cursed with the bane of this country, —numerous owners of minute shares.

"I have sent grain to the putwari for distribution to some people whose names were taken down."

From the tenor of all the reports received by me, as well as from my own observations, the condition of the district may be stated as follows:—

All who have money to purchase it can get as much grain as they want. The owners of the rubbee grain are well off, and happy in consequence of the high prices. The ryots on the Jumooee rice-country, and those to the north Furkya towards Buckteerpoor, as well as the entire purely labouring population are hard pressed for food, in consequence of high prices. But work can be got by all who require it, and actual distress is being relieved by the Government officers wherever they find it.

B.—Relief Works.

Since the commencement of distress in this district, I have done my best to persuade the zemindars and ticcadars to come forward and provide work or money for their ryots wherever necessary. Most of the zemindars have come to me and given an account of what they are doing and intend to do. I have given advances to all who appear to require them under the law for the improvement of estates, and these advances, already amounting to Rs. 40,000, have certainly taken away a good many laborers from our works. As I have remarked in former narratives, I have been particularly anxious to encourage irrigation works in the distressed parts of the Jumooee sub-division, because since November I have visited nearly every village there, and in each have found signs of departed prosperity in immense silted-up tanks, probably two or three hundred years old, most of which were dry even before the end of the year. I calculate that the money now advanced in this district will give employment on irrigation works to nearly 10,000 people until the rains set in. This and considerable tuccavee advances should do a great deal of good and take off pressure from our relief works.

No Government roads other than those already in hand have been commenced during the fortnight, but I have submitted to the Commissioner a map showing 17 villages where, if necessary, most useful tanks can be dug out under the Public Works Department, and 41 villages where light labor tanks may be dug out under superintendents of circles. These tanks will afford labor to 150,000 persons for two months, if necessary. The 300,000 persons lately employed in the poppy fields have not much to do at present, but the six lacs of rupees distributed amongst them by the opium agent should keep them from starving until they can get labor elsewhere either gathering mowha or ploughing their fields as they will do after the first good fall of rain.

The rubbee harvest is drawing to a close, but immense numbers of persons are still in the fields or at the threshing floors, and I hope they may find employment there for a week or two longer.

The zemindars have not got into the groove yet for submitting returns of laborers punctually, but I find that the following number of persons are employed either in wards' estates or in estates where relief works have commenced by Government advances:—

	Men.	Women.	Children.
Kamasi - - - - - -	41	21	9
Lakhochuck - - - -	38	29	0
Kewl - - - - -	75	63	0
Damodurpur . - - - -	15	13	0
Kharagwara - - - -	23	22	0
Sondhi - - - - -	64	25	0
Phulwaria - - - -	44	0	0
Burara - - - - -	50	30	0
Pertabpore - - - -	500	0	0*
Ekara - - - - -	250	0	0*

Besides the above about 4,000 persons are employed at Karakpore.

C.—Transport of Grain.

I annex a statement shewing the movement of private grain by rail. As might be expected, it is inconsiderable. Seeing that there is a vast quantity of grain in the district, and although a very considerable portion is set aside for exportation, it will not leave the district until the rains finally set in and render the Ganges navigable.

Vast quantities of carts have been attracted here through the agency of Mr. Thomas, the contractor, moving on grain to Northern Bhagulpore. The only drawback is that the railway cannot supply grain fast enough, and the cartmen, who are an independent race, go away unless their carts are loaded as fast as they wish. I found great want of grain at Surroop Gita Ghat, where large bodies of men connected with transport are collected, so I sent a petty trader with grain, and an assistant to set up a shop at the place at once. The Durbhanga grain also arriving at Monghyr is shipped off at once, and no block of any kind has occurred. I give all parties any assistance which they may require directly it is asked for.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

The only places now to which Government grain is being moved is to Sondhi and Girna Pursunda, between Jamooee and Luckhiserai. It is proposed to store a total of 25,000 maunds at Sondhi, and 10,000 maunds at Girna Pursunda. The gola at Sondhi is nearly ready, and as there was great difficulty in getting materials for building at Girna Pursunda I went to the place myself and got the loan of a good gola, where 8,051 maunds have already been stored. A little addition to this place will give all the accommodation we require. I do not see any reason for changing my opinion already expressed in former narratives, that unless some unexpected change in the condition of the district takes place, we have sufficient stores of grain to meet any demands on us. Although immense purchases of Monghyr rubbee are being made on all sides for exportation, I think that what will remain, supplemented by our stores, will prevent actual famine in the district. It must also be remembered that I have advanced Rs. 61,000 to private parties for the purchase of grain, and although the first purchases have in many instances been disposed of, the money is being used again to buy more.

There is a considerable amount of Government grain now stored in the good rubbee country. It was stored there before the January rain, at a time when the rubbee prospects were bad. It will not, I think, be quite safe to dispose of this grain yet, but the golas are to be sealed up for the present, and placed under the least possible establishment.

Arrangements are being made for taking stock of all the golas on the 15th. Copy of circular No. 1828, dated 26th March, has been supplied to each officer, and I hope that there will be no delay whatever in the matter.

E—Advances to Parties and their Results.

The advances for purchase and storage of grain have formed one of the principal and most satisfactory methods of relief in this district. All the money advanced has been received by gentlemen who have not only taken a good deal of interest in the matter, but who have personally seen that the grain is retailed to those who most require it at cost price. Advances to private parties for land improvements form also, I think, an excellent scheme for relief, and although only Rs. 40,690 have been hitherto advanced, the total amount of applications I have received is very great. It is said that some of these advances will not be properly applied, but I am myself of a different opinion, for, besides having put the credit of the applicant and his security to a reliable test, I think, that very few persons will consider it worth their while to misuse the money, particularly as the works are visited from time to time by Government officers. Hitherto reports on these works have been very satisfactory, and the zemindars know that if the reports do not continue satisfactory, the full amount advanced with interest will at once be demanded back by me.

Another excellent form of relief is that of tuccavi advances to ryots through zemindars, and here also, although I have only been able to advance Rs. 18,900 as yet, the applications for advances are very numerous. It will be difficult for the landowners to misappropriate the money when they have in each case to furnish lists of the persons to whom the money is advanced.

All the persons to whom I have advanced money are zemindars, ticcadars, or persons who have given full and ample security. I have not made any direct advances to ryots. If once such a course was followed to any extent, it would I think be impossible to prevent the most widespread and demoralizing abuse, besides causing endless trouble and loss to Government.

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* These returns were verbally given by the zemindar.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Mr. Currie, the Additional Sub-divisional Officer, reports that during the fortnight 95 villages (names given) have been visited in his sub-division. This number will be largely increased during the next fortnight, now that the relief officers are settling down to their work, and deputy assistants have been appointed. On reading Mr. Currie's report the most noticeable points are that the poorer classes are still away from their homes cutting the crops on dearah lands; that although in almost every village destitute persons are to be found amongst the aged women and children, no deaths from actual starvation have occurred; the grain is procurable in all the bazaars throughout the sub-division, and that although the people at present appear pretty well off, yet considerable anxiety is felt for the time when the temporary relief afforded by the rubbee harvest has worn off. Mr. Currie reports that he has visited several relief works commenced with money advanced by Government, and, except in one instance, the result was satisfactory. The complaint, however, is general that during the rubbee harvest laborers are procured with difficulty, and as we have no desire to press labor, I have told all zemindars taking advances that I am not for the present very anxious to see their works progressing.

I have seen Mr. Money, the Superintendent of the Sheikpura circle, and he reports that there is hardly any perceptible change in the condition of the people during the fortnight; that the hovels of the poorer classes are still deserted; only very few persons have returned from their migrations, but that those who have returned have brought back a maund of grain each, which will carry them on for another month at least. Mr. Money gives a good account of his assistant, Shah Abdool Hossein. This gentlemon has an elephant and horses, and he gets over a good deal of ground during the day.

Since his arrival at Bucktiarpore on the 11th March, Mr. Manson, Superintendent, has been actively engaged in visiting the villages within his circle, and affording relief wherever necessary. On the whole, I consider this part of the district more distressed than any other, and indeed in two villages, Sitanabad and Hurewa, Mr. Manson found the people so famine-stricken that he was compelled to deal out grain to no less than 350 persons. These persons were chiefly the old and very young of the lowest classes, whose rice crops almost entirely failed. The system followed by Mr. Manson is that which has been generally adopted in the district of sending grain to the village, and dealing it out daily through the most respectable persons in the village. I feel confident that this system will not be abused, and, indeed, considering that each receiver of the Government bounty is registered, and a calculation of the total requirements made, the person to whom the grain is entrusted, even supposing him dishonest, would hardly consider it worth while to appropriate the grain for himself. Most of the villages within the circle have been visited and timely relief afforded. The total amount of persons who have received out-door relief during the month in the Bucktiarpore circle is 741, making a total of 1,156 persons relieved. Mr. Manson has a good active assistant in Baboo Bhola Nauth Dutt, the zemindar of Burowni. An English-speaking Deputy Assistant, Baij Nauth Sahai, has also joined, so that part of the country is well provided for. There is no doubt that the gigantic exertions we have been making to pass grain into Tirhoot and Bhagulpore has raised the rates of carriage here, and consequently private trade at and around Bucktiarpore has not lately been so active as it probably would otherwise have been. I think, however, that whatever damage we may have done has been amply compensated by our sales of grain and Indian-corn, amounting already to 2,000 maunds, at a fairly cheap rate.

Mr. Manson during his tours found by the roadside two miles north of Bucktiarpore the body of an old man who had evidently died, if not from actual starvation, at all events from the effects of want. Although Mr. Manson made all possible enquiries he was unable to learn the man's name or his place of residence; apparently he was a traveller going north. Mr. Manson also found an infant deserted by its mother, who, probably knowing that he would have it taken care of, threw it in his way.

Rules for the guidance of Relief Superintendents.

The poor-houses which have been erected at Monghyr, Jumooe, Begoo Serai, Sikandra, Bucktiarpore will remain under the management of the officer of the circle to which they belong, and all the expenses connected with them will be defrayed from the money at the disposal of the Superintendent. Very few persons have as yet taken advantage of the accommodation afforded, apparently preferring to hang on in their own hovels, however wretched; but by degrees, particularly when the rains commence, many persons will come in, and a medical officer will, if necessary, be provided for each poor-house. Cooked food will, as a rule, be distributed at these poor-houses, and each Superintendent will provide any food which appears necessary for the patients from the funds at his disposal.

A sum of one thousand rupees has been placed to the credit of each Superintendent, either at the Government treasuries or at the cutcheries of the nearest banker or zemindar. The first persons who should receive the attention of Relief Superintendents are respectable ryots and others, who, in consequence of their crops failing, have been reduced to poverty, and who only require small pecuniary assistance for purchasing food to help them over the present season of scarcity. These persons have not an equal chance with common laborers and professional beggars in the struggle for existence.

The best plan to provide for these persons is to give them money advances through the zemindar, ticcadar, or mahajun. On arriving at a village the first care of the Superintendent will be to ascertain the number and names of such persons, and then call on the zemindar and ticcadar to advance them money at once, say ten or twenty rupees each, according to circumstances. If the landlord pleads inability to advance from his own funds, the Superintendent may advance up to Rs. 200 to any single zemindar, ticcadar, or mahajun, and take from him a bond on plain paper according to the sample furnished. This advance will at once be reported to the Collector, and the amount will be adjusted. If, however, the landlord refuses, or is unable to furnish good security for repayment, a special report of his case should at once be sent to the Collector for disposal or report to Government under Circular No. dated . Such reports, however, will I think be rare, as I have found landlords very willing to make advances where necessary. In the meanwhile, if delay appears dangerous, the Superintendent may advance not more than Rs. 20 either in money or grain to ryots direct, merely taking a note of hand under promise to repay the amount when the next crop is cut. A respectable jeth ryot may perhaps be induced to stand security for several such persons. Respectable purda-nisheen women might be included in this system of advances, but the Superintendent must be on his guard that he is not imposed on; he should insist on the women's names being recorded, notwithstanding any alleged breach of etiquette in doing so. If they can be persuaded to repay the amount advanced by spinning so much the better. A list of persons to whom money is advanced, with the amount, should be demanded in every case where the advance is made with the Government money, and the Superintendent on visiting the village, without in any way appearing to doubt the probity of the landlord, should ascertain whether the money has actually been advanced or not.

Superintendents will find, particularly as the season advances, in almost every village many persons of low caste who are regarded by their more aristocratic neighbours very much in the same light as the village pigs. These persons have little money and less credit, and as they are the first to die of starvation in times of scarcity, they form the greatest source of anxiety. The able-bodied amongst these races can work, and they should at once be directed to the relief roads and tanks, but those to whom the labor test cannot be applied must be relieved. It will generally be found useless to tell such persons to go and get cooked-food at our centres. I have myself tried the experiment, and found that many of them would probably die on the road.

The only practical method of relief is for each officer either to send or take grain to the villages, and having registered the persons requiring relief leave sufficient food with the headman to support them until he can visit the village again. The headman should be treated courteously, and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred he will readily and faithfully discharge the duty of dealing out the grain daily to the poor. The chowkidar should be called on to attend daily the distribution of food to keep order, and as he will probably be found badly off, he should receive half a seer of rice daily for his trouble. Money for the purchase of salt, dâl, &c., may, if necessary, be also given.

Superintendents will be careful to inquire regarding the sufficiency or otherwise of seed-grain in each village, and if he finds that reported deficiency cannot be met by small advances through the zemindar, the matter should be reported at once to the Collector, who will see that the necessary supply is given. But I do not anticipate much want in this particular, for I have seen seed-grain religiously sealed up even in the most distressed villages.

Each assistant superintendent of circles will have a permanent advance of Rs. 50, and as each assistant is a zemindar of high standing, he should receive the full confidence of the Superintendent, and he be allowed to distribute tickets and money for dâl, salt, &c., to those whom he finds starving in the villages within his circle. He should also bring at once to the notice of the superintendent any cases where an advance of money can be recommended.

Rules regarding light labor relief have already been circulated.

E. Lockwood,
Officiating Collector.

No. 39—S.R., dated Bhagulpore, the 7th April 1874.

From V. T. Taylor, Esq., Collector of Bhagulpore, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

A.—State of the Country.

I have the honor to forward my tenth fortnightly narrative.

2. The Soopool Sub-Divisional Officer reports: "There is very little difference between the present supply of food-grains in the various bazars and what it was at the date of the last fortnightly narrative, but on the whole prices of grain, except wheat and barley, have an upward tendency, and, contrary to expectation, the harvesting of the rubbee crops has had little or no effect on the general condition of the market." At Soopool itself rice is selling at 9 seers, and murwa at 12, and throughout the sub-division prices range, for rice from 9 to 11 seers, and for murwa from 10 to 15 seers.

3. The Muddehpoora officer writes: "Supplies are more plentiful than they were at the time of my last narrative, owing chiefly to the sales from the Muddehpoora Government golahs, and from the private stores of Baboo Hurbullub Narain Sing at Sonebursa. Barley was selling at the Sonebursa market at 20 seers the rupee (80 tolah weight); at the Muddehpoora market, held on the 3rd, clean rice was selling at the rate of 5 pice a seer (64 tolahs weight), and coarse rice at 4½—or 10 seers 3 chittacks and 11 seers 7 chittacks, standard weight, against 8½ the previous week.

4. The Banka officer reports that the supply of food-grains is more abundant in consequence of the rubbee harvest, and murwa being available; the price of rice has remained unchanged, but that of wheat has fallen by 1 to 2½ seers, and that of gram has fallen by ½ to 1½ seers; new barley is selling at 22½ seers.

5. At the head-quarters there has been a very slight fall in the price of common rice, and a slight rise in the price of wheat.

6. The rubbee harvest is now almost over, and in pergunnah Chye and the head-quarters sub-division the crop may be safely put down as a very good one indeed, and above an average crop of ordinary years. In Banka sub-division what rubbee there was has also yielded above an average crop. In Muddehpoora the Sub-Divisional Officer reports an 8-anna crop to the north of his sub-division, but, taking the whole sub-division together, I am not wrong in putting it down as a 12-anna one. The Soopool officer admits a 12-anna or an average crop. The cheena cultivation, which is far beyond anything ever seen in this district, is not taken into account; it is still in all stages of growth.

7. The mowah is reported as excellent, but the mango crop, it is said, now will not be so good as was at first anticipated (in some parts of the north of the district).

8. The Soopool officer writes: "No cases of misery and starvation* have come to light; a large proportion (on one occasion, when an account was taken at the centre here, it was found to be nearly 50 per cent.) of our paupers are from the Tirhoot district, and most of them are most worthsome objects; as yet very few others than the very lowest classes, and those who, in the best of years would have been to some extent dependent on charity, have been attracted to our relief centres, though I recognise the fact that nothing but the most careful village-to-village inquiries—and these are now in progress—can ensure that many fit objects of relief are not holding out in their own houses.

9. The Muddehpoora officer writes: "I have heard of no new cases of deaths from starvation; in fact, from inquiries made by me during my late tour to the west no starvation is likely.

10. There have been a few deaths at some of the relief centres in the Soopool sub-division which cannot in any way be put down to starvation, and are not to be wondered at when one sees the class of persons who come to them. Mr. Smith says, "Five out of seven deaths were those of residents of the Tirhoot district, and in most of them I can certify that disease (in many cases of long standing) was the cause, though possibly the end has been accelerated by privation)." Many of the persons who died had been for a long time in the relief poor-house, with a doctor in attendance and properly looked after and fed.

11. There is no actual distress in either the head-quarter nor Banka sub-division.

12. The following statement shows the difference in prices of some of the food-grains now and at the corresponding period of 1866:—

—	Rice, 1st sort.		Rice, common.		Murwa.		Indian-corn.		Wheat.	
	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.	1866.	1874.
Soopool - -	—	9 10	—	10 0	—	—	—	—	—	12 8
Muddehpoora - -	—	11 0	—	13 0	—	13 0	—	—	—	10 0
Head-quarters - -	11 6	10 8	12 0	11 6	—	—	15 2	15 2	11 6	14 8
Banka - -	—	11 0	14 0	12 0	—	—	18 0	14 0	—	15 0

13. The theft and grain robbery statement for March is annexed.

B.—Relief Works.

14. I annex a statement showing what has been done under this head during the fortnight, as also one showing the number of persons employed on the Durbhunga Court of Wards' estates in this district. Now that the rubbee harvest is over an increase may be expected in the number of laborers on all works.

15. Some 157 maunds 23 seers of grain have been actually sold to laborers on the relief roads, and arrangements are being made to have rice for sale on every work, so that those at work may have the option of purchasing it in preference to other grains in the bazars.

16. As regards the works being carried on by private individuals or zemindars, it is next to impossible to procure any information as to the total number or daily average of persons employed. Baboo Hurbullub Narain Singh is the only honorable exception, and is the only man who shows he is taking a real interest in what he has undertaken, and the only one who voluntarily supplies any information; he has in hand one bandh, eight tanks, and what he calls miscellaneous works; he shows a total number of 7,421 men, women, and children employed. There are other works being undertaken, but Mr. Kirkwood remarks he is afraid none with any vigour; they are carried on by fits and starts; payments, whether in cash or in kind, very irregular; and in the case of Mr. John Christian, who has undertaken an extensive work in the shape of bandhs, he writes, "Mr. Christian has a bandh in progress near Bungaon, but the wage given appears very inadequate for all but the sturdiest laborers." The fact is, that none of the zemindars have attempted to raise their rates, when we did on our works. Though it is almost impossible to get any statement approaching to accuracy from any private works, yet it is satisfactory to know that works of this kind are being carried on, and a certain number of persons, however small, being benefited thereby.

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* Two deaths have been just reported at the Mullarh tank (Court of Wards); a child of 18 months from inanition and one of the working coolies. The Deputy Collector, Baboo Ram Sunker Sen, says he received the body, and considers starvation to have been the cause; but Mr. Duff does not say so. The deceased's wife and three children were working at the tank as well, and were not new-comers.

C.—Transport of Grain.

17. At the Bhagulpore railway station but little has been done during the fortnight in the way of imports or exports. The exports were only 6,949 maunds, of which 571 were local, and the rest, 1,947 maunds wheat and 4,431 oats, to Howrah. The imports were about 6,000 maunds only, the chief being 1,362 maunds Indian-corn, 491 maunds wheat, 1,138 maunds gram, 891 maunds rice, and 975 maunds paddy; about 292 maunds of rice were imported at the Pointee station, 574 at Colgong, 28 at Ghogha, and 729 at Sultangunge, exclusive of Government rice. The exports were almost nothing.

18. There is but very little private importation going on, and nothing is heard now of exportation from the interior of the district; there is a small amount of private importations in the north from Monghyr.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

19. The following shows the quantity of grain stored at each of the places of storage in the district as far as is known:—

Muddehpoorah Sub-Division.

	Mds.	Already stored. Mds.	
Muddehpoora	50,000	29,220	
Bhowanipoor	25,000	9,982	
Kamp	50,000	26,298	
Soneburs a	12,980	12,980	At Phoolout
Patterghat	2,614	2,614	and Soneburs a.
Byjnathpoor	15,000	4,516	
Lalpoor	10,000	5,148	
		90,758	

Soopool Sub-Division.

	Mds.	Already stored. Mds.
Soopool	130,000	56,319
Chundail	10,000	1,000
Rutowlee	8,000	4,496
Hurdi	10,000	—
Nowabakkur	30,000	22,099
Dugmurrah	30,000	27,274
Roshwar	40,000	30,870
Nurgo	20,000	19,709
		161,767
Chandpeeper } Court of Wards	12,000	4,000
Bhuptiahi	12,000	4,000
Burhurra	6,000	4,133
Poepra	20,000	4,964
Pertabgunge	30,000	40,332
Bhulooa	20,000	10,535
Simrahi	40,000	4,746
Nathpore	10,000	7,436
Bheemnugur	5,000	5,052
Urjillee Dulgaon	8,000	8,000
Ekar	60,000	28,834
Pachgachia	20,000	—
Semani	20,000	—
Nohutta	10,000	4,020
Burgaon	5,000	—
Bungaon	30,000	15,000
Muheshi	10,000	—
		302,819

Sudder Sub-Division.

	Mds.	Already stored. Mds.
Permeshurpoor	1,000	1,000
		1,000

Banka Sub-Division.

	Mds.	Already stored. Mds.
Dhoorya	2,250	2,250
Kutoorya	4,773	4,773
		7,023

20. The Phoolout route is closed, and the two contractors are carrying away the grain from Jugdis Chuck and Monghyr very rapidly.

21. Mr. Smith has been sending rice from the Soopool golahs as fast as he can, and all the outlying golahs will now soon have their full allotment.

22. It will be seen that about 120,000 have been stored during the fortnight, and over four lakhs stored in all, and it is possible that more has been actually stored in some places than I have as yet received intimation of; some grain has reached Pachgachia, but I have not heard how much.

E.—Advances to Private Parties.

No further loans were granted during the fortnight under Act XXVI. of 1871.

The following zemindars received advances for helping their ryots:—

Name of Zemindar.	Place of Residence.	Amount. Rs.	A.	P.
Hur Narain Singh	Beerwa	1,000	0	0
Mr. Bowers	Bhuptiahi	15,000	0	0
Baboo Hirun Gurbh Narain Singh	Sookpore	3,000	0	0
„ Thakoor Man Singh	Do.	2,500	0	0
„ Ram Lall Sahoo	Kushur	4,000	0	0
	Total	25,500	0	0
	Altogether to end of fortnight	62,900	0	0

Rs. 5,000 have since been sanctioned by the Commissioner for payment to Mr. Bowers.

Rs. 5,000 have been advanced to the municipality under Government orders No. 1242, dated 4th March 1874, and only Rs. 200 to a petty shop-keeper for purchase of grain from the nearest bazars.

F.—Charitable Relief.

23. All the circles in this district referred to in my previous narrative are now officered, and it is unnecessary for me to re-write the details.

24. Under this head sales to the public may be properly dealt with. As mentioned in paragraph 36 of the last fortnightly narrative, arrangements, were made to sell to the public at the rate of 12 seers for the rupee, the quantities not greater than one maund, nor less than one rupee's worth from the Ekar and Bhowanipore golahs at the head-quarters of circles of the same names. But, Mr, Kirwood writes, owing to the delay in receipt of the letters (he moving about) the sales from Ekar and Bhowanipore could not commence before the 4th April. The results will be fully detailed in the next narrative.

25. I considered it advisable to open the Muddehpoora golah, as rice was only, so it was alleged, procurable in the bazars at 8½ to 9 seers the rupee. Orders were issued to this effect, and the result is thus reported by Mr. Kirkwood: "The effect of the sales at Muddehpoora has been as may have been anticipated,—the price-current in the bazar has fallen from 9 to 11 seers per rupee, and 11 seers is now the retail rate" (see Mr. Martin's remarks, para. 3); "but it is only the very poor who buy at that rate, all who can club together to make up a rupee, buy at the gola. The sales at Muddehpoora during the five days ending 3rd April show 597 purchasers of 340 maunds 19 seers, at 12 seers the rupee. All the proceeds, except Rs. 595-15 realised on the 2nd and 3rd have been paid into the treasury; that amount has not been paid in as the treasury was closed. As on the first day only 25 maunds were sold, we have 315 maunds, or an average of 79 per diem, for the other days."

26. The rule, as laid down by me originally and approved by the Commissioner, was that not more than 100 maunds should be sold in any one day, and not more than one maund or less than one rupee's worth to be sold to any one person. I further added a restriction that no person purchasing one maund should purchase any more for 30 days; this restriction was objected to on the ground that a person with a large family could not live on a maund a month; though this may be the case, my own idea was that the purchased of one maund of rice could easily supplement his purchase with murwah and other cheaper grains. Mr. Kirkwood, moreover, remarks:—"A rule that no man is to buy more than a maund a month is of course practically defeated every hour; such a rule, it may safely be asserted, is one impossible of enforcement."

27. There cannot be any doubt that great difficulty will be experienced in preventing the system of sales to the public being abused; but with the quantity of grain we shall have stored in this district, if the rice thus sold gets into the hands of those for the benefit of whom the sales are intended, there will not be many persons left to be gratuitously relieved.

28. The golahs of Ekar and Bhowanipore are now open, and I am now issuing orders for sales from Soopool.

29. In the Muddehpoora sub-division there are two circles only, and the under-mentioned five relief centres are open, viz., Muddehpoora, Byjnathpore, Ghylar, Gummerla, and Sonebursa. The average number of persons gratuitously relieved at each is given by Mr. Kirkwood thus:—

Muddehpoora	16
Byjnathpore	31
Ghylar	5
Gummeria	19
Sonebursa	15
	86

30. These relief centres will be removed altogether as soon as the house-to-house relief system is in full operation, and a very fair commencement has been made in this direction. Poor-houses will take their place, and are already in course of erection at Kamp and Bhowanipore, the head-quarters of the circles. These will have a doctor attached, and all the houseless, poor beggars, lepers, and other diseased and miserable objects will be collected and properly looked after; deaths may be expected to occur among them, but such deaths of such objects cannot be called deaths from starvation.

31. Mr. Kirkwood reports:—"At some of the golahs, notably those at Bhowanipore and Ekar, considerable numbers of light laborers have been employed on earth-work, rope-twisting, &c. At Ekar, too, about 800 people have been daily relieved by receipt of pice in exchange for baskets of grass as fodder for cattle; these were nearly all women and children. He adds—" No regular relief has yet been issued to these people; the registers for house-to-house relief are in course of preparation. Urgent cases of distress here and there have been relieved by money gratuity."

32. In the Muddehpoora sub-division five ryots have been advanced Rs. 72 for the purchase of grain and seed, and four more applications had been received, not yet dealt with.

33. The following shows the daily average of persons gratuitously relieved at the centres in each of the circles of the Soopool sub-division:—

Soopool Circle.

Soopool, daily average	100
Sookhpore	43
Chandail	31
Burooari	57
Khoknahi	45
	276

Narredigur Circle.

Nawabakkur	31
Deeghai	20
Bhuptaihi	99
Dugmurah	64
Burhurra	35
Chandpeeper	33
	282

Ekar Circle.

Ekar	41
Patchgachia	112
Murwullah	10
Bungaon	234
Muheshi	134
Koond Birhat	46
Burgaon	26
Notha	131
Total	734

Simrahi Circle.

Dharrara	99
Battaneah	61
Bhulooa	62
Khubdah	13
Nathpore	20*
Total	255

34. Most of these, again, it is hoped, will be closed as soon as the house-to-house registers are complete and the poor-houses erected; these have been commenced at Soopool, Ekar, and Burgaon, and also at Nawabakkur and Simrahi. At Soopool 50 per cent. of those relieved are from Tirhoot; and Mr. Kirkwood found many of those relieved at Bungaon unfit recipients of entirely gratuitous relief; these were sent off to work.

35. Mr. Smith, the Soopool Sub-Divisional Officer, remarks: "The tract to the west along the
" Tiljooga is undoubtedly the worst off, and will doubtless be the only tract where, at all events
" for some time, general distress may be expected. It is, however, the object of special attention,
" and fortunately the population is very thin. The careful diaries of Mr. Fanshawe, the Soopool
" circle officer, show that he is working exceedingly well, always on the move, and constantly
" visiting village after village, and I think with care and a little system we have not much to fear
" as regards this circle."

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* Approximate return not received.

36. About 157 maunds 23 seers of grain have been sold on the Government relief works; the laborers, as a rule, supplying themselves from the markets, but in the case of the Durbhunga Court of Wards' tanks, a system had been commenced of payment of grain; this was considered objectionable, especially, as Mr. Smith remarks, as it amounted to little short of gratuitous distribution to all applicants without any attempt at getting any return for it; and payment in cash has been ordered, the laborers being at liberty to purchase Government rice, which is ready for them.

37. Spinning and weaving have not yet been commenced, but cotton has already reached Soopool and Muddehpoora ample for a fair start in this direction.

Number of Committees and Sub-committees as yet appointed.	Number of Special Relief Sub-divisions opened and officered.	Number of Regular Relief Circles opened and manned by Special Officers.	Number of Relief Circles opened and managed by Planters, Zemindars, and other Residents.	Number of Work-houses and Centres for the Distribution of Food and Gratuitous Relief.	Number of Men, Women, and Children in Receipt of Gratuitous Relief in any Shape through the Charitable Relief Organization Daily.
District committee, three sub-divisional committees, and six circle sub-committees, have all been appointed.	1	All are now manned: in all six.	Part of the Ekar Circle is looked after by Mr. J. Christian.	Four in Mudehpoora, 26 in Soopool.	1,633

No. 1451F., dated Purneah, the 7th April 1874.

From W. KEMBLE, ESQ., Magistrate and Collector, Purneah, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Calcutta.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith my fortnightly narrative for the period ending Saturday, the 4th April 1874.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief for the Fortnight ending the 4th April 1874.

A.

DURING the fortnight I have visited Arrareah, Dengra, Kusba Amour, Bulrampore, Barsoe, and Kudba.

At Barsoe, where from reports I had been led to believe that there was a serious deficiency of grain in the market, I found a good supply, several boats laden with rice, kullai, &c., had come up the river, and the quantity not only of grain but also of sugar, fish, &c. was abundant. In this neighbourhood I also found that the villagers had generally a good supply of seed-grain.

Prices at Barsoe hât—

Rice brought from Hyatpore and other places in the Maldah district - - - - - - -	10 to 11 seers, 85 sicca weight.
Potatoes - - - - - - -	20 „
Kullai - - - - - - -	16 „
Indian-corn - - - - - - -	11 „

Mustard was selling at Rs. 3-2 a maund, and was being taken away in the boats which had brought up the rice; dried fish was being sold for export to Rungpore and Dinagepore at Rs. 16 a bundle; and sugar, brought from those districts, was sold at Rs. 3-2 a maund. Private trade being so active here, I did not avail myself of Sir Richard Temple's permission to sell Government grain to the public. Matters are looking brighter near Kudba owing to private trade, the good rubbee in the south, and the relief afforded by Government works.

At Bulrampore the people have a larger stock of grain than in any other part of the district I have visited as distressed; they have no rubbee, and consequently will feel the pressure more later on. Mr. Meeklejohn and Captain James are organising relief measures here.

At Dengra and Kusba Amour there is less private trade than in other parts, but the scarcity is beginning to encourage private enterprise here as elsewhere. A cloth merchant of Kissengunge has opened a large store on the banks of the river, and keeps his supply up by small boats. In this neighbourhood I last fortnight authorised the sale of Government rice. Mr. Gouldsbury sold 10 maunds at Ratahat, and Mr. Wyer 16 maunds at Mathour, and 107 maunds 11½ seers at Ootri, at 15 seers per Burmah and 12 seers Bengal. The consequence of this was that on the next hât day, at Rata and Mathour, not a single private trader appeared. I consequently reduced the rates to 12 seers, and forbid the sale of Government grain at the public hâts. This has restored confidence, and the beparees are now buying as fast as ever from the Purneah bazar from the merchants who import it from Caragola.

I have directed the relief officers at Dengra and Kusba Amour to sell at 12 seers and 10 seers at their relief centres on fixed days; and after inquiry, to village communities, or group of villages, not more than 100 maunds is sold at each circle until further orders. In villages, when the people are badly off, grain is advanced on credit, the village community giving a joint bond for the repayment of the advance. This system works capitally, it keeps the people in food, it allows them to spend their money on seed, which is procurable in nearly every hât, and is being imported largely from the north, and it enables us to distribute our grain at no cost at a time when carriage is available. Mr. Wyer at Sudder has worked this system, and found that it succeeds better than any other, the people like it, and it is far better than making them advances in money, except in places (which are, in my opinion, very few) where there is no seed-grain to be had.

In most villages the well-to-do ryots have seed-grain which they are ready to advance to their poorer neighbours if they see any prospect of being repaid. An advance of Government grain for food on joint security, or its sale in some cases, prevents the seed-grain from being eaten, keeps the poorer people in their homes, and enables them to cultivate their fields. The brisk trade in seed-grain is a good sign. At head-quarters there has been a rise in the prices, but this is owing almost entirely to a large quantity of coarse rice brought up by a few traders being nearly all consumed. There has been no great general rise in prices, as the price currents sent up would lead one to suppose. Private traders as well as Government have suffered from the inability of the railway company to supply carriage. Mr. Rattray from Arrareah reports prices much easier. Rice was selling in the north of his sub-division at 9⅜, and 10 seers at Turkeli, and wheat at 12_4. The rubbee crop up here has been first rate.

Mr. Craven reports from North Kishengunge that if Government Burmah grain were offered at 12 seers to the people, they would not take it, as rice was selling there at 12 and 13 seers the rupee, and throughout the subdivision there had been a general fall in prices from 1½ to 2 seers the rupee.

Here, as elsewhere, rain is now wanted for the rice sowings, and for the kauni and cheena. Mr. Craven however reports that the lower classes are beginning to show signs of distress, and that beggars are increasing. This is the case everywhere, but the relief afforded by our works, and by the charitable committee, will, I hope, prevent any severe distress being felt. During the fortnight three deaths have occurred at our relief-houses, two at Barsoe, and one at Kusba. I inquired into those at Barsoe myself, and found that both the deceased had been sufferers for some time from disease, and that their deaths could not be attributed to want, they had both for some weeks been inmates of the poor-house. The case at Kusba Amour was of the same description.

We have now native doctors at all our circles, except Bahadurgunge, who will be of great use in treating these cases of diseases, which are, in the present time of scarcity, brought so prominently to our notice. Mr. Craven reports that he notices that much charitable relief is given in every village by well-to-do Mahomedans, and this is, I believe, the case everywhere; and amongst Hindoos also.

The most unfavourable symptom I have to report this fortnight is the frequency of fires, which both Messrs. Rattray and Craven assert are the work of incendiaries; from enquiries which I had made myself I think they are right. It seems that these fires generally occur in some village where there are a number of fairly-stocked golahs. In Belgachi, Saifgunge, Kusba, and Ranigunge, and in many other places, there have lately been large fires.

Zemindars are at last getting alive to the necessity of helping their ryots. Aga Saifulla Khan is making advances near Kusba Amour, where they are wanted, and I have advanced to a good many putneedars in Kishengunge.

Of the crops at present much cannot be said as the rubbee is all cut.

The number of grain-thefts amounts to 26 during the fortnight. The value of the property stolen is Rs. 167-4. This is not very alarming.

B.

The progress return of Mr. Cordner is annexed. I have during the past fortnight been with him over the greater part of his roads, making arrangements to enforce some task from the large numbers of all able-bodied men who flock now to our works. I have no doubt that this will soon be managed; it is everywhere found that the village people soon get accustomed to use the kodali and prefer contract work. A few beldars, who under orders should have been drafted off to the north road, have been allowed to remain on each work, as they distribute themselves among the villagers, serve as duffadars, and teach them to measure.

Under orders from the Commissioner, for women, children, and others who cannot do a fair day's work, employment will be provided by the relief officer on petty works.

The number of persons employed on these last is increasing. The returns do not show all the persons relieved by road-work, as considerable sums of money have been given out for village roads which have been made by villagers, who cannot be got to send in return of laborers. I have sent up this week a map showing all the works opened or proposed, except petty village roads, including sites selected for tanks, in case there should be a greater demand for employment than our roads can satisfy. This, however, is not likely to be the case, while I trust that we shall be able to finish the work laid out. Huts have been built at each work, but are not patronised by the workmen.

Mr. Rattray pays his coolies in grain, at 15 seers the rupee for Burmah rice, to the amount of their daily earnings. The average number of laborers engaged on the Department Public Works works by last return is 14,669, and on the relief officers' petty works 2,587; this gives a total of 17,250. Grain is now sold on all the works at 12 seers and 15 seers, which is above the rate at which it is sold to the villagers.

It is not necessary to copy here the returns which have already gone up; the above figures differ from them, and slightly, as the latter did not include 64 persons employed on roads and 140 on tanks at Assaragurh by Mr. Craven, and 9 employed by Mr. McQueen. The last-named gentleman's figures, which include no women or children, show that in Dhurumpore the demand for work is far less than in other parts of Purneah.

C.

I have not received any return from Caragola this week to show me the quantity of private grain imported. From reports in the bazar I fear it has fallen off a little owing doubtless to the same cause which brought about the stoppage in the importation of Government grain last fortnight.

The means of transport have not failed as in the district yet, nor is it likely that any difficulty on this head will arise. Private trade continues as active in the south-east of the district as ever. The Morung authorities have either found that they have some spare grain across the border, or they are not so vigilant to prevent smuggling as they were, as Mr. Craven reports that rice is being brought in for sale; he also reports large quantities brought from Julpigoree.

D.

Mr. Mulock's note on the golahs and carting arrangements is annexed.

All the golahs are being or have been leeped, and special arrangements made to protect them from fire at Saifgunge. Last week, when half the bazar was burnt down all round them, the golahs were preserved. I hope soon to have arrangements complete for distributing the grain to the villages and smaller golahs.

During this fortnight 4,727 carts left Caragola carrying 27,267 bags, or 54,534 maunds of grain. This is an average of 339 carts per day, a great falling off from our former averages. This is caused by the causes mentioned in the last narrative, namely, the sudden running short of our stores of grain at Caragola, and the consequent impression among the carters that no more grain was coming to the district. Our liberal rates however are again drawing them back, and Mr. Munro writes that he expects to have carted away five lakhs of maunds from Caragola before Thursday next.

All the golahs for the reception of Government grain are being fast completed, and the sub-divisional relief officers are looking after their construction; sites have been chosen at Kooti, Rudail, and Azimgunge; the three new golahs decided on. The new golahs at Palankof and Sirsee are completed.

Preparations are being made for the general stock-taking on the 15th current. I have distributed personally the forms to eight goladars, and thoroughly explained the principle of the accounts and forms; and Mr. Craven, who was in the station on Saturday, took away the officers present at all the golahs, but at Dingra, Turkeli, Mutiari, Kishengunge, Bahadurgunge, Kusba Amour, Bulrampore, Barsoe, Kudba, and Purneah, I expect to be able to have European officers to check the stock-taking. In any golah where the amount at stock-taking is stated to be much less than our register shows, it will be necessary to have a European officer deputed to recount the bags. The coolies who take out the grain will be paid in grain, which will be more acceptable than money, and will obviate the necessity of sending large sums of money to the goladars.

I have received 38 bales of 30-seer gunny bags from the Alipore Jail, which I have distributed, with 4 packing needles and 2 maunds of twine, to all the principal golahs.

E.

The advances to private parties have this fortnight been small, amounting only to Rs. 3,000 to two persons, Gopaul Sing and Udhan Mull, for purchase of grain, and Rs. 3,000 to Srikant Jha and Aga Saifulla Khan to help their ryots.

The last-named gentleman has however asked for Rs. 3,000 more, which I have recommended shall be given.

Advances have been made by relief officers to ryots and others, but I much prefer to help the poorer classes of people by advancing food-grain to them, and thus prevent them from eating their seed, which they would have to do in many cases if not helped.

I hope that the example set by Aga Saifulla Khan would have been more generally followed, and trust yet that it will be.

Since the end of the fortnight under review further advances have been made.

F.

Charitable relief has been generally and freely given throughout the district. The report of Mr. Wyer, the relief officer, submitted a few days ago, was very incomplete, as the sub-divisional officers had not fully understood that their reports were to go to him.

I can from personal inquiry state that the relief officers are generally actively engaged in their work, and I am sure that the existence of relief centres and relief works is known in every corner of the district, and that if any person in want does not get relief it is his own fault. Mr. Wyer, at head-quarters, has visited most of the villages in the distressed part of the sub-division; he has advanced money for seed to those ryots whose landlords would not help them, and has, under my orders, sold and advanced grain to villages where the need of such help was apparent; he has not given any relief by cooked food.

Mr. Thornton and Mr. Gouldsbury, at Dingra and Kusba Amour, have been very active in giving out twine and cotton and jute, and in arranging circles of villages for the sale and distribution of grain.

Mr. Perry, at Kusba, has been more active in opening out road and tank work; he finds but few applicants for relief at poor-houses. He and the Dengra and Kusba Amour relief officers work the ticket system very successfully, and check the lists. The active and intelligent way in which Lieutenant Thornton has taken to this work, which is quite new to him, is very creditable.

Mr. Craven, at Kishengunge, and Mr. Bertleson, at Bahadurgunge, are working on the ticket system, and are opening a number of useful works both in roads and tanks. Some bunds for irrigation purposes have been taken in hand by Mr. Bertleson. Both these officers have done well in looking after the larger Department Public Works works in their circles; they have been directed to open more petty relief works.

Mr. Rattray, at Arrareah, has started a very large number of petty roads, and has worked the ticket system fairly; but I fear that he has been too indiscriminate in his charity.

Instead of advancing cotton and twine to indigent persons for spinning, he has advanced a large sum in cash, for the purpose, he explains, of enabling such persons to buy the raw materials. The plan I cannot approve, and have stopped.

The average number of persons, according to the last retnrn, who are in receipt of charitable relief, is 2,178. This is far below the real number.

The return does not include persons in receipt of relief by spinning, and has not been received from some centres at all. Regular rules and tables for returns, about which up till lately there has been some misunderstanding, have been sent out now. The rules are based on those circulated in Tirhoot.

Dated Camp Sibpore, the 8th April 1874.

From A. Boswell, Esq., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Sonthal Pergunnahs, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to submit a narrative for the fortnight ending 5th April 1874.

2. For the last fortnight I have been travelling fast, and never staying more than three days in any place. I have left my office all behind me, and have found it necessary to sacrifice report-writing considerably.

A.

3. I.—Supplies are not said to have failed anywhere. Food is reported plenty in the Deoghur sub-division, except at head-quarters, where the demand is very great; it is surprising that a resort of beggars and devotees like Baidzanath has not furnished a good deal of distress before this.

4. In Godda the laborers are chiefly supplied from the Government golah at Doi.

5. It is impossible to say whether the local markets would have stood the strain or not unhelped.

6. Anyhow there is food for the people, and they are able to get it.

7. I have not heard from Rajmehal.

8. There is a considerable quantity of rice stored in Sultanabad; but the mahajuns are unwilling to sell, wishing to force up prices. It is likely enough we shall have to import a little to prevent prices rising too high.

Extract from Price Current A—II, 9th paragraph.

Market.	Wheat.	Rice, best.	Rice, common.	Bajra.	Maize.	Gram.
Doomka - - - -	12	10	11	16	16	12½
Pakawar - - - -	17½	18	14	19½	17¾	20
Deoghur - - - -	12	12	13	—	13	15
Jumtara - - - -	—	12	18	—	—	13
Katikund - - - -	—	11	12	18	18	—
Barhait - - - -	—	11	18	—	16	—
Sahibgunge - - -	16	12	13	18	18	16

10. The cheapest rice is 14¼ seers at Patrol. The cheapest food is 30 seers of barley at Pakauri. Prices are generally steady, with slight local fluctuation.

11. III.—An agent of the Rajah of Sultanabad has 6,000 maunds of rice stored at Pakuria.

The Rajah has a good deal of rice stored at Maheshpore. Six mahajuns in the neighbourhood are believed to be holding up considerable stores for famine prices.

12. IV.—On Friday last there was rain with hail from Maheshpore to about 6 miles west. I do not know how far north or south it spread.

13. The hail damaged the mango crop a good deal. The rain has helped ploughing much. I have not received any registered rainfall.

14. The mohwa flowers are the chief crop coming in now. I am sorry that the last weekly weather and crop return but one gave a misleading account. It was made up at Doomka, where some of the trees were late in flowering.

15. I have myself seen mohwa trees in full flower from Benajarhia to Doomka and Moheshpore, and I have heard of the crop from Deoghur and the Hendwa pergunnah. It is quite first-rate nearly everywhere, and is bad nowhere. The best is so good that the whole crop may be put down as excellent. I have breakfasted on boiled mohwa flowers, and I can say that they are wholesome and valuable food.

16. The mango crop is not so good, and the kend trees are promising badly.

17. I find that, beside the flower, the mohwa fruit yields an edible seed, with oil.

18. There is no ordinary rubbee in any part of the south of the district. I have heard of about 200 beeghas of good grain in Sultanabad, and literally nothing else.

19. The Godda report gives no details of the rubbee crop.

20. In Deoghur sugar-cane is doing well.

21. People look well everywhere. I have seen one half-starved boy of about 7. His parents were beggars, who died about two months ago. He is a dome by caste and has no relations. He came to show himself to me. He was very thin. His ribs could be counted, and the big lean joints showed out the miserable leg and arm bones. He had been living on scraps from door to door since his parents died. I gave him in charge to a comfortable Brahman. This I should think must count as a case of actual distress.

22. One man has died, and another man is said to be dying near Maheshpore from combined disease and poverty.

23. The wonder is that we have not heard of dozens of such cases, as they are constantly occurring all over the world.

24. I was for three days at Benagurhia with Mr. Bœrresen, the missionary, last week.

25. The complaint is, that the people are nearly at the end of their stores, and that there is danger of great distress once the rains begin.

26. If people are going to starve six weeks hence, their being well and hearty now won't alter the fact. But it is impossible to trust the accounts the people give of their own condition. This is one of the greatest difficulties we have to fight against. The first answer to any inquiry is always, "our crops all died; we have nothing; the Sarkar is our father and mother; if the " Sarkar helps us we may escape." This is the refrain to nearly every song all over the district. When pressed to give details the people let out that their case is by no means so bad. They admit that they had very uneven crops; that most villages had a share of good and bad luck.

27. In the hill country west of Benagarhia there was fair maize, and a little good rice. The population is thin, and mohwa trees are plenty. In spite of some complaints I consider this region safe.

28. The people of the plains or rolling country of Dari Maleshwar are much worse off. The villages are thicker and larger than in the hills; the people trusted more to rice and lost more.

29. They are coming in great numbers to works I opened in concert with Mr. Bœrresen last week. But they are in excellent condition so far. The men are strong and the girls tall and good-looking. I did not see a thin, weak frame, or a woe-begone face among a thousand labourers.

The cattle also are in good case.

30. Still, it would be very wrong to let such appearances mislead. In about six weeks the first rains may be looked for; the people must plough their land, and they must be able to live while they have to be engaged on work which does not bring them in their food for the day.

31. As has been long foreseen by every one, the time of greatest difficulty will be from June to September, when men must be ploughing their fields, or there will be no crop next year; when transport will be most difficult, and when the last grain of the old harvest will be eaten, possibly before the first of the new harvest is eatable. Sontals would be merry, and eat full meals up to their last handful of maize.

32. Therefore about Benagurhia and Dari Maleshwar generally, I say the people are still in very good condition. Scarcity up to this has not affected them, but I believe the accounts of their short supplies to be true. They will not get so much mowah as the people in the hills. They are much more numerous in an equal area.

33. Supplies in the local markets are believed to be nearly sufficient. I have, with the help of the missionaries, opened relief works which I mean to extend.

34. A gentleman who lives in the neighbourhood, and who trades in country produce, has engaged with me to buy any required quantity of rice from the Government, and sell it to the laborers at the prescribed rates.

35. I think by working one day on a road or a tank, and another day on his own field, the poor cultivator will be able to pull through.

36. The poor laborers will also pull through, because, though their resources are less than the cultivators, they can give all their time to immediately paying work.

37. I should not like to try to give a more minutely accurate description than this of the condition of the people of Dari Malishar, and I think this will do to work on.

38. I am just now in the middle of Sultanabad, about which I had heard alarming reports. Mr. Wood has been here for some time, and I have had the very great advantage of meeting him.

39. I saw a good deal of this country in November. I reported then that the rice crop was most uneven, but that I thought it averaged 8 annas. I am not able now to say whether the estimate was right or wrong. I can only say that the people's own accounts of their condition are ridiculously untrustworthy. I give an instance. In November I was going through a village. I was talking to my mahawal; we were admiring some magnificent rice that was growing along a deep khal full of water. The khal ran winding almost like a tangled rope, and for a considerable distance on each side for a long stretch of the khal this very fine rice was growing. The uplands had not been ploughed. The village was not large, and a number of the villagers

stood looking at my elephant. I said to them, "The whole country is going to ruin. What "about you?" They answered, laughing, "We are all right, we have got our's safe." A week ago I passed through the same village, and I was told that not a grain of rice had been saved. The water in the khal is not dry yet. Cows drink it, and buffaloes lie in it.

40. The tenants of Sultanabad are not on good terms with their landlord. They are constantly asking me what the Sarkar is going to do, and they are inclined to convene meetings to make proposals, and hear news.

41. The Rajah of Maheshpore has promised to spend Rs. 5,000 borrowed and Rs. 2,000 of his own money on tanks and bands. Work has already been begun on a very good line of road and on several tanks.

42. I consider that relief works are necessary in Sultanabad, and, as I have already said, we shall probably have to import some rice.

43. In Maheshpore laborers are refusing task-work. Daily labor attracts many hundreds of persons, who like pay for lazy work. Number rolls of day-laborers are apt to mislead.

44. Crime does not appear to be increasing.

B.

45. Yesterday I received the district progress report, which I have to submit in original as I am alone in the interior without a clerk.

46. In addition to the works reported in this sheet, I opened work last week by the kind help of Mr. Bœrresen on a tank and a band near Benagarhia. I gave Mr. Bœrresen Rs. 1,000 to carry on the work. In four days the number of laborers increased from 200 to 1,100, almost all Sonthals.

47. Mr. Meara has opened work on the Bario and Pratapore road, but finds that laborers will not come to it. They prefer the Barahat road. This requires investigation.

48. As I have said, the people of Sultanabad are working on a road and on tanks selected by Mr. Wood. These works will now come on the regular list.

C.

49. I have nothing of importance to report.

D.

50. I have nothing to report. I have not received details from Doi, our only working golah. I have not received sufficient information from Rajmehal to make any report.

E.

51. As I have said, Rajah Gopal Chundra Singh Bahadoor, of Maheshpore, is borrowing Rs. 5,000 for tanks, of which he is going to begin 20 immediately.

G.

	Rs.	A.	P.
The progress report gives some details of expenditure totalling - -	1,743	0	3
Advance to Mr. Bœrresen for Benagarhia band and tank - -	1,000	0	0
Total - - -	2,743	0	3

P.S.—The father of the distressed boy of paragraph 31 has turned up. The boy had told me his father and mother were both dead. I cannot yet say whether the father wants to get hold of the boy's subsistence allowance or not.

Enclosure No. 6.

RESOLUTION.

Scarcity and Relief Department.

Calcutta, the 14th April 1874.

Read—

The fortnightly narratives for the Rajshahye division, for the period ending 4th April.

Moorshedabad.—The effect of the reaping of the rubbee crop is perceptible in the markets of this district, for though rice is a little dearer, averaging 12¼ seers per rupee, wheat and gram are at 17 and 18 seers, and other grains cheaper.

2. As before reported, it is only the begging and indigent non-laboring classes that are suffering from actual want, and to whom it has been found necessary to give gratuitous relief. For the labouring classes, work is provided, and is readily taken where the pressure is at all severe. Difficulty is said to be felt in undertaking tank work for want of a supervising agency. It is thought that the head men of villages cannot be trusted with the disbursement of money on this account without a tolerably active supervision. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that this difficulty is exaggerated. It is hoped that the arrangements recently made, under the Commissioner's orders, for dividing the district into circles, with an officer in charge of each, will make it easy to introduce this form of relief more freely where required. The Lieutenant-Governor was prepared, from his own knowledge, to find the necessity of such circles in the

western half; but he hopes that in any case a full circle organisation will not be found necessary in the eastern half, that is on the east of the Bhagirattee river. If, however, the collector thinks that it does, then the Lieutenant-Governor will be glad to receive a special report.

3. The average number of persons on relief works daily is 3,464. The daily number receiving charitable relief is 379. It is stated that the manufacture of jute-cordage has proved a useful form of light labour, and more popular than thread making. The relief committees of other districts may, perhaps, try this. Government grain when sold to an independent relief committee need not continue to be shown as Government grain.

4. *Rajshahye.*—Though prices are easier here, owing to private importations, than they have been for some time, the failure of the silk crop which is now reported, will, it is to be feared, cause much distress that would otherwise have been avoided. The district has, however, been divided into circles under the Commissioner's orders, and a careful watch must be kept upon the condition of the poorer classes. The average number of labourers on relief works had risen to 6,587, in the first week of the fortnight. The return for the last week is not submitted. 185 persons daily receive charitable relief at poor-houses, but these returns are also incomplete.

5. *Maldah.*—The collector notes a marked decrease in the supply of rice and paddy in the local markets. Prices are nowhere less than 11 seers per rupee, and go as high as 9 seers. Wheat, and other rubbee grains, are however coming in, and helping to relieve this extreme pressure. The rubbee harvest has fortunately been above the average. Seed for the bhadoidhan sowings has been procurable, though at very high rates, and a much greater area than usual has been laid down.

6. Mr. Alexander thinks the condition of the people getting worse by degrees, and now anticipates that village-to-village inspection will be necessary; arrangements for this seem to have been made. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that this process can only be necessary in the tracts on the west banks of the Muhanuddee and its affluent. It can hardly be required in the tract between the Ganges and the Muhanuddee. If it be, however, the Lieutenant-Governor would be glad to receive a special report. In the very bad parts, the increase in the number of ordinary villagers coming for cooked food to the depôts, indicates the growth of distress. It is not, however, understood why these people should receive cooked food; they should be set to work on relief works. 3,160 persons daily find employment on relief works, while 684 are receiving charitable relief.

7. *Dinagepore.*—Mr. Lowis' report is as usual full and interesting. Rain is much required in this district to enable the ryots to complete the sowing of the light lands for the bhadoi crop, and to plough up the heavier soils. The collector believes that seed-grain exists in the country in sufficient quantity, though the prices of it will range high. He proposes to put some pressure on the zemindars to induce them to assist ryots who have no means of their own to purchase seed. Probably it will be found that the zemindars will do this readily enough for their own sakes, if the grain exists. But it is right to devote constant attention to the matter. It is, as Mr. Lowis says, better for Government to avoid direct dealings with the cultivators, and get the zemindars to perform their natural duties.

8. The facts related by the Collector confirm the conclusion to which he had already come, that the general stocks of the district are now fast failing. Fortunately the Government rice is available in sufficient quantity to meet all distress.

9. The numbers on relief works have risen to 74,806.

10. Transport is working smoothly and well. The Collector would like to take 40,000 maunds more *viâ* Dingraghat, in addition to the 1,60,000 already sent through Purneah, but the present arrangements cannot be again disturbed, and the East Indian Railway cannot be further burdened. It is to be hoped the Collector may find the forms of the stock accounts less complicated than he expects them to prove.

11. The arrangements for charitable relief are complete; 1,791 persons were receiving this form of aid.

12. *Rungpore.*—The Rungpore report is on this occasion sufficiently lengthy, and gives a very fair idea of the state of the district, and the local distribution of distress. It might, however, with advantage have been more condensed. The worst tract is that in the south by Govindgunge, where village inspection has disclosed even greater distress than was anticipated. In some parts the people have been reduced to something approaching extremity, though no deaths are reported. It is hoped that the Collector can show that he has from the first exercised sufficient vigilance in this respect. The Lieutenant-Governor warns him most earnestly, both as to the present and the future. No shortcoming in this vital respect can be overlooked or permitted. Relief measures seem now to be on an efficient footing; work is provided; advances are being made to zemindars and jotedars for their ryots, while the latterly eagerly watch the due application of the sums so lent by Government.

13. The total number on relief works is not given. They are said to be much the same as before, except in Govindgunge, where about 10,000 people are on the roads. Last narrative showed 3,465 labourers for the whole district.

14. The transport of grain is said to be going on smoothly, though complaints are made that private trade is interfered with by the Government demand for carriage. It can hardly be the case that a district like Rungpore should feel seriously the withdrawal of 653 or even 1,000 carts. The special report of the burning down of a Government rice golah will be awaited. 1,62,828 maunds of rice have reached the district.

15. Over 4,000 persons are said to be in receipt of charitable relief. They are chiefly of the begging class.

16. *Bogra.*—The Collector reports that no change has taken place here during the fortnight in the condition of the people; but the numbers on relief works have risen from 9,686 to 24,951 persons, of whom only 7,980 were men. It is evident, from Mr. Kelly's account, that the population of the villages is turning out to perform nominal labour on the roads. If these people are really distressed, work must be found for them in their villages. But it is stated as a fact, that well-to-do people come on the roads bringing their labour-servants with them. Certainly in such cases the labour test should be made a reality. Mr. Robinson's attention is invited to Sir George Campbell's "Note" published in the last *Gazette*, where this question is discussed. He should take steps to have the works classified as there directed. The Lieutenant-Governor begs that Mr. Robinson will take the earliest opportunity of visiting the Bogra district.

17. The Collector thinks the land carriage of the district insufficient to carry off the whole of his increased allotment. In that case, he must arrange to store it at places from which it can be conveniently distributed in boats later in the season. Mr. Robinson should, however, look into this question without delay and report the result. The Lieutenant-Governor has hitherto been under the impression that there is enough land carriage in the district for so small an allotment.

18. Charitable relief is being given to 583 persons.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 2386.—S.R.

Copy forwarded to the Commissioner of Rajshahye, the Relief Commissioner of Rajshahye, and the district officers of the division for information and guidance.

No. 2387.—S.R.

Copy forwarded to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhagulpore.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 14th April 1874.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Moorshedabad District for the Fortnight ending Saturday, the 4th April 1874.

A.—State of the Country.

1.—*Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazaar.*

The supply of food-grains other than rice is reported to be increasing in the bazaars and hâts of the Sudder sub-division, and the prices are easier. There is still sufficient rice for daily consumption, but the stock is reported to be gradually decreasing. In the Lalbag sub-division there is still an abundant supply in the bazaar. The mahajuns of Baloochur and Azimgunge have opened their stores and are supplying the bazaar. In the Rampore Haut sub-division the markets are in a similar state to what was reported in the last narrative. In the Jungipur sub-division it is reported that the supply of rice and dhân in the market of Dhulian, from East Bengal, is abundant. The Sub-Divisional Officer saw a number of Dacca rice-boats in the Ganges near Dhulian on last Monday and Tuesday. The supply of rice in other bazaars is reported to be scantier than in other years; but there is always enough to meet the daily demand.

2.—*Kind and price of grain selling at one or more principal marts.*

In the head-quarters sub-division the price of common rice is somewhat higher than at date of last narrative; the average of 12 of the principal marts gives 12¼ seers per rupee. It is cheapest at Nowada, where the rate is 15 seers per rupee, and dearest at Kallyangunge, where it is 11 seers per rupee. The price of wheat and gram has fallen; of the former the average is 17 seers, and of the latter 18 seers per rupee. Other food-grains such as kulai, dâl of different sorts, &c., are somewhat cheaper, but the whole of the rubbee crops have not yet been gathered. In the Lalbag sub-division coarse rice still remains generally at 12 seers per rupee. Wheat has fallen one seer, and barley two seers. In the Rampore Haut sub-division the prices of fine and coarse rice are as follow:—

	Fine rice.	Coarse rice.
Khurgram - - - - -	$10\frac{2}{16}$	$11\frac{9}{16}$
Pulsa - - - - - -	10	12
Rampore Haut - - - - -	12	14
Nulhattee - - - - -	12	14

It will be observed that in the market of Rampore Haut the prices have fallen by one seer in comparison with those mentioned in the last narrative. In the Jungipur sub-division the price of new "hoimonto" rice is given at 12 or 12¼ seers per rupee.

3. *Any information obtained regarding the amount and kind of grain believed to be in stock in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others.*

The stock of food-grains in the hands of zemindars, mahajuns, and others in the Sudder sub-division is said to be much the same as before. No precise estimate has been attempted. The

Laibag Sub-Divisional Officer still adheres to his former opinion. No further information has been obtained on this point, as no special enquiries have been made. The Sub-Divisional Offices of Rampore Haut, as stated in the last narrative, states that there is little in store in the hands of zemindars and mahajuns.

4.—*Rainfall, if any.*

There was a slight fall of rain on the 24th ultimo in the following station jurisdictions:—Jellinghee, Nowada, and Bhurtpore; and on the 1st instant in Gowas, Dewanserai, and Jellinghee. Hail fell in the latter place on the same date, which is said to have partially injured the crops in the ground. It appears from a report since made by the Sub-Divisional Officer of Jungipur that ·88 inch of rain fell in the afternoon of the 3rd instant (accompanied by gale and hailstones). The rain will greatly benefit the cultivation of the early rice, do material good to the boro dhan now on ground, and prepare lands for the ploughing of the late or hoimonto rice.

5.—*State of the Crops.*

The prospects of the early rice, indigo, and mulberry crops are good. The Sub-Divisional Officer of Lalbag reports that the rubbee crops on the "dearah" lands are all being reaped, and will give a very fair outturn. Mulberry, especially, is doing well, and this is a great thing for the people who depend to a great extent in some parts upon silk. Unfortunately a somewhat considerable proportion of the worms have died, and the mulberry leaves fetch a small price and will be partly used for feeding cattle.

In the "rarh" country most of the lands have been turned up and are being manured. In the "dearah" lands the ryots are busy in turning up the ground for the "aus" sowings. The Sub-Divisional Officer of Rampore Haut states that the outturn of boro paddy in his sub-division will probably be fourteen-sixteenth of an average crop. He does not speak well of the state of the rubbee crops which have been somewhat injured by the late hailstones. In the Jungipur sub-division the spring crops are reported to be good. Wheat and barley are nearly harvested. The yield will be a good one, but notwithstanding this the price of rice shows a tendency to rise.

6.—*Condition of the people.*

There is hardly any change in the condition of the people from what was stated in the last narrative, but in some parts the people are reported to be in great want and to require assistance from the relief sub-committees. The Sub-Divisional Officer of Lalbag reports that in his present tour he had only come across some three or four cases of real distress, the persons in distress all belonging to the beggar class, and in these cases he had given money relief. He had gone through a good many villages in thana Bhadureehaut during the last few days and in the villages neighbouring Sagurdighee, and he had seen some persons to whom it would be soon necessary to give gratuitous relief. For this purpose a relief house will soon be started at Sagurdighee, and gratuitous relief in the shape of uncooked food will be given. There are a good many laborers about here who are in want of work. The Executive Engineer has been requested to have the repairs of the part of the Nulhattee and Azimgunge road in the neighbourhood of these villages started at once. The Sub-Divisional Officer had gone through several villages in these parts and had demarcated the boundaries of tanks to be taken up as relief works under the sub-divisional relief committee. He states that the great difficulty as regards the excavation of these tanks as relief works is the want of competent persons to supervise the work. He does not think that it would be safe to make over the money for these tanks to the headmen of the several villages, and that he has no other agency at his command. He could start work almost immediately on these tanks had he any one who could supervise the work, and on whom he could rely to see that the work was fairly done, and that the laborers were properly and promptly paid. I have, in a report to the Commissioner, made some little time ago, recommended the appointment of a Superintendent or Assistant for relief purposes by whom works such as tank excavations could be supervised. It is not advisable in many cases to entrust such works to the headmen of villages at any rate without tolerably regular supervision. In some of the villages near Sagurdighee the Sub-Divisional Officer remarked that some of the dried-up tanks had been dug over, and on his asking the reason was informed that the poorest people had dug up the ground in search of "mattans" (earth root honey-combed inside, which when boiled is eaten with salt). This root is probably only used as an addition to the usual food, but still from this it would seem that the time for gratuitous relief in these parts has come, otherwise, he says, he has seen no signs of distress. I believe that these roots are consumed to a certain extent every year whether there be good harvest or bad. The Sub-Divisional Officer of Rampore Haut states that the people that appear to be in want of food are principally, as reported in the last narrative, the old, the infirm, and the beggars, and that the poorer class of people are in difficult circumstances. This remark may be applied to the district generally. The laboring class have been extensively employed in carrying the mud from dried-up tanks and putting it in their fields by way of manure. Works have been started for this class of the people, and other works will soon be started, so that I believe that no anxiety need be felt for them. These people, it appears, have not flocked in great numbers to the works which have been going on. Near Nulhattee the people were employed and paid at first at a daily rate, and when the work was offered them by contract they went away. This shews very plainly that their circumstances are not very bad. As regards the Jungipore sub-division I think I may give a general view of the country in the following words:—It may be said that the fortunate parts of this sub-division are the "dearah" or alluvial lands near the Ganges, which yielded a good "bhadoi" harvest last year, and have yielded very good winter and spring crops in the present, and the worst parts are west and south Mirzapore, of which "hoimonto" rice may be said to be the sole crop, though there is a little boro dhan on the margins of two extensive tanks. Shumshergunge is so well off that for some time at least it may be left to take care of itself. There is an active demand for labor at Dhulian, and the rate of wages is one rupee for a batch of five laborers, a rate higher than any obtaining elsewhere in this sub-division for unskilled manual labor. Mirzapore is the thana which will continue for some months to come to be the object of most anxious solicitude. Two relief sub-committees have of late been formed in this thana, and 100 maunds of rice have been despatched from Jungipore to the sub-committee at Mirzapore and stored in the thana godown. The Juroor and Nowada road, on which work is going on, passes through west Mirzapore, the most distressed part of the sub-division. From the above it will appear that the people of the Jungipore sub-division are well off in Shumshergunge and Dewanserai, and badly off in southern and western parts of Mirzapore. In the north-west portion of thana Sooty, the mals and krores who have no lands of their own are suffering.

7.—*Actual facts as to any known cases of misery and starvation.*

No cases of death from actual starvation have come to light. There was a rumour about a woman of a certain village in the Jungipur sub-division having been starved. The Sub-Divisional Officer enquired into the matter on the spot and found it to be utterly unfounded. Many such rumours, I believe, when tested by personal inquiry, will be found to be entirely groundless. Many cases of distress and misery have been relieved by the relief commitees, and, though it is impossible, with the agency at my command, to search out every case of great misery among the most helpless, there are, I think, sufficient means for them to make their distress known to the officers of Government in the various parts of the district, and to the various relief committees.

8.—*Grain-thefts of robberies.*

Eight cases of petty thefts of grain were reported during the fortnight in the Sudder sub-division, two of which were of such a petty nature that enquiry was refused. There have been four grain-thefts in the Rampore Haut sub-division, and no cases have been reported from the Lalbag and Jungipur sub-divisions. A crime statement is annexed.

9.—*Condition of any special tracts.*

Small-pox and cholera are both very prevalent in parts of the head-quarters sub-division. The former is most prevalent at Salar and Kandi in the Bhurtpore thana. Cholera prevails in the Sujagunge and Borooah stations. In the Lalbag sub-division small-pox is still prevalent, though decreasing in the city of Moorshedabad. There have been some cases of cholera in Baloochur. In the Rampore Haut sub-division small-pox is still raging in the villages of Doonigram and Autkoola, and the villagers are reluctant to be vaccinated. The vaccinator sent here for vaccination has been sent back, as the season for vaccinating is over. Cholera has made its appearance in the village of Mulsa, and indent has been made for cholera medicines. The public health in the Jungipur sub-division is reported to be generally good, except that there are some sporadic cases of small-pox here and there.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

The average number of persons employed on the several relief works is 3,464. The laborers are generally in good condition, and can obtain food easily except in the case of the Juroor and Nowada road, at which food is obtainable in small quantity. The rate of task-work varies from 3 annas 6 pie to 2 annas per 100 cubic feet throughout the district, and cash payments are made at the rate of 2 annas per diem. The men generally bring their own tools, but in a few cases they are supplied with them. A statement shewing the expenditure on relief works is submitted. Several relief works have been started under the City Moorshedabad Municipality; the number of laborers daily employed has been 85, and the total cost during the fortnight has been Rs. 126. There has been a falling off in the number of the laborers, owing to some of them having left to reap the rubbee harvest. The condition of the laborers are reported to be good. They are paid at the rate of Rs. 2 per 1,000 cubic feet of earthwork. Tools when required are supplied by the Municipality.

Some difficulty has been experienced by the Sub-Divisional Officer of Rampore Haut on one road for want of picks. The Executive Engineer has been requested to send 30 of these to him.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

It appears that importation is still going on *viâ* Allatuli; 9,910 maunds of food-grains have been exported from the Rampore Haut sub-division, and 921 maunds have been imported into the sub-division by railway during the fortnight ending 21st March 1874.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

The rice received by Mr. Toynbee for the Jungipur sub-division was found by actual measurement to be 491 maunds 39 seers 9 chittacks; of this 100 maunds have been despatched to the relief sub-committee at Mirzapore, and stored in the thana godown. As the rice has been paid for by the relief committee, I have some doubts whether it should now be considered as "Government grain at relief works." In the Rampore Haut sub-division seven places of storage for grain have been selected, but it has been resolved to store grain at present only at Khurgram, Bhuddevpore, and Jhillee. A golah will be erected at Khurgram thana for the purpose.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

Nineteen applications under the Land Improvement Act were received in the head-quarters sub-division during the fortnight under report, and a sum of Rs. 2,140 has been disbursed on this account. The Rampore Haut Sub-Divisional Officer reports that 50 similar applications have been received by him during the fortnight. Additional funds have been supplied to him for the purpose of making advances. A sum of Rs. 100 has been advanced by the Sub-Divisional Officer of Jungipur during the fortnight for the excavation of a tank.

Charitable Relief.

In compliance with the orders conveyed in the Government letter No. 1251—S.R., dated the 5th ultimo, the following statement is submitted:

1	2	3	4	5	6			
Number of Committees and Sub-committees as yet appointed.	Number of Special Relief Sub-divisions opened and officered.	Number of Regular Relief Circles opened and manned by Special Officers.	Number of Relief Circles opened and managed by Planters and Zemindars and other Residents.	Number of Work-houses or Centres for the Distribution of Food and Gratuitous Relief.	Number of Men, Women, and Children (with Total) in Receipt of Gratuitous Relief in any shape, through the Charitable Relief Organization *daily*; this should include people employed or relieved by the Relief Committees or Relief Officers under any of the Heads of the "Instructions."			
					Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
23	—	—	18	2	4,348	715	244	5,307*
					Daily Average.			
					311	51	17	379

* Out of this number, 305 persons have been relieved gratuitously, and the rest by employment in road-repairing, jungle-cutting and tank-digging. Reports from the relief sub-committees of Saktipore, Bhurtpore, and where relief works have been started, have not yet been received. Of the number given above who have been gratuitously relieved, a considerable proportion consists of the inhabitants of a village in the Boroosh thana who were suddenly reduced to destitution by the destruction of their houses by fire.

Column 1.—These committees consist of the district relief committee, its executive sub-commitee at head-quarters, 12 sub-committees in the Sudder sub-division, 3 sub-divisional relief committees, and 4 sub-committees under the Rampore Haut sub-divisional relief committee, and 2 sub-committees in the Jungipur sub-division.

The committees entered in column 4 are the 12 sub-committees in the Sudder sub-division, 4 in the Rampore Haut sub-division, and 2 in the Jungipur sub-division. During the fortnight under report a sum of Rs. 150 has been sent to the Secretary of the Kattamaree sub-committee for the repair of a road in order to give employment to able-bodied men seeking relief, and another sum of Rs. 150 has also been sent to him for the purpose of excavating a tank at Lakrajpara in thana Gowas. A sum of Rs. 180 has also been sent to the Hurhurparah relief sub-committee for the repair and construction of certain roads. Rs. 100 were sent out to the relief sub-committee at Bhurtpore for construction of a bund in a village named Syed Koolut, and a sum of Rs. 276-9-0 was sent to the Secretary of the Hurhurparah relief sub-committee for the purchase of paddy. The Gokum relief committee have been supplied with 10 maunds of jute for relief purposes, and 200 maunds of rice have been despatched from the Berhampore Co-operative store to Bhurtpore for sale to poor people on advantageous terms, the price of rice in the village being somewhat high as compared with other markets. A portion of this rice will also be available for gratuitous relief to persons in distress from whom no labor can be exacted. The sub-committee has started the system of relief by grants of cotton and jute for the manufacture of thread and cordage, and some manufactured material has been received. There was very little desire on the part of the poor, at first, to avail themselves of this means of relief, as owing to the decline of the thread manufacture, caused by the introduction of English thread, the profits yielded by one day's work were quite inadequate for one day's subsistence. More advantageous terms have now been granted as remuneration for work done, and there will, in all probability, be a considerable increase in the number of persons who will accept relief of this kind. The manufacture of cordage being far more remunerative than that of thread, no difficulty is experienced in inducing persons really in distress to take grants of jute on the condition of their receiving the value of their labor as ascertained by the difference in the prices of raw and the manufactured material.

The Gokum sub-committee having reported the great difficulty felt by the poor in the village and its neighbourhood in procuring rice, has been authorised to sell rice to such people from the stock already stored there. Both in this case and that of Bhurtpore, necessary instructions to secure the correct working of this measure and the submission of accounts have been issued.

The Sub-Divisional Officer of Lalbag reports that gratuitous relief is about to be organized in thana Bhadreehaut, and possibly in thana Bhugwangola, though he does not think there is any pressing need for it in the latter thana. There are no persons receiving regular gratuitous relief in his sub-division. He had given the sum of Rs. 2 only to two distressed-looking beggars, Re. 1 each, during the last fortnight. Charitable relief is given in Jungipur on every Thursday and Sunday; 129 persons were relieved by wages for jute-spinning; 39 received doles of pice; and between a hundred and two hundred persons, chiefly professional beggars, who cannot procure alms enough for subsistence, received doles of rice.

It should be remarked here that the average number of persons relieved as given in the last narrative was by no means complete; several returns were received too late to be incorporated in the narrative, and information as much as was available at the time of the submission of the narrative was given. The sub-committees have been again reminded on the subject of the punctual submission of these returns.

W. Wavell,
Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Moorshedabad.

Berhampore,
The 7th April 1874.

No. 622—S.R., dated Dinagepore, the 6th April 1874.

From E. E. Lowis, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Dinagepore, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I have the honor to submit my narrative for the fortnight ending 6th April.

A.—State of the Country.

There has been no rain during the past fortnight, and the want of it is beginning to be felt, as until some does come the bhadoi sowings cannot be completed. The rain that fell so opportunely during February was taken advantage of to break up the land for the early rice; the sowings however were not completed, and a considerable amount of land still remains unsown. The earth in fact had become so dry, that the rain we had did not suffice in all places to afford moisture enough for sowing, though it moistened the ground sufficiently to enable ploughing operations to be carried on. The above remarks apply only to pali or light soil, on which bhadoi is generally grown. This crop it is true is also cultivated on khiar or stiff soil, but there has not yet been rain enough to enable the cultivators to plough such lands, much less to sow them on the khiar lands; however, if the cultivators fail to get any bhadoi, they will, if the weather be favorable, be able to fall back on hemantee or winter rice. The time for bhadoi sowing has not yet passed however, so that though rain now would be welcome, no present anxiety is experienced at its absence. The bora rice promises well, though in some places the water necessary for its preservation, it being a crop dependent entirely on irrigation, is beginning to fall short. To the north of the district a very large area has been devoted to the cultivation of kaon, which is, I believe, a species of millet. This crop is generally sown in February and ripens in June, but this season it has been put in without much regard to proper seasons, and plants are to be found in Thackurgaon thana in every stage of progression, some just coming up, while other fields are beginning to ripen. As the bhadoi sowings have not yet been completed, it is not easy to determine with certainty the question of sufficiency of seed grain, to which the attention of all circle officers has now for some time been directed. The impression, however, is, as I stated in my last report, that seed grain both for bhadoi and hemantee will be forthcoming though at high rates. Bhadoi seed grain, at one place I visited, was selling a week ago at 9 seers per rupee, a rather higher price than was fetched for clean rice in the same locality. The inquiries made by the circle officers show that the people are themselves fully alive to the difficulty, and that dealers are purchasing and storing the produce of last harvest; while those who have stocks are holding back, in the hope that the price of seed-grain will eventually be high. I am more and more convinced that there is a sufficiency of seed-grain in the country, a stock which the sale of Government rice will tend to keep up. But admitting that there will be a sufficiency, the question has been raised by more than one relief officer, how far will the poorer cultivators be able to provide themselves out of the stock in the market? And the result of their inquiries seems to show that some of the laborers on the relief works will be unable to command means enough to enable them to buy seed-grain. Some of our coolies have come on the works before exhausting all their resources, and have something at home to fall back upon to help them in this difficulty; others, again, are able, by laboring diligently at task work, and by living economically, to save something, while others will obtain help from their zemindars or rich neighbours. There remains, however, a certain proportion, so it is reported, who have no means to fall back upon, who are unable to earn more than a bare subsistence, and whose zemindars will not help them, and as regards this class it becomes a question how far and in what way assistance should be afforded. It is most obviously the duty of the zemindar to help men of this class, and it is a duty cheerfully undertaken by all liberal and intelligent landlords; there are, however, it is said, landlords who are neither liberal nor intelligent, and such should be compelled to perform the duty. There is, I believe, a feeling among the people that Government, which has done so much, will step in and undertake this burden too; but I do not at all consider that the feeling should be encouraged. Government have agreed to advance money to zemindars on most liberal terms; those who expend money in helping their ryots have been promised indulgence as regards payment of Government revenue; arrangements have also been made whereby the ryots working on our roads can obtain subsistence while absent for purposes of cultivation. Government have done all that can be done to ensure that the next harvest shall not be a deficient one, and the further task of providing seed-grain need not be undertaken by them, but should be made incumbent on the zemindars. I propose directing my circle officers to inquire on whose estates the laborers who say they cannot afford to get seed-grain reside; they will then inform the zemindars in question that certain of their ryots are in want of seed grain, remind them of the offer of Government to advance money and grant indulgences to those who assist their tenantry, and warn them that if they decline to undertake so obvious a duty, that Government will be moved to make the advance, holding the zemindar personally responsible for the debt. The responsibility will thus be cast on the right shoulders, and a safeguard afforded against any unnecessary advances being given, for we may be quite sure that any zemindar thus called on to help a ryot, who has means at his disposal, will take very good care to let the circle officer know that advances are not needed. I do not myself think that landlords will be so forgetful of their own interests as not to take care that their ryots have the means to raise the next crop. If however it is found that such is indeed the case, some such measure as I have suggested will have to be adopted. I would deprecate any direct dealings between the Government and the ryots in this matter. Government have not the same facilities for testing the *bonâ fides* of an application, or for recovering the advance, as are possessed by the zemindars, and if the responsibility must be incurred, it should be incurred by those best fitted to sustain it. The prices ruling at the different hâts, and the scarcity of the supply in many places, still point to exhaustion in the stocks of food-grain. Rice is now sold in Thakurgaon, the northern thana, at Rs. 4 a maund, and at few places can it be obtained at a cheaper rate, while sometimes it goes as high as 8 seers per rupee. In Habra and Chintamon, where there was some rice, and which are places that in ordinary years export largely, prices are rather easier, and rice is being taken from thence to other parts of this district, as well as to Rungpore and Bogra. As I noticed in my last report, prices rose very suddenly at Datiram, and distress began to be felt there and at Patintala; the rice however was at hand, ready to supply the market, and a European was at once despatched to take charge of the latter circle. What distress exists is met as it arises, and the panic has been allayed. Within the last week the supply of rice in the Gungarampore division fell short in the same sudden and unexpected manner; there was however an officer at hand, sale of rice in this circle had been sanctioned, and the arrangements for selling it in train; no difficulty was therefore experienced. The circle officer reports, however, that but for the timely arrangements made on receipt of orders sanctioning sale of Government rice, there would have been much distress. In Bhadooria circle there has been no sudden falling off of supplies, but though gradual, the falling off has been steady. The sudden failures of supply which have occurred at Patiram and Gungarampore show how thin a wall often divides scarcity from famine, for until the market day there seems to have been no suspicion at Gungarampore that the supply would fall far short of the demand. Prices at the station itself are touching Rs. 4 per maund, and the people are clamorous to have the Government golahs thrown open. I am waiting, however, for prices to rise above the present rates, or until there is some indication that the supply is not ample should occasion a rise, I am quite prepared to sell. As I write, a storm has passed over the station attended with but little rain; the heavy clouds, however, betoken rain to the north and north-west.

B.—Relief Works.

The number of persons employed on the relief works is daily on the increase; the only officer whose return shows any decrease is Mr. Scanlan, but that is accounted for by the fact of his having introduced task work throughout all the roads under his charge. The greater number of his coolies at first left, but finding that he remained firm, and that by working diligently an able-bodied man can earn more than ten pice a day, they are gradually coming back, and by this time I have no doubt he has as many as ever. It must not be supposed that Mr. Scanlan is applying a severe and rigid labor test. All women and children, as well as infirm and old men, are admitted at daily wages; but the able-bodied are obliged to do task work, and are paid according to the amount of earth excavated. Women are employed on all the works; they are all of the lower class of agriculturists, but are not generally accustomed to work in the fields. They seem to take very kindly to the work, however, now that they have overcome their first scruples. As I have already pointed out, many of our relief laborers have joined the works before being reduced to absolute want, some of them having small stores of seed grain in their houses; and as soon as the weather is favorable for agricultural operations, these men will leave the works for a time. I may add that some of them employ the early morning in ploughing up their lands before coming to work on the roads. In the month of June there will, I fear, be some difficulty in providing work for laborers, for road work will be finished and tanks cannot be dug after the rains have begun. There will, however, be a demand then for agricultural labor which will absorb a good many. The weekly reports called for from circle officers render it almost unnecessary for me to notice the number of laborers employed; but as the return has perhaps not been correctly given this week, I subjoin a list compiled from the latest information at my disposal; the numbers are even larger than those mentioned, for the coolies daily increase. In the Kaliagunge, Tambolee, and Bindol circles there are 9,698 persons at work. Mr. Jones finds employment for 27,472; these numbers probably include Chooraman. Mr. Scanlan has under him 8,785; Baboo Hari Mohan Chane, 11,427; Mr. Finucane at Datiram has about doubled his number, and now employs 7,099. At Patnitolla there are 3,700 under Baboo Poorno Chunder Goopto, at Bhadooria 3,360, and in the Sudder circle, 693; while the Public Works Department find employment for 2,572 more.

C.—Transport.

Our transport arrangements continue to work smoothly, and rice is being brought in as rapidly as could be expected; our allotment for Dinagepore is almost all in now. Mr. Westmacott at Maldah therefore has been directed to discontinue his service here, and to fill in the Tamboolee golahs, which he ought to do, with the large number of carts at his disposal, in the course of a month or so. Mr. Scanlan at Rani Sonkoil has got in already very nearly one lakh out of the 1,40,000 maunds allotted for his division; the rest of his rice Mr. Scanlan must get through Raigunge, for the Purneah authorities, as the present arrangements stand, only supply us with 1,60,000 maunds in all, of which 39,000 maunds have gone to Bindoil and Hemtabad. I would suggest the advisability of at least the balance of Mr. Scanlan's allotment, say another 40,000 maunds, being put down for us at Dingraghat; it is a mere step across from that place to Hurreepore, and other golahs in the Rani Sonkoil division, and if we have to bring from old Maldah or Hyatpore, it is a much more tedious and expensive journey. For Patnitolla and Patiram, I learn from Lieutenant Hawkes that he can put down 2,000 maunds a day at Nowgong if I can carry it, and more if I like to take more. There ought to be no difficulty in taking 2,000 maunds a day by cart from Nowgong to Patnitola, and at that rate another month or so should see Patnitolla and Patiram full also. There is now no difficulty about carts; the men find they are liberally paid and well treated, and work therefore willingly. There was some slight hitch about getting carts to go across the water, and serve on Mr. Reily's line from Hyatpore to Chooramon, but the men have been persuaded to go, and the difficulty got over Pack-bullocks we do not employ at all; some were taken on to carry rice from Maldah to Kalikamora, but as a complaint was made that private trade was interfered with and as plenty of carts were procurable, the bullocks were given up; nor do I think there will be any necessity to fall back upon their services again.

D.—STORAGE OF GRAIN.

Rice is being distributed throughout the country at the different golahs, for it is clear the time is not far distant when we shall have to supply the market to a considerable extent. Forms for stock accounts are beginning to come in; they have not all arrived, but from what I have seen, they promise to be somewhat elaborate, rather too much so for ordinary golahdars on Rs. 15 or 20 a month. For these accounts to be of any value, we must assume that the quantity stored has been, in the first instance, accurately calculated; but this is just what we do not know, and what it would be now almost hopeless to attempt to ascertain. As I pointed out in previous reports, we have never been provided with proper weights and scales, so that the rice could not be weighed at the golahs even if we have wished to do so; but even if the weights and scales have been forthcoming, they could not have been made use of, for at the rate rice was poured into the district, it was as much as we could do to stow away our grain without stopping to weigh. A grain officer has now been nominated, but it will be quite impossible for him to go round, as the printed instructions seem to contemplate, and weigh the grain in golah. The instructions again seem to contemplate the ascertainment of the wastage during the journey to Calcutta, from thence to the points of receipt into the district, and from such points to final destination. As a fact, the bags have not I believe been weighed anywhere on the journey, and the deficit to be found now will be the wastage during the entire journey. I have not however seen all the accounts, so I am perhaps premature in judging of their adaptability.

E.—ADVANCES.

There have been no further applications for advances.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

The district relief officer has been entrusted with the duty of filling in this head of the narrative, and his report is appended. It seems to me advisable, however, first to mention the general principles on which our scheme for charitable relief is founded. The first idea was to have a central executive committee in the station, who should direct relief operations through subcommittees scattered about throughout the district. This was before I was aware of the extensive agency that was to be placed at my disposal. It was soon apparent that the committee system would not work, there was a feeling of divided responsibility; the action of the magistrate was also liable to be hampered, since a measure that seemed advisable to him was liable to be vetoed. I therefore, acting under the directions of Sir Richard Temple, did away with the agency of committees as a directing power altogether, and impressed on all circle officers that as I am responsible for my district, so each officer is responsible for his own circle, such responsibility being shared by none; that the aid of the respectable local authorities is to be sought, and their counsel and advice treated with respect, but that each officer is to use his own discretion in acting on it, though, in the event of an officer acting in direct opposition to local experience, he is bound to report the action taken by him. Each officer, with the aid of two or more inspectors, manages his own circle with the assistance and through the co-operation of the respectable inhabitants, and reports weekly to the District Relief Officer all that he is doing. The District Relief Officer has general control over all the circles, subject to the direction of the Magistrate and Collector, and is independent, except in so far that he is to be guided by the spirit of the instructions issued by me to all circle officers. The District Relief Officer is in fact in charge of a particular department, much in the same way as the superintendent of police is in charge of his, subject to the general control of the head of the district. The report of the District Relief Officer is subjoined.

"Arrangements for giving charitable relief within this district have been in force for about a month, but it has only been within the last fortnight that the necessity for the systematic disbursements of charity has arisen. The figures at my disposal for the present report show the following result for the first half of the fortnight under report:—

PLACE.	Week ending 7th March.	Week ending 14th March.	Week ending 21st March.
Bhadooria	No return	—	51
Bindoil	Ditto	—	80
Dinagepore	Ditto	—	2
Kalinguuge	Ditto	1	—
Patiram	—	—	208
Ranisankoil	No return	—	No return.
Nekmurd	Ditto	—	20
Now bazar	Ditto	—	44
Tamboolee	Ditto	No return	4
	Ditto	Ditto	65
	Ditto	3	18
Total	—	4	492

The "places," it will be observed, do not correspond with the 14 circles into which the district is now divided, because these circles were constituted subsequently to the date of the returns tabulated above. The returns given below for the second week of the fortnight corrrespond accurately with the new circles.

Charitable relief is granted to all persons who have no money wherewith to buy food, and who cannot, by reason of age, caste, or other adequate excuse, earn a livelihood for themselves. Light work, as spinning and gunny cloth work, is provided for the better ranks of females, and for males who cannot do hard work; inquiries are duly made into the circumstances of persons who apply for charitable relief, but relief, when obviously required, is never withheld during the progress of inquiries. The agency of mandals and other heads of villages is employed both in making inquiries and in distributing rice. The rice is bought from Government stores at 12 seers a rupee for fully husked rice, and at 14 seers when the grain has not been completely cleaned before being packed in the bags. In either case, the daily dole amounts to half a seer of clean rice for adults, and a quarter seer for children under 12. The question has been raised by two officers whether this quantity is sufficient, and no doubt it is a minimum allowance. But I think we should not at present increase it; our work is still before us; we know not with accuracy how many mouths we may yet have to feed, and should husband our resources accordingly. It has yet to be proved, moreover, that half a seer of rice, supplemented as it is with the sum of one pice per adult for the purchase of salt and other seasoning ingredients, is insufficient to keep a man in a fair condition. One case has been reported in which a woman preferred to work and get eight pice a day to accepting her half seer of rice and one pice; but if the woman's labour was worth eight pice, it is clear that the arrangements by which one charitable relief elicits working power instead of encouraging idleness is altogether good, and, as far as my present information enables me to judge, half a seer is just that quantity which will suffice for the support of weak and infirm persons, and at the same time not afford any inducement to those who are able to work to abstain from exerting themselves for their better support. The following table gives the number of persons receiving charitable relief on the dates shown in column 2. No comparison is made of the details of the circles this week with the details of the last week shown above, because this week the district is divided into different circles from those in which it was divided last week.

	CIRCLE.	Date of Report.	Number receiving Charitable Relief.	Total of this Report.
1	Bhaduria	—	96	
2	Bindoil	31st March	146	
3	Chooramon	No return	—	
4	Dinagepore	2nd April	193	
5	Doorgapore	No return	—	
6	Gungarampore	31st March	112	
7	Kaliagunge	2nd April	100	
8	Luskerhat	1st April	86	
9	Porsha	31st March	11	
10	Patnitolla	28th March	219	
11	Patiram	31st March	697	
12	Ranisonkhoil	31st March	123	
13	Lamboolee	31st March	8	
14	Bochagunge	No officer yet appointed.	—	
	Total	—	—	1,791

This gives a daily consumption of, say, 850 seers, or a little over 21 maunds; which is a monthly consumption of 651 maunds; and if the people be fed up to the end of September (six months from date), 3,906 maunds will be consumed. The number of applicants for relief will increase as time passes.

Patiram, it will be observed, is far ahead of any other circle in the amount of charitable relief given; but I have perfect confidence in Mr. Finucane, and feel sure that he will not give relief where relief ought not to be given. The professional beggars, deprived of their sustenance as ordinarily obtained through the charity of their friends, contribute to the number of applicants for charitable relief. Every possible endeavour is made to induce them to work, and it seems a fair question whether strong-bodied men, who are by caste beggars, have any claim to support when they refuse to work. A few men have been discovered about Dinagepore who come for charitable relief in the morning to the Government place of distribution, and at a later hour resort to a distribution of food given to professional beggars by the Dinagepore agent of the Banker, Dhanpat Singh Roy, Bahadoor. Inquiries are under progress with the object of striking the names of these men off the list of paupers who receive charitable relief from Government.

Except in Patiram, it will be observed that the number receiving charitable relief is still small. The organisation by means of circle officers, aided by their assistants, and advised but not controlled by their sub-divisional (or circle) committees, is admirably adapted to the requirements of the work in hand, while local agency, chiefly in the form of sub-committees for small groups of villages, renders important services in distributing rice almost at the very door of each recipient of charity. Cases may occur in which extreme apathy or caste prejudices, honoured even in extremes, may induce people to be still and die rather than let their cases be known about; but excepting these, not likely under any circumstances to be numerous, it is not probable that any deaths from starvation will occur within this district.

The collection of private subscriptions is now nearly over. Several sums, promised when the relief schemes were first commenced, remain to be collected, and I trust will be paid by those who promised them. Of new subscriptions only 25 have been collected during the past week, making the total local subscriptions actually paid Rs. 7,170.

The committee has received also 20,000 as a subsidy from the Central Relief Committee, and, as I write, a cheque has been brought to me for another sum of the same amount from the same committee.

No. 90, dated Bauleah, the 7th April 1874.

From W. H. D'Oyley, Esq., Collector of Rajshahye, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honour to submit my narrative for the fortnight ending 4th instant, and regret that it has been unavoidably delayed till to-day.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

In the Sudder sub-division there have been large importations, and rice and paddy is getting cheaper. In Bauleah and Charghat common rice is selling at from 13 to 13½ seers (80 tolahs' weight) per rupee. In parts of the Nattore sub-division, also, prices have improved. At the same time, in some places the supply in the markets has not been sufficient and the prices have been very high, notably at Sahebgunge on the Attrai and Sooktigatchee. This the Deputy Collector of Nattore attributes to the strain on the local markets caused by the outsiders who have come to work on the railway drawing their supplies from them. I have written to Major Lindsay on the subject. I have lately received reports of short supplies at Bhundaikhara, but last Wednesday the price of rice was by no means high there, 12 seers (80 tolahs' weight) being procurable per rupee: while at Godagaree, a few days ago, I ascertained that rice was cheaper at Gobindpore Haut (the market which supplies a great portion of the Godagaree thana) than it had been a short time back. While the price has in many places improved, I regret to have to report that the silk bund, which was looked forward to with so much hope, has proved a failure, and this no doubt will cause a great deal of distress. I am, however, hopeful that the work provided in several parts where the pressure is most felt will prove sufficient for the able-bodied, while those unable to work will get relief at poor-houses.

2. There have been no cases of starvation; the condition of the labourers on the roads is still good. Petty thefts have been more numerous than they were in the corresponding months in 1872 and 1873, and I think there can be no doubt that this increase is owing to the high price of food. The number of cases of house-breaking is smaller than that for the corresponding month of the last year, and the number of cases of theft and housebreaking during March last is considerably smaller than the number reported during February.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

I have only been able to send the return for the first week of the fortnight, as that for the last week reached me only last night, and was found to be incorrect, I hope to be able to forward it in a few days. It will be observed that the total number of labourers during the first week was still large. I have advanced Rs. 1,000 to the manager of the Tahirpore estate to improve the road from Bauleah to Tahirpore, as relief was much required in these parts. Mr. Durand was also entrusted with the repairs of a portion of the road from Bagmara to Bundaikhara, and the remaining portion has been done by a sub-inspector of police.

C.—TRANSPORT OF GRAIN.

The means available for the transport of grain are ample, and far exceed what was expected. It is now quite clear that by giving fair rates any amount of carriage is available. It is doubtful whether public trade has been interfered with by the employment by Government of such an enormous quantity of carts and boats. I have heard complaints that a cart is not to be had for love or money, but at the same time importations continue.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

The annexed statements show the progress. There has been no falling off in the amounts forwarded through for other districts.

F.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

	Rs.
Advanced up to the date of last narrative	43,850
Advances in course of last fortnight under Land Improvement Act	1,600
Advances to ryots	1,025
Advances for purchase of grain	1,700
	48,175

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

In the Bauleah sub-division there are at present three poor-houses, and the following statement shows the average number of persons fed daily at each:—

Bauleah	61	Pootea	23
Nowhatta	33		

These are chiefly poor women without the means of support, blind, and lame.

2. In the northern Bhurind sub-division there are at present four poor-houses, and the average number fed daily at each is as follows:—

Bagsole	22	Larupara	10⅔
Saljore	23	Bamneegram	13

In the south Bhurind division there are four poor-houses, but the sub-divisional officer has not been able to send the accounts as yet, as he had not received them from the several poor-house keepers when he submitted his report.

In the Nattore sub-division there is one poor-house, which was lately opened by Rai Baboo Grish Chandra Lahory, but which is now under the management of the sub-divisional committee. No accounts have been received from this institution.

I have directed the sub-divisional officer of the northern Bhurind to collect kunker at convenient places, paying women and children at the rate of one anna per cubic foot for it. There is a good deal of kunker in the Bagmara elaka, and there will be water communication in the rains, by which it can be brought to Bauleah.

The district relief committee have applied to the Central Relief Committee for a grant to relieve the poor sufferers whose houses and property were destroyed by the fires which occurred lately in the town of Bauleah. Of course, money will only be given to those who are fit objects for charitable relief, and of these there are a great many; and it is estimated that Rs. 3,000 will be required for this purpose. The amount of suffering caused by the fires can be imagined from the fact that upwards of 76,000 rupees' worth of property was destroyed. A sub-committee has been formed to inquire into the matter, and to discover who are really deserving of charitable relief.

No. 42—F, dated Maldah, the 8th April 1874.

From F. J. ALEXANDER, ESQ., Officiating Magistrate-Collector of Maldah, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

IN continuation of this office letter No. 929F. of the 24th ultimo, I have the honor to submit herewith the fortnightly narrative of scarcity and relief in the Maldah district for the fortnight ending 4th instant.

Fortnightly Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Maldah District for the Fortnight ending the 4th April 1874.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

THE supply of rice and paddy in the local market is less abundant in a noticeable degree than hitherto, and is gradually decreasing in quantity each successive market-day at a great many of the local hauts and bazars.

The importations of rice and paddy through private sources from the eastern districts are also comparatively small, and arrive at irregular intervals. New wheat in considerable quantities has come into the local markets, but has not had much effect on the quotations of rice and paddy, the supplies of which (rice and paddy) so far as central and southern tracts has been barely equal to the demand, and that is all. In the north-west tracts considerable importations of food-grains from Sahebgunge, *viâ* Hyatpore, were reported during the early parts of the fortnight, but had fallen again during last week. The reason of the decrease, so Mr. Reily thinks, may be indirectly caused by the fact that the Dinagepore officials are selling rice at 13 seers for the rupee to the public, "but it is hard to estimate" he says "to what it is owing."

Prices have been unsteady and fluctuating with the deficiency in the rice supplies. During the early part of the fortnight there was a marked and sudden rise, 9 seers to 10 seers being the price then quoted for ordinary rice at most of the principal markets in the central and southern tracts, where supplies had hitherto been plentiful. At the close of the fortnight prices were rather more favorable again, 10½ to 11 seers of 80 tolahs per rupee being the quotation for ordinary rice at the sudder station, and to-day 11 to 12 seers is obtainable.

The following are the latest prices of paddy and ordinary rice for the fortnight at the under-mentioned principal markets in different parts of the district (wheat is selling at the sudder station at 15 seers of 80 tolahs per rupee):—

CENTRAL PART OF THE DISTRICT.

	Seers of 80 tolahs per rupee.
At Englishbazar sudder station—	
Ordinary rice	10½
At Bulbul Chandee—	
Paddy	15¼
Ordinary rice	11

SOUTH-EAST OF THE DISTRICT.

	Seers of 80 tolahs per rupee.
At Gazole—	
Paddy	20
Ordinary rice	11
At Bamongola—	
Paddy	20
Ordinary rice	1

NORTH-WEST OF THE DISTRICT.

At Chanchal, Tulseegunge, Shumsee, Abadpore—	
Ordinary rice	10

SOUTH-WEST OF THE DISTRICT.

At Sheebgunge—	
Ordinary rice	9

SOUTH-EAST OF THE DISTRICT.

At Kohunpoor—	
Paddy	15
Ordinary rice	10½

Note.—At Kohunpoor on the last market day, 1,000 maunds of paddy and 125 maunds of rice are reported as brought for sale, the gradual decrease in the supply will thus be noticed in comparison with last fortnight.

RAINFALL.

During the early part of the fortnight, strong westerly winds prevailed, succeeded by south and south-east winds, with excessive heat till Friday, 3rd April, when a heavy thunderstorm, accompanied by hail and rain, passed over the district from south-west to north-east. Since then the weather has been cooler, and at times cloudy, but without more rain. The rainfall of the 3rd is recorded at the sudder station (which was quite in the centre of the storm) at 0·88. The north-west of the district got little or no rain.*

STATE OF THE CROPS.

The wheat and barley harvest is almost completed, and these crops have turned out above the average. The cheena (millet) and the gram crops, now harvesting, are also turning out well.

Before the rain of the 3rd a good deal of the bora dhan crop was in a very critical condition ; the extensive area cultivated this year, and the difficulty of irrigating the drier portions of it, owing to the low state of the jheels, had made it very problematical whether a very considerable portion of the plant would not dry up, and every effort was being made, where such was the case, by cutting bunds, to save as much of the crop as possible. The rain of Friday last has, however, I am glad to be able to report, come in time to save much of what was drying up, and if we have another shower within the next fortnight the bora dhan will give a considerable outturn and help a good deal to supplement the food-supply at a most critical time. It will be ripening in another 20 to 25 days. I have visited in the centre of the district an extensive area of the crop, both before and after the rain, and am glad to be able to report so far well of it. Accounts of it from the south-west are also good, but in the north-west it is stated to be much in need of a shower of rain.

The sowings of the bhadoi dhan crop have been commenced, and a very much larger area than in ordinary years is reported to have been prepared for the reception of this crop. The want of proper seed has, however, been severely felt, the price of such seed having risen to Rs. 6 a maund.

The mango crop promises fairly well. In the "Parooa" jungles the bamboos (known as the beora bans) have this year flowered and produced grain in abundance, and many of the poorer classes have within the last few days been collecting this grain as an article of food.

CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

The health of the district continues generally good, but the poorer classes are feeling the high price of rice very much. About the towns and large villages especially, there are many women, some with families and some without, who in an ordinary year manage to support themselves by husking rice, but are now reduced to great poverty for want of their ordinary occupation. The plentiful wheat harvest and comparatively cheaper price of the same has, with the help of the previous "kalai" crop, helped to sustain the poor, but the fact that numbers of people have lately been collecting the bamboo rice in the Parooa jungles shows that the scarcity is beginning to tell heavlly on many, even in the richer tracts, where the necessity for very extended relief has hitherto not been thought necessary. Diastrous fires, too, during the week at the sudder station have caused additional trouble to many of the lower classes. The sudder relief committee are getting up a subscription for those who have really suffered from these fires. Hitherto, our charitable relief operations have in the central and southern tracts been confined to a few relief centres at the chief places, where the old and the sick and infirm have received gratuitous help; but the present condition of the district assures me that throughout the district our relief operations must now be extended, and village-to-village visitations be made even in those tracts which hitherto have not been considered distressed. No cases of starvation are reported from any part of the district, but instances of old and infirm people in real distress have come to light.

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* N.B.—After writing so far last evening (April 7th) a heavy thunderstorm from the north-west came up, accompanied by heavy rain and hail. The rainfall recorded at the sudder station was 0·69, No reports received from out-stations.

The 8th April 1874. F. J. ALEXANDER.

I annex a comparative statement of cases of robbery and theft, &c., for the month of March, it does not call for special remark, there is no remarkable increase of crime, and no sort of disorganization of society, by people leaving their homes in numbers in search of relief; but that many families are on "short commons" is only too significantly indicated by the fact which I have mentioned, of many persons collecting bamboo rice in the Parooa jungle. The medical officer cannot say that it is unwholesome, or actually injurious to health, but if eaten for several days together he thinks it would produce sickness. It has all the appearance of a fine rice (which, indeed, I suppose it is), and it is a fact that it is being eaten by many, if not in place of ordinary rice, still as a supplement to other ordinary food. The natives say, with superstitious dread, "in a famine year the bamboo flowers and produces grain."

CONDITION OF ANY SPECIAL TRACT.

From the distressed tract (thana Khurbah and part of Goregoribah) no cases of starvation are reported, but Mr. Reily in his latest report writes:—"The numbers availing themselves of the distribution of food at the kitchen at Chanchal increase daily, the maximum being 500 in one day. The majority of these recipients are villagers of the neighbouring estates, and are persons who would not, unless driven by necessity, accept food in a cooked state without loss of caste privileges, and this may therefore be taken as a genuine instance of distress among the ryots of this tract."

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

During the fortnight, work has been going on in the north-west tracts under Mr. Reily on 12 roads and 8 tanks. Three of the roads have been completed. Government rice is sold to persons labouring on the relief works at 12 seers per rupee, but the details of the quantity sold have not been furnished. Mr. Reily says:—"I have not thought it necessary to sell Government "grain to the public up to the present moment, as, from diligent enquiries, I find that the supplies "of the private marts are quite equal to the demand. Government grain will be sold by me at "the sanctioned rates directly I see that there is a necessity for supplementing the private "supplies."

Work is also going on on the ordinary district roads and municipal roads, and on the other relief works noted below.

During the fortnight two new relief roads have been started, viz., one at Boolbool Chandee, in thana Maldah, under Mr. Livesay, district relief officer, and another near Gomastapore, under Lieutenant Burgess.

Shops, where Government grain is sold at 12 seers per rupee, have been opened at several places where the local supplies were failing, or the local rates very high. On the Dinagepore road, beyond Maldah city, I found a day or two since that the workmen (Beldars) were daily taking their supplies from a Government shop close by, and were fairly contented with what they got, and ignored "bamboo rice." Further on, however, in the Parooa jungles, I found that all the local villagers (Polis, Raj-bangsis, &c.) had deserted the road-work to go and pick up "bamboo rice." At Englishbazar the coolies object to the "Alooa-rice" at 12 seers, and the mudi has sold but little yet, nor is it likely he will do so as long as Poorbi-rice is obtainable (as it now again is at 10 to 12 seers).

The following quantities of Government grain have been sold at the under-mentioned places to workmen employed on relief works, but the information is incomplete, as the returns from some of the shops have not been received:—

	M.	S.	C.
At Boolbool Chandee - - - - - -	4	5	12
" Balio Nowabgunge - - - - - -	18	8	8

The total daily average of persons employed on all works for the fortnight is as follows:—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
On ordinary district roads - -	969	238	68	1,275
" municipal roads and tanks - -	72	12	3	87
" relief roads - - - -	906	64	75	1,045
" relief tanks - - - -	662	86	5	753
Total - -	2,609	403	151	3,160

Statement showing the total number of persons employed on road and relief works during the fortnight ending 4th April 1874.

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
District roads - - -	13,597	3,356	983	17,936
Municipal roads and tanks - -	1,010	167	49	1,226
North-western tract.				
On 11 relief roads - - - -	11,316	734	868	12,918
On 8 tanks - - -	9,289	1,215	84	10,588
North-east and eastern tract.				
On 3 roads - - - - -	766	3	109	878
South-east and central tract.				
On 1 road - - - - -	42	42	12	96
Total - - -	36,020	5,517	2,105	43,642

C.—Transport of Food.

Private trade in paddy and rice is very dull, the small local craft that ply on the Mahanuddy, between Roharpore and the chief bazaars, are barely sufficient to keep up the necessary supplies, while the private trade in these articles with the eastern districts is very irregular and fluctuating. The fact is that every available boat on the Mahanuddy has been taken up in the Government transport work, and private trade must necessarily be slack.

The trade in new wheat, which is brought from the dearah to the bazaars and hauts on pack-bullocks, is fairly brisk.

The transport of Government grain goes on satisfactorily. Up to the end of last week, *i.e.*, April 4th, the grain return shows 4,43,404 maunds received into the district, of which 4,01,668 maunds had passed through the district, or was in transit for Dinagepore, and 26,741 maunds was stored in the district. By the Hyatpore route Mr. Reily had carried some 75,000 maunds up to the 2nd April, viâ Domroil, for the Dinagepore district, and his average despatches for last week have been over 2,000 maunds a day. He is expecting 600 carts from Dinagepore, and with this will be able to raise his despatches to 3,000 or 4,000 maunds a day, and in that case expects to complete by the end of the month the quantity of grain to be carried by that route.

Mr. Westmacott's despatches for the last week by the land route, from Old Maldah to Dinagepore, averaged 1,844 maunds per diem, and by the water route from Neemaserai to Raigunge and Chooramon (Dinagepore) 1,219 maunds per diem.

The Manickchak route is to be closed, and the remainder of the grain carried by the Godagaree and Hyatpore routes. The carts now employed on the Manickchak route, between that place and Neemaserai, should if possible be put on the Hyatpore route.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

The grain return for the last week shows 26,741 maunds stored in the district, but there have been some additions and changes in the disposition of the grain, and I am not sure that these figures are quite correct. The returns of stock, which will be taken this week, will enable me to state precisely what quantity is in store at each golah.

The falling off of the local supplies, and the consequent rise in the prices has necessitated my distributing grain to localities where it was not expected it would be needed so soon, if at all, but where it is now repuired for the charitable relief committees and labourers on relief works.

Up to the close of the fortnight the arrangements as to storage of grain at main golahs and distribution to subsidiary ones were as follow :—

Main golah No. 1, at English Bazaar—	Maunds.
In stock previously - - - - -	3,396
Received during the fortnight - - - -	1,588
Total - - -	4,984

Distributed to subsidiary golahs during the fortnight, from English Bazaar main golah, as follows:—

	Maunds.
To Boolbool Chandee	200
„ Bholahat	50
„ Nowabgunge	200
„ Seebgunge	50
„ Kansat	50
„ Mohodeepore	50
„ Kaliachak	50
„ Gomastapore	250
Main golah, No. 2, at Old Maldah—	
In stock	6,870
Main golah, No. 3, at Gazole—	
In stock	5,394
Main golah No. 4, at Khurbah Dumroil—	
In stock	4,000
In stock at subsidiary golahs, viz. :—	
At Soroopgunge	1,500
At Tulseegunge	1,300
Main golah No. 5, at Futtehpore Hyatpore—	
In stock	1,475

The arrangements for storage-room for a large quantity of grain at Neemaserai and Old Maldah are being made by Mr. Westmacott.

E.—Advances to Private Parties, and their Results.

The advance of Rs. 50,000, applied for by Raj Nath Guho under clause B, paragraph 4 of Government Circular No. 80, dated 17th November 1873, and of which Rs. 10,000 had already been advanced under sanction of the Special Commissioner, has now been sanctioned in full by Government, and is available as soon as the applicant appears to receive the same. Rs. 100 has been ordered to be advanced to one Juggur Nath Sing, farmer of a Government estate, to assist his ryots (Government Circular No. 4020, dated 18th December 1873) (this money has since been paid). No other advances have been made, several have been sanctioned, and are available when the parties come forward to register their agreements.

F.—Charitable Relief.

The arrangements in regard to charitable relief are progressing; several new centres have been opened; circles allotted to different officers; and inspectors deputed to visit villages, and report and relieve all cases of distress that come to their notice.

Looking at the present condition of the people, and the pressure caused by the high prices, and want of means in money to the poorer classes, I have deemed it advisable to start arrangements whereby the inspection and relief, not only of the admittedly distressed portion of the district, but of each thana shall be more extended than hitherto.

The present arrangements are as follow:—

Special Relief Circles.

1.—*Chanchal Circle.*—Head-quarters, Chanchal, under Mr. Reily, with Lieutenant Kellie to assist him. One relief inspector at his post, one appointed, and ordered to join at once. One native doctor arrived, and sent to join his post.

2.—*Gazole Circle.*—Head-quarters, Gazole, under Baboo Okhoy Kumar Bose, Sub-Deputy Collector. One relief inspector at his post. One native doctor arrived, and ordered to join his post at once.

3.—*Malda Circle.*—Head-quarters, Bulbul Chandee, under Baboo Hem Chunder Kerr, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector. One relief inspector at his post. One native doctor.

Sub-Divisional and Thana Circles.

Sudder Sub-Division.—Includes Englishbazar, Kaliachak, and Seebgunge, and part of Goregoribah, under Mr. J. J. Livesay, C.S., district relief officer. One relief inspector (Mr. Christopher Owens) deputed to Seebgunge, at his post.

2.—*Gomastapoor Thana Circle.*—Head-quarters Gomastapore, under Lieutenant Burgess. One relief inspector at his post.

Nawabgunge Thana Circle.—Head-quarters, Nawabgunge, under Baboo Isan Chunder Sein, Sub-Deputy Collector. One native doctor at his post.

Note.—All the officers placed in charge of the above circles are at their posts. The appointment of an additional road overseer has been intimated, but I have not heard of his arrival yet.

The results of charitable relief operations for the past fortnight, so far as reported, are as follows :—

1.—*Chanchal Relief Circle.*

Name of Centre.	Total of persons relieved.
Chanchal	4,217
Maltipore	522
Khurbah	392
Futtehpore	110
Soroopgunge	158
Toolsigunge	644
Debeegunge	102
Goregoribah	25
Arhidanga	4
Total	6,174

The expenditure was 72 maunds, 26 seers, and 2 chittacks of rice, and Rs. 1–15 cash.

2.—*Gazole Relief Circle.*

Name of Centre.	Number of persons relieved.
Gazole	36

The expenditure was 33 seers, 12 chittacks of rice, and 2 annas cash.

3.—*Maldah Relief Circle.*

Name of Centre.	Number of persons relieved.
Maldah	238
Boolbool Chandee	118
Total	356

The expenditure was 4 maunds, 3 seers of rice, and Rs. 3-10-6 cash.

4.—*Sudder Sub-Division.*

Name of Centre.	Number of persons relieved.
Englishbazar	760
Kaliachak	816
Kansat	248
Seebgunge	275
Total	2,099

The expenditure was 26 maunds, 7 seers, and 2 chittacks of rice, and Rs. 4-0-6 cash.

5 —*Gomastapore Sub-Division.*

Name of Centre.	Number of persons relieved.
Gomastapore	279
Shirshi	88
Total	367

The expenditure was 4 maunds, 20 seers, 8 chittacks, and Rs. 1-6-6 cash.

6.—*Nawabgunge Sub-Division.*

Name of Centre.	Number of persons relieved.
Nowabgunge	428
Anupnuggur	10
Lukhinarainpore	84
Shurullah	2
Jhelim	27
Total	551

The expenditure was 6 maunds, 8 seers, 2 chittacks of rice, and 1 anna 9 pie cash.]

The total number of persons relieved during the fortnight is thus 9,583, at an average per diem of 684 persons.

The total amount of local subscriptions up to date amounts to Rs. 7,383.

Add Central Committee's grant—

1st instalment	-	10,000
2nd ditto	-	10,000
Total	-	27,383

The following sums have been paid to the Secretaries to the under-mentioned committees through Baboo Isan Chunder Sein, Sub-Deputy Collector, as the Government contribution equivalent to the amount locally subscribed, viz. :—

	Rs.
For Kansat	813
Seebgunge	400
Nowabgunge	589
Gomastapore	280
Rohunpore	197
Total	2,279

No. 10, dated Rungpore, the 6th April 1874.

Memorandum by R. Porch, Esq., Joint Magistrate and Relief Officer, Rungpore, forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in Rungpore District for the Fortnight ending 4th April 1874.

A.—State of the Country.

In the part of the district north-east, towards Kurigram, the importation of grain is active, and the supply at the hauts and bazars is reported to be as plentiful as it used to be in ordinary times. The weeding of the early rice has everywhere begun, and in some parts near Kurigram laborers are in consequence leaving the relief works. There is no change in this quarter in the condition of the people, which occasions little anxiety at present, and is as satisfactory as can be expected while prices are so high. The grain market continues the same, both as to supplies and prices, which are from Rs. 3-8 to Rs. 4 per maund of 80 tolahs weight.

At Borobarce in the same direction the relief officer observed, on road No. C 6, that women of low caste and prostitutes had come out to work, and it was assumed that the circumstances of the poorer people in that neighbourhood were getting bad. The zemindar of Bhitarband opened an annochatra at Dinhata, and the daily average of those who attended was 35, and has not increased. No cases of actual distress were discovered. The wheat and pulses recently harvested have temporarily improved the condition of the people in this neighbourhood. The importations there are by land from Cooch Behar, and by water from Gowalparah and Eastern Bengal. The supplies are fairly maintained by both routes. In Fulbara Chakla distress is general, but it has not assumed any severe form among the poorer classes. The Cooch Behar officers are doing a great deal towards relief by providing work on roads and in digging wells. Want of water here, as in many other parts of the district, is complained of.

2. Passing to Kishoregunge and Juldhaka, and that quarter on the north-west, the reports are, that the supplies of rice in the chief markets are well maintained, and that prices remain the same,—from Rs. 3-8 to Rs. 4 a maund of 80 tolahs weight. The standing crops are all doing well, and the prospect is good. The condition of the people in that part of the district is in no degree critical as yet, though, from the dearness of food and straitened means, many isolated cases of distress have come to notice, and have been relieved.

From Kallygunge, on the south-west, Mr. Blair reports :—

"The price of best rice at the river ghâts is Rs. 4-2 to day, April 3rd 1874, and the lowest-priced rice Rs. 3-14. The price has been rising steadily during the fortnight. The supply has been very deficient; the average daily amount at the Premgunge and Kalmoo ghâts has been about 500 maunds at the former, and 600 maunds at the latter—1,100 maunds. There is, I hear, a large supply of grain at Chellobaree, about one day's journey south of this, and rice is selling there at Rs. 3-5. The dalals of this ghât have sent word there, and have no doubt that a lot will come up. The rise here is stated to be owing to the deficiency of the supply and the great want of grain.

"There has been no rainfall during during the fortnight, and the early crops are in consequence suffering much. The 'cheena' is all on ear, and very much dwarfed and withering up; the kown crop is also suffering much, and it is stated that unless rain falls soon both crops will be a failure. Wheat and other cold weather crops have all been gathered, and are good." Between the 1st and 4th rainfall has been reported, and it appears to have been tolerably general. The country looks bright and green, and the crops still promise well.

3. Towards Gaibanda and Bhowanigunge, south-west and southwards, and towards [illegible] south-east of Gaibanda, the supplies of rice in the bazars are reported to be scanty, [illegible] falling off of imports from the neighbouring districts of Bogra and Dinagepore, [illegible] from Rs. 3-9 to Rs. 4 per maund of 80 tolahs weight.

No reliable information can be obtained regarding private stocks; but it is believed that about one-eighth of the population have about two months' stocks in hand. Wheat and barley and sugarcane are very good. The millets have been suffering from want of rain; early rice continues being extensively sown on the palee lands; but in the direction of Kamdiar (red clay) land, the sowings have not yet been commenced. The condition of the people in the south-east of the district remains unsatisfactory on account of the high prices, but the wheat and pulses have much benefited those who raised these crops. Applications for advances from the ryots are most numerous, and the zemindars and large jotedars are required to help their ryots. Loans are being made, but it is found difficult to manage with the non-resident landowners.

4. In Nisbetgunge and Kourgunge, on the west of the station of Rungpore, the condition of the people is not less favorable than in the southern parts of the district already described. More active relief is, however, going on in that quarter, and the circumstances of the poor are carefully watched. Information of urgent distress, and of a case of starvation was received yesterday, and the relief officer proceeded to Kourgunge to give relief and to ascertain the facts.

5. In Mahigunge, Sundargunge, and Molung active relief work is going on everywhere, and arrangements are well organized in advance of present necessities. The recent sale of the rice saved from the fire at the Mahigunge golahs was so arranged as to be in some degree a measure of relief for the poor people of that neighbourhood. Public relief in the way settled, and charitable aid in all its modes, are being actively applied to assist the indigent ryots and their families who, in many villages are very hard pressed, and to seek out individual cases of destitution which might be fatal except for the watchfulness of the relief officers and their assistants. Distress appears, both from official and private report, to be well got in hand in these parts. Private trade is active. The prices at the chief hâts and bazars are from Rs. 3-9 to Rs. 4 per maund of 80 tolahs.

6. Proceeding southward to Peergunge, Sadullapore, Govindunge, and Kamdyar, owing to the pressure from high prices, local failure, or absence of crops and ill-supplied markets, the condition of those first affected by the scarcity is more critical than in the part of the district last described. The reports have occasioned doubt and anxiety. The promptest action has been taken on the first information or requisition. The staff has been increased in Govindgunge; the transport of grain there has been pushed forward; the relief officer has been kept supplied with funds. Materials for home relief have been sent, and employment on road repairing and well-digging has been opened out in every direction through the worst tract for the relief of distress in the neighbouring villages; advances of grain are about to be made to the indigent ryots should circumstances be found to require this.

7. The relief officer, Mr. Damant, reports that the supply to the south and east of Sadullapore "and of Govindgunge is still tolerably well maintained by imports from the eastern districts by the Brahmaputra. In Peergunge, and the west of Govindgunge, the supplies are very small and may part us at any time. Importation from Dinagepore seems to have entirely ceased. A very little comes from Bogra, but this cannot last long. Prices are excessively high, ranging from Rs. 3-12 a maund on the banks of the Brahmaputra to Rs. 5; in some small hâts the price is Rs. 4-4."

"The village inspection has disclosed greater distress, the relief officers reports, than was anticipated. In the tract lying west of Kurotya, the state of the villages is wretched beyond description; the people have sold everything they possessed and are now solely dependent on Government. Many have sold their plough cattle, the last thing with which a Bengalee ryot parts. I found one instance where a man had sold the roof over his head. Many ryots have deserted the place altogether, and gone to Bogra and elsewhere. The relief officer reports that the people seem to be most grateful for the relief works. The villages in this quarter are now quite deserted in the day time. Every one is to be found on the road; the women are now coming readily, bringing their children with them. All are most anxious to get Government rice. The want of water is felt nearly as keenly as the want of food. In many villages people have to go two or three miles to bring a *gharah* of water. I have begun to excavate three old tanks in the worst parts, and am digging wells at every mile along the roads. A few cases of cholera, with one death, have occurred among the coolies."

In the neighbourhood of Ramnagur, Dhaperhât, Tremohini, and Peergunge considerable distress is reported. No cases of death have occurred, but many instances of people very much reduced by starvation have been found. There are about 10,000 persons employed on the roads, of whom about half are men, one-third children, and one-sixth women. The women only work on the roads on the west side of Govindgunge where they come in great numbers.

8. In many tracts on the south and the south-west of the district, the poorer classes of ryots have been obliged to sell or pledge the few things they have. Many complain of the difficulty of having only one full meal of rice a day, and of having to eke out the second meal with various coarse substitutes for rice. All those who work on the road earn enough to provide their two meals of rice a day, and a little for their families besides. The ryots in many places from time to time complain of inability to sow their lands from want of seed. The lands, however, where ready, have all been sown, and a far larger area than usual has been cultivated with early rice. Many of the ryots are found after investigation to have complained of their zemindars and of their circumstances without reason. There is, however, much widely-diffused distress which is being carefully looked after, and relief to meet the circumstances that arise in each locality is promptly organised on the spot. People complain of the dearness and of having to live closely, but only in isolated cases has the pressure from high prices produced actual distress. There has been no deaths traceable to the present scarcity. No premature deaths have come under notice for inquiry. The only case that has come under inquiry in the last fortnight was that of a very old woman who died of disease, probably hastened by privation.

9. The wheat and pulses have been stored by the ryots and are being used for food; very little of it finds its way into the market.

The wheat is not ground in mills and made into flour for bread, but is simply husked and boiled like rice and eaten with salt, chillies, &c.; or else after husking it is made into a coarse sort of meal, and then mixed with water, into a mash and sweentened with goor and so used for food. The poor here do not appear to know the proper use of wheat, and if taught can make nothing of it, as they have no hand-mills for this purpose.

10. All classes understand thoroughly the modes of relief adopted by the Government, and many anticipate the action of the relief officers, by ready complaints of distress, with suggestions for relief works, and annachatras in their neighbourhood. They are very grateful for what is being done, and the laborer-ryots declare that many of them must have perished but for the relief works. Under the present circumstances of the people (except in the worst parts of Govindgunge) small advances are better appreciated and more sought after than any other form of relief.

11. There have been numerous complaints from bodies of dissatisfied ryots as to alleged abuses in manipulating the advances obtained by the zemindars and jotedars without interest from Government. The cases have been disposed of to their apparent satisfaction, and every precaution has been taken to see that the advances are properly distributed among the ryots, and that substantial agreements are executed to guard against possible attempts hereafter at realising prohibited interest from the ryots. The independence of the ryots in Rungpore affords the best guarantee against such endeavours.

12. All complaints regarding scarcity are taken up at once, and assistance and investigation proceed together. Relief works are opened within easy distance of villages where great proverty or distress are believed to exist, and all able-bodied persons requiring means of subsistence are provided for in that way. People unfit for work are sent to the nearest annachatras; if too distant, they get a ticket for 7 days or 14 days' food, or an advance direct. The homeless mendicants are housed at the chatras as long as they choose to remain, but a few beggars unfit for work obstinately refuse to avail themselves of the annochatras, and they have been temporarily relieved with donations of raw rice and a little money at the villages they usually frequent.

13. Complaints of neglect on the part of the zemindars are promptly inquired into, and the attendance of the zemindars or their agents is caused, and they are required to assist their ryots with money or grain from their resources, or else to take advances from the Government for the purpose. The zemindars, as a rule, appear to be behaving well to their ryots, but some of them are still very backward in their duty in this respect. During the last fortnight relief has everywhere, and in every mode, become developed and better organised. The appearance of large bodies of the peasantry has been carefully observed and reported on from all quarters. There are no indications of debility or deterioration from insufficient nourishment among the generality of the poorer classes, who live much from hand to mouth.

14. In the north and north-east of the district near Kulaphat, the relief officer visited a number of villages, and also along the road from Kulaghat to Saptana. There was nothing apparent to indicate distress among the poor of this neighbourhood, and inquiry confirmed this view. In some places the men were very clamorous, and from their behavour it was clear they were under a false impression, and believed that if they were only sufficiently importunate and complained as loudly as possible, the Government would supply them with money by loan or advance, or even as a gift. In the same locality others were found going to the opposite extreme. They resented the idea of there being distress in their villages, and answered to all inquiries—"there are none in want here." The condition of the people does not appear to be bad in that part of the district (Borobari). It is, however, with the rest being carefully watched. The price of rice there is from Rs. 3-4 to Rs. 3-8 a maund of 80 tolahs weight.

15. In another case a petition from a body of clamorous ryots, giving a very bad description of distress and starving people, and of the neglect of the zemindar, was investigated. It was unfounded in fact throughout. On censuring the ryots, they blamed the mooktears for using exaggerated language. In numerous cases the ryots have complained without cause against their zemindars when they were well-off, and no relief was necessary.

16. In the majority of the villages bordering on the lines of relief works, a considerable percentage of the indigent ryots would have had the greatest difficulty in procuring their proper daily food, if it were not for the relief work; as it is, they are at present enabled to tide over a very critical time without loss of life or bodily injury from privation. It is evident, without referring to the worst parts of the district on the south-west, that within some 15 or 20 miles south of Rungpore, were it not for the timely relief measures, numbers must have been permanently enfeebled and have perished prematurely from privation; not only many of the beggar-folk who are now maintained by charitable relief, but some of the peasantry also, who have up to the present time been preserved in good condition, physical and moral, by the relief works now everywhere affording healthy employment.

17. There are no signs among the labourers of weakness or disease attributable to the present restricted means of the classes that supply rural labor. Whenever there has been a *bonâ fide* demant for employment, as a relief measure, work has been opened in the neighbourhood requiring it. Where supplies are short, moodies are commissioned to sell Government rice to the coolies at 12 seers for the rupee, and grain can be taken in part payment of work where local supplies run short.

18. To resume: serious anxiety is not felt regarding the condition and prospects of the people in view of the relief measures now organised, except as regards the tract prominently brought to notice in previous narratives, viz., Gobindgunge, Sadullapore, and Peergunge. The grain

transports have been pushed on in that direction to ensure that the supplies shall be equal to all requirements. Money and materials for relief have been despatched. A native doctor, with medicines, was sent out at the first intimation of a probable outbreak of cholera. It has been arranged that either the Magistrate or myself shall be present at head-quarters, so that any intelligence received may at once meet with proper attention. A Deputy Magistrate was sent to Peergunge, who, with an intelligent assistant, is temporarily supervising relief, and looking out for the occurrence of distress. Previously, a Deputy Collector of considerable experience visited Peergunge and noted its requirements. An additional officer of experience, Inspector Prokast Chundra Deb, was hurried off from transport work to the relief officer of Govindgunge on the first intimation of anything like an approaching crisis in those parts. The people there are coming in numbers to the relief works. The part of the country is in a bad state for supplies by private importation, and the people are generally reported to be very destitute; still Mr. Damant writes that there is no immediate danger of any loss of life from starvation.

The means for relief now being pressed forward, appear to be equal to the emergency. The Magistrate has settled to go out to Peergunge and Govindgunge after conferring with the Relief Commissioner, who will be at Rungpore on the 5th or 6th instant.

19. With regard to the details and statistics required, urgent reminders have been sent to the relief officers to obtain these.

The circles have been but recently organised. Many of the officers are new to the work. The necessary subordinate appointments have only just been filled, and clerks are on their way out, or have only just joined. Though the relief circles are manned and active work is going on everywhere in the most unsparing way, the results of the work do not come up in detail as required, and the great increase of work makes it difficult with a small staff, to keep up the requirements by official communication. Efforts are being made to procure the details and statistics regarding classes of people obtaining charitable relief, and it is hoped that a return may be submitted in the next narrative. There is such a demand for intelligent, trustworthy natives for all kinds of work connected with relief, that it is impossible to get an agency of the desired efficiency, as to general attainments and knowledge of English. All the public officers have been in some degree disorganised by the drafting off good active officers on relief duty, and still there are difficulties in filling "relief" appointments properly, such as transport clerks, golahdars, relief officers, assistants and writers, and road sub-overseers.

The relief-officers have got the work of supervision well in hand, and they will be required now to submit and procure the submission of the details as to charitable relief required. [While engaged in writing this report, the station was visited by a most remarkable hail-storm. There had been a great increase of heat at about 4 p.m., Saturday, April 4th, when a gale and blinding dust-storm, accompanied with the rumbling of distant thunder set in from the south-west. It blew a regular hurricane, sweeping the plain with clouds of dust. A drenching rain, which seemed to last two or three minutes only, cleared the landscape almost instantaneously, and then the wind blew very chill, and large hail-stones, bristling with icicles, battered down on the roof and verandah, and kept striking the ground—thud-thud—at intervals of 20, or 30, or 40 yards. They looked like a good handful of hailstones compactly crystalised into solid lumps. As the wind was strong, they were projected with much force, almost point-blank for about a stone's throw, and then striking the ground with considerable sound, they bounded along two or three times, becoming suddenly spent and motionless from their spiked shape. The largest of them were, in the solid part, about the size of a tennis-ball, but measured round the short, thick icicles jutting out all round, the were, some of them, about the size of a cricket-ball. Some had a star-fish and coral like form. All had the flowing stalactite appearance which makes the rudest outline when frozen over pleasing to the eye. They certainly were most picturesque looking missiles. Some reminded of the spike balls of iron, found at the end of old maces, and similar mediæval weapons. The storm was soon over, and the rain has done good. Fortunately the tobacco has all been cut and gathered, and none of the present crops have been injured. The mango trees have suffered. Mr. Oram, an old resident of Rungpore, informs me that he saw larger specimens than those outlined, the sketch of which is forwarded.]

20. Eighteen grain thefts have been reported during the last fortnight. Two constables were detected in dishonestly disposing of a maund of the rice saved from the Moheegunge fire, and from the separate sums of money, aggregating about eleven rupees, found in the waist-cloth of one of them, it appeared probable that the offence discovered was not the only one committed by him. Both were convicted and punished for criminal breach of trust as public servants.

Petty pilferings of the Government rice while on transit to the golahs are attributed to the police and to the gáriwáns; a two-maund bag has been found half a maund short on reaching its destination. Under the present system it is difficult to get a thoroughly satisfactory explanation of deficiencies or to make the constables and gáriwáns accountable for the same.

THE MARKET QUOTATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:—

		S.	Ch.	
Nowabgunge Mahigunge	per Rupee	11	4	of 80 Tolahs.
Gaibunda	„	10	0	„
Sadullapore	„	9	15	„
Outpost Kalligunge	„	9	0	„
Nesbetgunge	„	11	10	„
Borobaree	„	10	0	„
Sundargunge	„	11 to 12	0	„
Govindgunge	„	9 to 10	0	„

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

The number of relief-roads has been increased from 49 to 56.

New roads have been opened and sub-overseers employed on them; 4 roads are still kept in reserve. The numbers remain about the same except in the Govindgunge circle, where about 10,000 people have come upon the relief works for support. In Govindgunge, the rate has been raised from 3 annas per 100 cubic feet to 4 annas.

In Govindgunge they are employed in excavating tanks and wells also, as water is very scarce. The relief works have been steadily pushed forward during the last fortnight. The laborers have been paid regularly, and there have been no complaints from them. Government rice is being disposed of at 12 seers for the rupee, but no account of the sales has been submitted. In Peergunge, Govindgunge, and Borobaree sales have taken place.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

With regard to private imports in Nesbetgunge thannah—in four villages Madupore, Sampore, Basuntpore and Ormaree, the relief officer found 5,000 maunds of paddy stored. One resident of Sampore deals extensively in Julpigori rice, keeping a train of 16 carts, and hiring also for that purpose. Private trade is brisk in the interior, and ryots go long distances with their pack-bullocks to purchase grain where the market is slightly easier. Complaints have been made that the hiring of carts and bullocks by the Government has interfered much with private trade; and though the rates are high the cartmen regard it as "begâr" or compulsory work and dislike it, although the rates are high. Formerly private parties could procure a cart and pair of bullocks for about Rs. 14 a month. The rate given a cart and pair of bullocks was first fixed at Rs. 7 a month. Subsequently the last lot were engaged at Rs. 20, and all now demand the same. Pack bullocks are now being engaged at Rs. 7-8 a month, and a corps is being organised. Several hundred maunds of rice have arrived for the Moharam Farnamagi, and also for the Tagores of Peergunge. The rice transport is working well, and there is no block anywhere. The despatches are less this week—as the carriage by boats has been stopped; 320 carts were received during the fortnight at Kallygunge, and 653 carts in all were at work. Efforts are now being made to bring the number up to a thousand or more. The zemindars have been called upon to assist, and a specially appointed officer deputed to the interior to engage and collect carts.

About 950 maunds were imported for private parties at Kallygunge and 800 maunds at Kolmughat during the last fortnight.

Inquiries were widely set on foot to organise a transport service for shallow water with dug-outs, but it was not practicable. The transport officer is about to visit Gaibanda to see if further means of transport can be opened up to Sadullahpore, partly by land and partly by the Ghaghat.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

The golas are ready in part everywhere, and the transport of grain is being steadily effected in accordance with local requirements. The list of completed subsidiary golas has not been received from each circle; a complete list will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Accommodation is now ready for 1,85,000 maunds.

Receipts.

	Mds.	Mds.
Previously received	1,00,666	
March 20th, by country boats from Naraingunge	1,584	
„ 20th, by steamer *Prince of Wales*	25,004	
„ 23rd, by country boats from Naraingunge	1,000	
„ 25th, ditto ditto ditto	2,302	
April 1st, by country boats from Gaibanda	4,272	
		1,34,828

Despatched during the week.

Sent to Chillakhal	4,272	
Ditto Panialghat	1,000	
Ditto Gaibanda	6,598	
Ditto Peergunge	380	
Ditto Naldanga	150	
Ditto Gobindgunge	345	
Ditto Pairaband	3,786	
Ditto Kamdiar Hât	380	
Ditto Sundergunge	820	
Ditto Mulung	600	
Ditto Meetapooker	1,270	
	21,001	
Previously sent	88,680	
		1,09,681
Balance		25,147

Besides the above, about 6,000 maunds are being unloaded from boats from Goalundo, and about 22,000 from steamer *Prince of Wales.* The whole of this is being stored in the Peergunge gola.

A special report regarding the circumstances of the destruction of the Mahigunge gola, and the disposal of the salvage rice has been submitted through the Relief Commissioner.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

Numerous applications have been made for advances by all classes of zemindars, patnidars, lakhirajdars, jotedars, great and small. Where they are not known, local investigations are made by the relief officers; and the *bonâ fides* of the application, the status of the applicant, the condition and number of ryots, and the propriety of the loan are reported on, and after such further inquiry as can be made, advances are sanctioned under the best safe-guards that can be devised to insure their being applied as intended, and to prevent abuses.

Advances.

The amount of money advanced to the zemindars and jotedars to help their ryots is as follows:—

	Rs.
For purchase of grain - - - - - - - - -	7,500
To zemindars for advances to their ryots - - - - - -	87,650
To jotedars - - - - - - - - - -	3,950
Add advances sanctioned during the fortnight, but not yet taken by the parties, previously sanctioned, and still pending - - - -	21,250
Total -	1,20,350

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

The numbers daily relieved is over 4,000. Exact figures cannot be given, as no returns have been submitted from several of the annachatras.

There has been no instance of severe distress reported during the last fortnight, but many proper cases for relief are discovered by the officers on their village inspection; several new relief centres have been opened. One in particular at Dhaper hât in Sadullapore, where the poor were found in very bad circumstances. (A road for relief work was opened there at the same time.)

The people who accept relief at the annachatras are nearly all by habit or infirmity unfit for work, and are of the beggar class; such an abundance of relief has been provided for them (they are not a large number for the district), that they are very independent about attending the annachatras for food.

They murmur at the Government annachatra arrangements, and are unwilling to stay at the chatras in the day or to do any work. They object to remain for a second meal, and beg to be provided with the early and late meal together, once only in the morning, so that they may fill their bellies well and take their chance of getting what they can elsewhere for supper. Where annachatras are near together, as at Sankamari (public), and Radhabullab (private), the more active of them manage to get a meal at both chatras. Ample arrangements have been made so far for relief centres, and if people of this class are found unrelieved, it is because they will not remain where food is provided for them at the chatras. When found in the villages, they are temporarily provided for with an advance of grain and money. At the annachatras every effort is made to see that they are availed of to the fullest extent in accordance with the spirit of the rules, so as to relieve want among a class which is now almost entirely thrown upon organised public and private charity.

The officers in charge of relief centres, public and private, endeavour to keep in attendance those who begin to frequent the chatra, so that their charitable action may contrast favorably with that of other relief centres, and may be as unrestricted as possible.

At the annachatras at Alaikury, the scale of food has been raised fram 4 chittacks of rice and 4 chittacks of potatoes, to 6 chittacks of rice and 4 chittacks of potatoes, and half-a-pice for condiments. This scale is general. The average attendance now is 48 Mahomedans receiving cooked food, and 60 Hindus receiving uncooked food. Before the rules of issuing cooked food, to Mahomedans was instituted, the number taking relief was about 500 a day; when the cooked food system was adopted, the numbers fell at once to the present average, which has since been steadily maintained there without any complaints of distress.

Home relief in the shape of cotton for spinning, and paddy for husking, have been freely given. At the annachatras some women, able to do a little work have been asked to take it, but they refuse, and it has not been pressed on them. In the Gobindgunge annochatras, the relief officer has not adopted the cooked-food system, potatoes are scarce there, and half a seer of raw rice and a half pice are [illegible]n to each person who comes for relief.

New cotton a[illegible] rice-distributing centres have been established in the relief circles, and agencies opened [illegible]ong the pradhans of the villages. In Sundergunge, the zemindar Baboo Annadaprosad Rai is now opening a cooked-food relief agency in one of his villages (Khamthana).

The arrangement is for the zemindar to supply the rice, and servants to take charge of it and prevent waste and embezzlement, and the ryots with their families will come and eat the rice cooked by some of their own village people, who may be willing to serve at a house selected by themselves.

It will be a kind of co-operative private arrangement, and relief will be given in a form less open to prejudice than in the public or private annochatra as ordinarily unengaged.

STATEMENT.

Daily average number of persons relieved at the Government Annachattras.

Name.	No. of persons.	Remarks.
Sankamari	43	
Alaikuri	147	
Kandi	174	
Out-post Kalligunge	236	
Total	557	

Private Annachatras.

Shanibari	339	Supported by Baboo Annada Proshad Roy.
Mahigunge	159	„ by Rai Lusmipat Sing.
Kangotola	430	„ by Januki Bullub Sen.
Peergacha	103	„ by Radha Peary Chowdharini, Zemindar of Monthonee.
Modhupore	60	„ by Dakkina Mohun, Zemindar of Tapu.
Rahhubullub	400	
Naldangah	(a)	„ by Nil Kamal Lahory and Kasi Chandra Lahory.
Ditto	(b)	
Grand Total	1,590	

Cotton Relief.

Before the last report 46 maunds of cotton had been distributed. Since then the following quantities have been supplied to the different centres—

	Mds.
Alikari	20
Katgora	20
Nesbetgunge and Kowergunge	15
Sadulapore	10
Pairuband	20
Gobindgunge	20
Borobari	20
Peergunge	10
Total	155

2 maunds, and 22½ seers of spun thread has been received back at the head-quarters.

Subscriptions.

	Rs.	As.	P.
The total subscription in the previous narrative	18,523	0	0
Collection during the fortnight	200	0	0
Received from Central Committee	25,000	0	0
Total	43,723	0	0
Expenditure up to date	15,490	0	0
Balance	28,232	15	5

Memorandum by Magistrate.

During the fortnight I have been through the Mahigunge, Sundergunge, and Molong relief divisions and conferred with the relief officers at their work. In Mahigunge distress is spread over a large area, and I have given Munshee Muttiulla an extra assistant for the work. I went over the worst tracts and consider that the relief officers will be able to meet all requirements. Sundergunge is a small circle, distress has been acute there, but the worst has now abated, and all is well in hand. Baboo Okhoy Koomar Sen of the Molong circle thinks his division safe; road works are plentiful, the people flock to them, and a large part of the western area of the thannah is well cared for by Baboos Luchmiput and Dhanput, who take the entire management of all relief in their estates. A large number of boys are everywhere on the roads, and, earning their four pice, materially assist their families. The state of Mr. Damant's sub-division, Govindgunge, Peergunge, and Sadullapore is the most critical. The relief officer for Peergunge has not yet arrived, and I had sent down there temporarily, Baboo Brojo Mohun Roy, Deputy Magistrate. In the tract of Govindgunge, west of the Kurutiya, a large part of the population has turned out on the road, men, women, and children, and they are supplied with Government rice. 6,000 maunds have been stored in the thannah, and the whole number of carts under the transport officer will now be employed in carting rice to Govindgunge and Peergunge, where the allotments are 50,000 and 25,000 maunds, respectively. The other divisions will be supplied by boat and pack-bullocks. I am now about to proceed to the circle of Mr. Damant's division.

The registration of importation has been commenced, but the returns are as yet incomplete. For Rungpore itself, I have the returns of one week complete, the supply is a total of 1,837 maunds—

	Mds.
Rice	1,488
Paddy	349
Imported from Dinagepore—	
Rice	1,447
Paddy	157
Local Supplies—	
Rice	41
Paddy	192

The Dinagepore supplies come mostly from Habrah, but the Executive Engineer who was lately at Kholahatti tells me that some of the cartmen, who brought rice averred they brought it from Diangepore city, where the price is cheaper than it is here.

At the mouth of the Teesta, the importation by boat was, during the fortnight—

	Mds.
Paddy	1,968
Rice	4,712
Total	6,680

No returns have yet been received from the Dhurlah.

Importations at the mouth of the Teesta, and at Kallygunge on the Brahmaputra were 1,750 maunds.

From here all the river-side and inland market on the eastern border are supplied either by boat or pack-bullock. At Sundergunge market, where I was a week ago, the supply of rice 125 maunds, and paddy 150 maunds, all came either from the mouth of the Teesta, or from Chilmari on the Brahmaputra.

To the north-north-west and north-east trade is active as usual, and the reports show stocks in places. I have no details to show in this report, but hope to have some for the next.

Rungpore, the 6th April 1874. E. G. Glazier, Officiating Magistrate.

No. 41, dated Bogra, the 6th April 1874.

From C. A. Kelly, Esq., Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Bogra, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honour to submit the fortnightly narrative as follows:—

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief of the District of Bogra for the fortnight ending the 6th April 1874.

A.—State of the Country.

There are still supplies in th [illegible] nough at high rates. Ordinary rice at Bogra was selling on the 4th April at 10½ see [illegible] per rupee, at Sultanganj 10½ seers, and at Dupchanchia 11 seers.

	Maunds.
At Sultangunge	1,200
„ Dupchanchia	9,000
„ Hili	5,000
„ Burigunge	4,000
„ Kichak	3,000
„ Bogra	1,000

has been reported as in the hands of traders and petty dealers up to about the 4th April 1874. ·82 inches of rain fell at Bogra on the 1st and 1·82 inches on the 3rd instant. A fair average of matar and other cold-weather crops is expected. The sowing of sesamum and jute has commenced. The aous crop has been partly sown in the eastern part of the district and the sowing continues. As regards the condition of the people, I would beg to repeat the remarks given in my last narrative. I notice in the report of Mr. Gupta, recently received, the case of a person he observed starving in his circle, thannah Shibganj, and in which I presume (though he does not mention it) that he gave immediate relief. I am calling for further report from him on this point (as he does not give particulars). Fifteen grain thefts during the fortnight. I have already mentioned our particularly bad tracts, and in addition I should now mention the north and east of Shibganj; but I am of opinion that the whole district requires watching while these high prices continue, as of course isolated cases of hardship may be expected to occur even on the more favoured tracts. I have already submitted a scheme to Mr. Robinson with the view of attaining this object.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

I annex a list of lines of relief roads and works with the number of labourers on the 3rd April on each—

No.	———	Men.	Women.	Children.
1.	Shariakandi road	487	643	1,685
2.	Sultangunge road	574	1,211	730
3.	Matidali road	433	857	1,178
4.	Dupchanchia road	294	1,127	959
5.	Dinagepore road	2,749	4,063	5,058
6.	Shibganj road	660	—	—
7.	Serpur road	343	282	123
8.	Nungola road	765	223	569
9.	Nashipur road	198	170	351
10.	Dupchanchia to Shynamukhi	525	343	231
11.	Tank at Fuldighi	72	25	—
12.	Tank at Kahalu	480	—	50
13.	Tank at Birgaon	45	—	—
14.	Tank at Goharpara	193	—	93
15.	Nakhila road	—	—	—
16.	Tank at Pilkhanj	162	—	—
	Total	7,980	8,994	8,027 = 24,951

This number is certainly large, but it must be noted that the number of men among the whole is only 7,980. The labour exacted from the women and children is light, the pay comparatively good, and no wonder the works are popular in these times. I have actually heard of persons coming with their own labourer servants on to the road work, and people leave their villages *en masse* for the purpose. I shall direct the circle officers to endeavour to prevent very small children from coming on to the roads, as the people are bringing them very young. They are employed in beating the earth, and of course such relief is practically almost gratuitous, but it is difficult to draw a hard and fast line in such a matter. Another reason which tends to account for such a large influx is, in my opinion, the large proportion of Mahomedans, over 80 per cent. in this district. Hindu women would naturally be averse to leave their homes. I hear of men actually staying at home and making their women go out and work for them. I shall be prepared to sell food when necessary to labourers on the works. At present they are supplied from the bazars.

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

The reports received shew importation of 11,000 maunds of rice from Pubna, Dacca, and Mymensing districts by way of the Daokolea and Bengali rivers, 600 maunds of rice and 500 maunds of paddy from Rajshahye by carts. Now that the very considerable increase of 1,90,000 maunds of rice has been ordered to Bogra in addition to our previous allotment, I am unable to say that our means of transport are sufficient. We have more than 600 carts at work, which nearly, if not quite, exhausts our cart resources. Pack-bullocks and ponies have been called for from all police stations* and out-posts, some of which have been sent in. The Serpur police have also been told to send small boats to take rice from Bogra to Serpur. I have also asked the Commissioner of the division to have 50,000 maunds of our allotment sent from Goalundo to Joregatcha whence we can convey it in small boats up the Karotaya to Bogra. I have also written to Natore and Serajgunge for more carts, and the Sub-Inspector of Adamdighi has been directed to try and obtain carts from Natore. I really do not see what more we can well do. We might perhaps be able to utilise some of our road labourers as transport coolies, and I will see what can be done in this respect. If the Government or the Relief Commissioner could send a supply of carts or other efficient means for transport from elsewhere, no doubt we could distribute our supplies more quickly; six hundred more carts would be not more than necessary. Meanwhile we must get on as best we may, and as the district is small, when the rice is once landed at Shohagipara we could, in case of need, send sufficient for immediate wants to any part of the district from there without much delay.

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* Those sent in have been found unfit, and returned. We cannot expect effectual aid by this agency.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

In addition to places of storage previously reported upon, new storage room has been ordered at places noted in the margin in order to accommodate the increased supplies ordered. Amount of food-grain reported as received up to the 4th April 1874 is 49,729 maunds. The only food-grain as yet distributed has been 150 maunds sold for Rs. 500 on account of charitable relief purposes.

1. Bogra.
2. Dupchanchia.
3. Khetlal.
4. Panchbibi.
5. Hilee.
6. Gobail.
7. Shonamukhi.
8. Madhupur.
9. Gayabanda.
10. Durgapore.
11. Dargahat.
12. Jamirbaria.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

Several applications have lately been received from persons willing to assist their tenants. Rs. 2,500 have been given out in the period under report as loans in compliance with applications. Some undisposed of applications will receive attention.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

I have already reported in my last narrative on our commencement of charitable relief operations on the Government aided system and our committee arrangements. Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Collier, and Mr. Gupta, relief circle officers, have arrived and have gone out to their respective circles, viz., Panchbibi and Badalgachi, Adamdighi, and Shariakandi. Mr. Nugent has also been out in Bogra thannah, of which he is the relief circle officer, and Inspector Umes Chandra Ghose is in charge of Khetlal. I propose now that Mr. Clay, District Relief Officer, has arrived, to put him in charge of Bogra thannah and to send Mr. Nugent, aided by two assistants, to take charge of thannahs Sherepore and Shariakandi, with special reference to the distressed account in these thannahs, which are on the whole comparatively well off.

Statement showing the progress of Charitable Relief in the District of Bogra.

Number of Committees and Sub-Committees as yet appointed.	Number of special relief Sub-Divisions opened and officered.	Number of regular relief circles opened and manned by special officers.	Number of relief circles opened and managed by planters, zemindars, and other residents.	Number of work-houses or centres, for the distribution of food and gratuitous relief.	Number of men, women, and children (with total) in receipt of gratuitous relief in any shape through the charitable relief organisation daily; this should include people employed or relieved by the relief committees or relief officers under any of the heads of instructions.
One Committee and seven Sub-committees.	—	Five - -	—	—	Up to 4th inclusive, 583* are reported, but the returns from Panchbibi and Badalgachi are not yet received. They shall be sent as soon as possible after receipt.

* Vide my remarks in my last narrative.

I have remarked above on the subject of the increased number of labourers on our works. I am glad to be able to report a most seasonable rain-fall on the 1st and 3rd April 1874 at Bogra, which I trust may have extended largely over the khyar land. It has arrived most opportunely and cannot fail to do considerable good. Amun rice was selling at 10 seers in the Bogra market on the 6th April 1874. I would remark in conclusion that it should not be supposed that the whole of the very large number of persons employed on our relief works are very badly off. It may be taken as a fact that many comparatively well-to-do people have come to them. But with reference to what I have said above with respect to light labour and good pay, I would not be understood as recommending either the increasing of the security of the labour test or reduction of the wages. The object of Government is to save life, and although in many cases the pay may be received by people who could exist without it, yet on the other hand I consider that it would be unsafe by means of a hard and fast rule to deprive many others, viz., those really in distress and often with large families, of what is no more than adequate for their wants. We are in urgent want of at least three native overseers or sub-overseers. I trust they may be sent at once.

—	Dacoity.		Robbery.	Theft.			Lurking, house-trespass, or house-breaking.		
	(Headings 30 and 31 of Crime Return A1).		(Headings 32 and 33 of Crime Return A1).	Heading 43 of Crime Return including cattle theft.			Heading 35 of Crime Return AI.		
	Month of March 1874.	Month of March 1873.	Month of March 1874.	Month of March 1874.	Month of March 1873.	Month of March 1872.	Month of March 1874.	Month of March 1873.	Month of March 1872.
Number of cases reported, excluding cases declared by Magistrate to be false and never to have occurred	3	1	1	37	44	20	40	21	24
Column IV. of AI, minus column IX.A - -	—	—	—	12	15	23	3	1	4
Total - - - - -	3	1	1	49	59	43	43	22	28

C. A. KELLY,
Officiating Magistrate.

Bogra Magistracy, the 6th April 1874.

Enclosure No. 7.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 14th April 1874.

READ—

The Fortnightly Narratives of the Burdwan Division for the period ending 4th April.

1. *Hooghly.*—On the whole the account given of the condition of this district is satisfactory. Prices are stationary; there is no marked distress of a general character anywhere, and no very great demand for relief work. Only 1,650 persons are employed on Government work and 7,812 on private undertakings; of the latter, however, only 2,147 are said to be local laborers. The organisation for charitable relief is very extensive, there being no less than 136 sub-committees, besides four large serais or public kitchens on the great lines of traffic. 901 persons daily are receiving charitable relief.

2. *Howrah.*—Mr. Grant was specially ordered to include in his report the relief works and charitable relief operations in Howrah. It is not satisfactory to find him still omitting to furnish any information on these matters.

3. *Bankoora.*—Prices show here a tendency to fall, and in the distressed tract of Moheshra work has been provided for all who require it. The Commissioner has again sent Mr. Larymore to inspect this pergunnah, and his report will be awaited. The numbers on Government relief works were 2,740 in all, while about 2,000 more are employed on private works. About 1,200 persons daily get charitable relief.

4. *Beerbhoom.*—There is no marked change for the worse in this district as yet. About 3,600 persons are on relief works, and 683 are daily getting charitable relief.

5. *Burdwan.*—The Government has already had special report upon the increase in distress in the Bood-bood sub-division of this district. The Collector has now personally ascertained that things are worse here than he had at all anticipated. The fever has of course reduced the condition of the people of this part below the standard. It is hoped that the collector will be able to show that he exercised from the first due vigilance as to the consequences of want supervening on chronic disease. Cutwa sub-division also appears to be more distressed. The other parts of the district are not very badly off. The table showing the number on relief works is not very clear, and the column for the average daily number is wrongly totalled. Apparently about 13,000 persons are on the works, while 9,137 persons are in receipt of charitable relief. The charitable relief is administered by the district committee, five sub-divisional committees, and 225 village committees.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor, being about to visit the Burdwan District himself, will not here make any further remark.

7. *Midnapore.*—The state of this district is not now such as to cause any alarm or anxiety. The Jungle Mehals, about which some fears were entertained, are apparently not badly off; and though some distress among the weaving population near Chunderkona had shown itself, this has been met by starting gunny-weaving and opening food depôts for charitable relief. The measures adopted seem sufficient.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 2378—S.R.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioner for information, and communication to district officers.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 14th April 1874.

No. 17T, dated Burdwan, the 10th April 1874.

From C. T. BUCKLAND, Esq., Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, in original, the fortnightly narrative for the district of Burdwan up to the 6th instant.

My previous letters will have prepared the Government for the receipt of more unfavourable accounts of the state of the Bood-bood sub-division, and the Collector states that the number of applicants for relief is increasing at a rate which he did not at all anticipate. It is to be regretted that he did not take earlier and more active measures to make himself acquainted with the state of the sub-division, but now that he has become more alive to the difficulties with which we have to contend, I trust that the measures which are being taken for the organisation of charitable relief will be found sufficient for the protection of the people.

The Collector complains of the non-receipt of the Jehanabad sub-divisional report, but it reached him on the 7th April, and contains no information of any material importance.

The Collector has appended a copy of the proceedings of the charitable relief district committee, and of the rules drawn up for the guidance of the relief sub-committees. I beg to recommend that these may be separately published in the "Calcutta Gazette."

No. 11, dated Burdwan, the 6th April 1874.

From E. H. Whinfield, Esq., Officiating Collector of Burdwan, to the Commissioner of Burdwan Division.

I have the honour to submit the narrative for the fortnight ending to-day.

A.—State of the Country.

2. The Raneegunge Deputy Collector says that the supply of rice is plentiful; that rice is still flowing in from Midnapore and Bankoora; that the grain trade at Raneegunge town is very brisk; that prices have risen about two annas a maund, and now range from 11 to 12·30 seers; of best rice, and 13·5 to 13·91 seers of common rice for the rupee; that no rain has fallen; that there is "no immediate cause for anxiety as to the condition of the people;" that rice is procurable everywhere; that there is no considerable demand for employment on the relief works; that the weaver class has been taken in hand, but even in their case the need is not very urgent; that in places inspected by him during the fortnight nothing like local distress among the weavers was found, but on its becoming known that it was intended to relieve them they applied for relief in large numbers; that a few cases of distress amongst beggars and travellers have come to light, and that even the village sub-committees do not allege the existence of any misery or starvation at present.

For my own part I do not think that there are any grounds for anxiety about Raneegunge at present.

In Bood-bood, I am sorry to say, the case is otherwise. The number of applicants for relief in that sub-division is increasing at a rate which I did not at all anticipate. In my last fortnightly report I mentioned that several food depôts for the distribution of cooked food had been opened there, and the attendance at some of these, notably at Gulsee near Khanoo, was very large. I have therefore thought it best to go over some of the more easily accessible parts of the sub-division in company with Baboo Bagalananda Mookerjee, and endeavour to gauge the amount of distress for myself. Accordingly I visited Gulsee and Kamoo villages near Khamoo junction. Oorgram, Mahata, and Dignugger near Gooshkara station, and Pogram, Kolianpore, and Bhedia, near Bhedia station. Also I have been to Bood-bood itself, and visited the villages of Erall and Bhalkee. The result of my enquiries is that there is most undoubtedly a great deal of distress there. This distress is more severe in the fever-stricken villages, such as Dignugger, Kamoo, &c., but it prevails in a less degree in almost every village I visited. The condition of some of the people I saw was very wretched. One man, who had been worn by long-continued attacks of fever, and recently by want of proper food, said that he was accustomed to sit all day in a tank to ease his pain. The labourers (Bagdis, Haris, Doms, and so on) complained very loudly of the want of work, and it appeared that many of the men had immigrated to Cachar and elsewhere, leaving the women and children. The so-called respectable classes were nearly as loud in their complaints as the poor. Sonars complained that their trade was at a stand still; napits, that people have given up shaving; cultivators, that the mahajuns have refused the usual advances of grain; brahmins, that their sources of income have failed; chowkidars that their chowkiran lands yielded next to no crop, and that their money dues (dwar mashara) are not paid; fakeers, cripples, and lepers, that charity is no more; weavers, that advances were no more to be had Allowing, of course, for some exaggeration in all these complaints, still the looks of many of the complainants were enough to prove that they were in the main founded on truth. I should add, however, that I did not hear of any deaths from starvation. When this was asked about, the invariable answer, of course, was that many had died, but on asking for names and details, I found it impossible to arrive at any single authenticated case of death from starvation in the villages I visited. Deaths of fever-stricken persons, of course, there have been. The Deputy Collector has visited some villages in the west of the sub-division, and his report is gloomy. The price of rice at the large marts continues nearly as low as in other sub-divisions, but in the interior it is only procurable at the rate of 10 seers the rupee, and even less. At Bhedia, for instance, I found the cutcha seer of only 58 tolahs selling for 5 pice, and at Eral 14 chittacks of the cutcha seer of 72 tolahs cost 5 pice. The wheat and barley on the banks of the rivers has all been cut, but a good deal of teel is still on the ground. In some parts the people are eating the paddy-husks (koonro), which are generally given to cattle.

What has been done in the way of relief is set forth under the proper headings below.

The Cutwa Deputy Collector gives a somewhat less favourable account of his sub-division than in former narratives. He says, however, that rice is everywhere procurable for ready money, and that the allegation to the contrary means only that mahajuns are demanding unusually high terms for making advances, but adds that if the rains set in early and the season proves a good one, they may probably relax their terms. He says teel has been as extensively cultivated in this sub-division as in Bood-bood. He states that the condition of the people, especially in Ketugram and Manglecote, is becoming a greater cause for anxiety day by day; that petty thefts are increasing, and the plea of starvation is more frequently heard from the culprits, and that the number of confessing thieves in March was 9. It is not impossible that some of these confessions were made with the view of getting admission to the jail. At Patna in 1866, if I remember rightly, a number of persons actually petitioned to be imprisoned in the jail. The Deputy Collector mentions that the cultivators are still unwilling to work, but in some cases are beginning to do so, especially in Ketugram. He estimates the number of indigent labourers in Cutwa and Munglecote at over 11,000.

I am afraid distress is on the increase in Cutwa as in Bood-bood. The great rush of applications for relief which has been experienced in the past fortnight has no doubt (as you have observed) been much stimulated by the organisation of village sub-committees all over the country, and by the constant flying visits paid by various officers to almost every quarter, but that distress really is increasing in Bood-bood and Cutwa I have no doubt whatever.

The Jehanabad Deputy Collector has not sent in his fortnightly narrative, and I must beg that some notice be taken of this delay. It was only a month ago that his attention was particularly called to the necessity of submitting these narratives with punctuality.

I may say, however, of both Jehanabad and Cutwa, as well as of the Sudder sub-division, that I consider there is no need for any anxiety about them at present. The only parts where there is any appearance of distress is the western half of Sahebgunge thannah adjoining Bood-bood.

B.—Relief Works.

3. The annexed Statement I. shows all the road and other public relief works now going on under the charge of the Executive Engineer, the Embankment Engineer, the sub-divisional officers, the town committees, and chowkeedary punchayats and private persons. I would particularly draw attention to the circumstance that the demand for work in the Jehanabad sub-division (old Benares road) is very small, as it is also in the Sudder and Culna sub-divisions (Buddipore road and Kana Nuddee works). The demand for employment in Raneegunge, too, would seem to be but small. Work has been commenced on the road from Kanoo to Sahebgunge, but the returns have not yet come in. The numbers shewn in the statement of the roads and works in charge of the sub-divisional officers of Jehanabad and Kanoo are estimates, as their returns have not been received. The Maharajah is carrying on tank-works at Culna and Burdwan, and Baboo Hitlal Misser at Bood-bood and Mancoor.

C.—Transport of Food.

4. Importation continues from the districts on the south. The total export by rail during the third week of March was 10,946 maunds, and total import 4,030 maunds. The returns for the last week in March have not been received.

D.—Storage of Grain.

5. The district committees have resolved to store grain at Kanoo and Bood-bood for the food depôts.

F.—Advances to Private Persons.

6. These are shewn in the Appendix. A Statement II. Advances for purchasing grain continue to be asked for, as remarked in my last report.

E.—Charitable Relief.

7. The arrangements for charitable relief are being extended and adjusted by degrees. The following is an outline of them. A district relief committee and five sub-divisional committees have been organised; 225 village sub-committees have been appointed all over the district, that is to say, rather over 10 to each thannah, or about 1 to every 15 square miles. In the vast majority of cases, these village sub-committees now act only as reporting agencies, *i.e.*, as a sort of intelligence department to bring distress to the knowledge of the district and sub-divisional committees. But where the pressure of distress makes it necessary, they are used as administrators, distributors of relief, and managers of the food-depôts and relief-houses which are established wherever necessary. The village sub-committees in charge of these food-depôts have received instructions to distribute cooked food to the infirm gratuitously, but to exact some kind of labour from the able-bodied. At the last meeting of the district committee, a set of rules for the guidance of these village sub-committees in charge of food-depôts was approved, which will be translated and circulated to them; a copy is annexed to this report. At the present moment there are no less than 27 food-depôts at work chiefly in the Bood-bood sub-division. The number has been swelled during the past fortnight, not only by the institution of many new depôts but also by the inclusion in the list of all the old fever food-depôts, the cost of maintaining which was accepted by the district committee at their meeting of the 28th ultimo, in consequence of

the fever relief funds running short. Besides these, the Maharaja has three food-depôts at Burdwan, Culna, and Bood-bood. Wherever distress increases and the number of food depôts becomes so large as to be unmanageable by the sub-divisional officer and his committee, as has been the case in Bood-bood, it is intended to appoint relief inspectors at the rate of about two to a thannah to visit and supervise these food-depôts. A mohurir to keep the accounts, cooks at the rate of one to every 100 men, and work overseers at the rate of one to every 50 men are also attached to each food-depôt. These persons will be selected from among the distressed persons if possible. The sheds required will be built by the recipients of relief. The able-bodied men will be employed on any adjacent road work, or else at a tank in the neighbourhood; women will be employed on the various kinds of light-labour specified in the rules. Provision has also been made for making advances of money or material to weavers, to Beeparies, to import grain, and to Pardahneshin women for spinning thread and husking rice. Simple accounts will be kept and abstracts submitted weekly. It is intended to utilise all the existing inspecting agencies, medical, educational, and police, so as to exercise more complete supervision over these food-depôts, and enforce the application of the labour-test in the case of all able-bodied persons. The cultivators, and other so-called respectable classes, have been, of course, kicking against this regulation and holding out for gratuitous relief, but now show symptoms of giving in in some places. Rice for the use of the depôts is about to be stored at Bood-bood and Kanoo. The complete charitable relief organisation above sketched out is at present only required in Bood-bood. But something of the same sort will have to be set going ere long in Cutwa. The relief operations of the whole district are superintended by Baboo Bogolanando Mookerjee and an assistant. The prescribed statement of relief food-depôts will be found marked III. in the Appendix, as also a list of the food-depôts now opened, and the attendance at them.

This statement does not show the particulars of advances to weavers and others which are made in many cases direct by the district and sub-divisional committees.

Rules for the guidance of relief sub-committees.

1. Every person admitted into a relief-house shall be provided with a ticket.

2. The tickets shall be of two descriptions (*a*) for gratuitous relief (*b*) for labour test.

3. The labour-test must be enforced in every possible case. But persons incapable of work shall receive gratuitous relief.

4. Able-bodied men must be sent to the nearest road or tank-work. If no such work be available, the members must devise some suitable work, and report for the approval of the sub-divisional officer.

5. Able-bodied women may be employed as follows:—

(*a.*) Collecting ghooting or kunkur.
(*b.*) Picking up cow-dung, and preparing it for fuel.
(*c.*) Mat-making.
(*d.*) Basket-making.
(*e.*) Making rope and twine.

6. Women who are unable on account of their social position to do any work of the above description may be employed either in husking grain or in spinning thread in their own houses, and they shall be paid for their labour either in money or in kind as they wish.

7. Work-overseers must be selected from the recipients of relief; one such overseer must be allotted to supervise the work of every fifty persons. These overseers shall, in addition to their daily allowance of cooked food, receive the wages of 2 pice per day.

8. Ordinarily, cooked food is to be distributed. If any persons, for any sufficient cause object to taking cooked food, uncooked food may be given to them. But all must do some work except the sick and infirm.

9. To each person is to be allowed daily half-a-seer of rice (pucca weight), 1 chittack of dâl, and 2 chittacks of vegetables, with a proportionate quantity of salt and mussalas; milk and sago may be given only to sick persons who produce a doctor's certificate declaring that they require them.

Milk may be given to children under 3 years of age.

10. One cook is to be appointed for every hundred men.

If possible these cooks should be selected from among the recipients of relief, and should be paid by the fixed allowance of food and wages of one anna a day.

11. To every relief-house a mohurir must be appointed to keep the accounts, and if possible he must be selected from among the recipients of relief. Paid mohurirs, coolies, and work-overseers will be allowed only when such cannot be obtained from among the recipients of relief.

12. Each relief-house (hotel) should be under the immediate management of the local sub-committee, subject to the supervision of the circle relief-inspector and sub-divisional officer.

13. Advances of money or thread may be made to weavers.

The cloth prepared, therefore, will either be sold in the local market, or if that is impossible will be forwarded to the sub-divisional officer for sale.

The advances to the weavers shall be of sums varying from Rs. 5 to 10, and no second advance shall be made to any weaver till he has produced cloth to the full value of the first advance.

The same rule must be observed in making advances to women of cotton to spin, or of paddy to husk.

In giving advances, the accompanying cheque forms will invariably be used.

14. The sub-committee will procure rice and cotton, &c., in the cheapest market open to them. If any saving can be effected by purchasing rice in Burdwan or elsewhere, the sub-committee will address the sub-divisional officer on this subject.

15. The following accounts must be kept by the relief sub-committee :—

1. Cash accounts.
2. Registers of persons fed.
3. „ of advances to weavers.
4. Store book.

16. The following abstracts of the accounts must be sent to the circle inspector every Saturday.

1.—*Cash Accounts.*

Balance from last week - - - - - -	0	0	0
Received during week from Government - -	0	0	0
Received during week from sale of goods - -	0	0	0
Total - -	0	0	0
Expenditure on feeding - - - - -	0	0	0
„ on advances to weavers and others -	0	0	0
Total - -	0	0	0
Balance in hand - - - - -	0	0	0

2.—*Abstract of persons fed.*

Name of village.	No. of men.	No. of women.	No. of children.	Total.*
—	—	—	—	—

3.—*Abstract of Advances.*

Outstanding advances to weavers, &c. from previous week	0	0	0
Advances made to weavers and others every week -	0	0	0
Total advance - -	0	0	0
Total value of goods realised up to date - -	0	0	0
Balance of advances outstanding - - -	0	0	0

4.—*Abstract of Store book.*

Description of goods.	Quantity.	Value.	Total.
—	—	—	—

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* Received gratuitously.
Laboring.

III.

Statement showing the names of the food-depôts or relief-houses, and the approximate number of persons relieved in each.

No.	Names of food depôts.	Approximate number of persons relieved daily.
1	Bhedia	300
2	Powgram	300
3	Kulliampore	300
4	Joykistopore	500
5	Dignugore	600
6	Oregram	400
7	Mehatta	500
8	Cutwa	400
9	Khanoo*	400
10	Gulsi	800
11	Shor*	400
12	Mongulcote*	250
13	Paltia*	250
14	Kole-kole	300
15	Hitta	—
16	Mullickpore	300
17	Polashdanga	300
18	Tassoly*	250
	Tickerhaut*	134
	Baldanga*	36
	Shongshur*	36
	Eklokee*	21
	Mohachanda*	27
	Kurmun*	24
	Gobindpore*	23
	Jamalpore*	16
	Bodungunge*	20
		6,987
	Maharajah's food-depôts—	
	At Burdwan	1,000
	„ Bood-bood	650
	„ Culna	500
	Total	2,150
	Grand Total	9,137

E. Whinfield,
Officiating Collector.

IV.—*Statement showing in Abstract the Expenditure in Relief Operations up to date.*

	Amount. Rs.	A.	P.
Spent on roads in charge of executive engineer	88,906	0	0
Ditto sub-divisional officers	13,365	0	0†
Ditto private	6,345	0	0
Ditto from municipal and town fund	Information not yet collected.		
Advance under Land Improvement Act	28,844	0	0
Spent on charitable relief,—			
1. Food depôts	3,847	15	0
2. Advance to weavers, &c.	1,275	2	3
Contingencies	14	5	6
Total	142,597	6	9

E. Whinfield,
Officiating Collector.

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* Food-depôts marked with asterisks are old fever food-depôts.

† Out of this sum, Rs. 2,000 has been given to the Deputy Magistrate of Cutwa for collecting ghooteems.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the District Relief Committe held at Burdwan on the 4th April 1874.

PRESENT:

E. H. Whinfield, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. E. H. Ruddock.	Baboo Motilal Chowdhry.
„ J. Cockburn.	„ Sriram Ghose.
„ R. T. Serestre.	„ Mohendro Nath Pundit.
Baboo Gopal Cunder Sen.	„ Bugolanando Mookerjee.

The following resolutions were passed,—

1st. That the "rules for the guidance of village relief sub-committees," framed by the Secretary, be approved and issued.

2nd. That a sum of Rs. 1,000 be paid to the Culna sub-committee for the purchase of rice.

3rd. That the Cutwa sub-committee be authorised to employ a clerk on Rs. 20 a month.

4th. That a permanent advance of Rs. 100 be made to the Bood-bood sub-divisional committee.

5th. That a sum of Rs. 500 be sent to the Bood-bood sub-committee for the purpose of trying the experiment of making advances in sums of Rs. 5 to 100 to baparees to enable them to import rice from the south on pack-bullocks.

6th. That the advance of Rs. 1,000 drawn by the Chairman for the establishment of the relief-houses be sanctioned.

7th. That 1,000 maunds of rice be purchased and stored at Khanoo Junction, and 1,000 maunds be purchased and stored at Bood-bood.

8th. Various petitions and reports from the village sub-committees in the Sudder sub-division were then heard and disposed of.

9th. That Mr. Perkins, station-master of Kanoo, and his assistant, be asked to look after the store at Kanoo, and that a chowkedar on Rs. 6 be employed to guard it.

10th. That the Jehanahad sub-committee be authorised to expend any sums they may think necessary for the relief of distress not exceeding the amount of the subscription collected in Jehanabad.

E. WHINFIELD,
Officiating Collector and Chairman.

No. 14, dated Midnapore, the 6th April 1874.

From H. L. HARRISON, Esq., Collector of Midnapore, to the COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE, BURDWAN DIVISION.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, the report on scarcity and relief in this district for the fortnight ending April 4th. I regret to find that the last report arrived late. It was despatched from this office on the usual date.

A.

2. Grain continues plentiful throughout the district. The surplus stock however of Midnapore is practically exhausted, and what now passes north along the Bankoora road, and north-west along the low level canal, is almost exclusively Orissa rice. This is stated by all the dealers, and a few days ago, at the Sudder ghât, I questioned each of some 50 gareewans, and only found one man whose load was the produce of Midnapore. The purchasers first exhausted the nearest centres of surplus stock, and have gradually proceeded further as these have become exhausted.

3. Prices continue stationary with a slight tendency to a rise, especially in the extreme west, where 16¼ can only now be obtained instead of 18 and 17½ as was the case when I last reported. The imports from Singbhoom referred to have ceased; whether the spare stock is exhausted, or whether the low prices which it induced have discouraged further imports, can not be certainly known till a renewed rise again gives it an opportunity of profitable entry. As a consequence, the supply at the principal hâts is decreasing rapidly, as shown in the following table:—

	Number of maunds produced for sale.			
Dabijuri	160	110	131	66
Ramghur	0	26	26	22
Ghutia	50	30	25	20
Sildah	0	18	13	11
Jhargrom	8	10	10	10
	Up to 21st March.		28th March	4th April.

Certainly I do not anticipate any severe famine, *i.e.*, scarcity of grain in these tracts this year such as occurred in 1866. If my previous reports gave that impression, it was my failure to express myself correctly. In that year 50,000 persons died; in this year I do not suppose a tenth part of that number would be in danger, even if we folded our hands, and let matters drift. All I contend for is, that in this tract its own supply will not suffice for consumption, while extreme want will ensue before prices rise so high as to turn back the stream of trade to this quarter from the rest of Midnapore. On the other hand, if the Chota Nagpore division has a surplus on which we can draw, we are perfectly safe; if it has not, sale of rice on behalf of the committee will afford great relief at the worst period, and greatly diminish the proportion of the population which under any circumstances will have recourse to jungle roots and fruits, and inferior grains for support, as a mere result of high prices.

4. I also submit that, even if we are taking necessary precautions, we are doing so at no appreciable expenditure, and therefore the error is harmless. Experience already shows that the state of public confidence has much to do with the amount of rice thrown into the market in the jungle mehals. From all sides the report was universal that rice could scarcely be procured even at the hâts; a few hundred maunds came in from Singbhoom (for it has now been ascertained that it was a very small quantity, and has since quite stopped), and the market remained easy for nearly four weeks. It is now again lightening, and the price at Sildia is reported to have risen 1½ seer per rupee. It is therefore extremely probable, that if ever a crisis does come, the benefit which we can confer by promptly tendering a few hundred maunds for sale at convenient places will extend far beyond the mere quantity brought forward. Even the fact that we are known to have these small stores spread over the country, for sale if need be, produces some effect in bringing the stores of petty cultivators into the market, as they see that they incur no risk of starvation if they run short. At any rate, the experiment cannot cost the committee above Rs. 200 to 300 as the difference between cost price and ultimate sale, which I submit is purchasing confidence at a cheap price.

B.

5. In accordance with your orders, all public employers of labour have been called upon to return the number of laborers on their works; they had not had time however to respond to the call, and on the other hand the occurrence of three holidays in the days preceding this report, has led to the non-receipt of many of the usual returns for relief works. I therefore ask your permission to defer to next report a full account of the laborers on each work. Suffice it to say that this branch of relief is in a more satisfactory state than any other. The Joki embankment has been commenced in Hidgelee; the high level canal is employing large bodies of laborers, and the embankment repairs are doing the same. Our road relief works, therefore, only fulfil the functions of gleaners, and pick up the residue, who either being weak, or not able to satisfy the contractors, or being tied to their homes, are unable to proceed to a distance to labour.

6. It is mainly with this view that I have had recourse to the system of paying a subsistence daily rate on the special relief roads. It does not attract the coolies from other work when obtainable; on the other hand it is well adapted to enable the feeble and sickly to tide over the crisis, and supports the largest number at the least cost. That it is an expensive form of work admits of no doubt.

7. It at present proves very well adapted to these ends. The numbers fluctuate greatly, as every fall of rain, every local opening for labour, immediately takes off three-fourths of the coolies; as soon as it is over they come back again. Also they of course demur to the rates, which are, however, amply sufficient to support health, and therefore do not come forward till in real need.

8. The general indications of the fortnight are that the demand for labour is not increasing in the jungle mehals. Most of the ordinary working population have long since come on the canal and embankment works; and it is only the portion that does not general migrate for labour that we have to assist. The useful rainfall in Februay has afforded large openings for employment to this class.

9. On the other hand, the demand for labour is visibly increasing in the north-east of the district, especially round Keshpore and Narajole. A new relief road, Keshpore to Narajole, has been marked out and begun, and a declaration sent to you for publication. It has already 500 laborers upon it and will soon be completed; we have two more roads in the same neighbourhood Narajole to Dasspore, and Nawada to Nimtollah to construct, and I hope that this will suffice. The most densely populated thana of all, Dasspore, appears to be perfectly secure, with its silk bund and general prosperity, as no demand for labour at subsistence rates is made from there.

C.

10. There is no block now at the Sudder ghât, as the stream of exportation towards Bankoora is somewhat diminishing. The 50 garries I refer to in the early part of the report, had, all but five, been ferried over, but they find it convenient to halt on the sands during the day, and reserve their going to Bankoora till nightfall.

D.

11. No Government grain is stored in this district.

E.

12. Advances to private parties for land improvement will not be of any consequence in this district. The favorable rules were only extended to the jungle mehals, the greater portion of which is under Messrs. Watson and Co., either as putneedars or izardars. They of course require no advances, neither do the zemindars of Nyabossan (Moharaja of Mourbhunye) or Nyagram, or

Baboo Ramnidhi Coondoo the mohajun, who is virtually the zemindar of Jhargram and Cheearah. These zemindars, and Messrs. Watson and Co., occupy nine-tenths of the jungle mehals. Hence all the applications have come from tenure-holders, intermediate between the zemindar and the ryots. In many cases the security was not satisfactory, and the zemindar was generally opposed to the advance. Hence I have rejected two-thirds of those that are ripe for decision, and have only sent up eight to you for sanction; even in these the propriety of making the advance is very problematical, and generally against the wish of the landlord. I infer from the decision which you have arrived at in two already rejected by you, that you are averse to making the advance where the zemindar opposes it, and if so, probably nearly every application will be ultimately rejected.

13. I must confess that I do not think this result will be much to be regretted. As I have said, our means have been husbanded, and we have thus far no difficulty in meeting the demand for labour; and on the other hand I have little doubt that, with very few exceptions, the main object of the application has been to strengthen the claim of the intermediate tenure-holder by making Government his creditor as regards that tenure.

F.

14. Operations to relieve distress among the weavers, and perhaps also among other traders, such as braziers, have been pressed on during the fortnight. As estimated in a separate letter, I fear that our expenditure in this work may aggregate Rs. 40,000 before the next harvest, though this I look on as a maximum figure.

(1.)—We have now four sub-divisional committees. That at Contai, however, will I hope have nothing to do beyond collecting subscriptions

The subscriptions promised up to date are—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Sudder sub-divisional committee - - - -	7,517	0	0
Gurbetta „ „ - - - -	1,579	0	0
Tumlook „ „ - - - -	1,144	0	0
Contai „ „ - - - -	303	8	0
Total - - - - -	10,543	8	0

The treasury being closed, I cannot state the precise amount collected; but it amounts to a reasonable portion of the sum subscribed.

We have three special sub-committees already appointed, one for Chundrokonah, one for Ramjeebunpore, and one for Kuanpore *cum* Mowbunee; several others are in course of formation. Distress is greatest at Chundrokonah and Kuanpore, which is adjacent to it though not in the township.

(2), (3), and (4).—There is only one special relief circle, viz., the thanas of Chundrokonah, Ghatal, Keshpore, and outpost Narajole, which temporary deputy collector, Baboo Gossain Doss Dutt, is specially entrusted with.

(5). A large food depôt has been opened at Chundrokonah which relieves both that place and Kuanpore. Over 100 persons are already fed at it daily. This is independent of the epidemic depôt relief which, however, is reported as diminishing. No food relief was found necessary at Ramjeebunpore where the peoople are much better off than at Chundrokonah, though some distress is apprehended a month hence.

15. As there were many applicants for food relief at Kheerpoy, some of whom were obviously in great need of it, a depôt was opened, but out of 72 candidates the deputy collector, whose judgment in these matters can be trusted, only passed 8; it is therefore at present on a very small scale.

16. The other forms of relief already initiated, besides out-door work from municipal funds, are two: (1)—Husking rice. The rice needed for the food depôts is purchased unhusked and made over to distressed women to husk and give back cleaned rice, reserving the usual proportion as their remuneration. Forty-five women are thus supported at Chunderkonah and four at Kheerpoy; but it is reported that 50 women can advantageously be relieved in this way at the last-named place. (2.)—Weaving gunny cloth. I reported last fortnight that I had sent out two convicts to give the necessary instructions. I see that this measure has been disapproved of, and they will be recalled; but I saw no ready means of instruction except this, and the number sent was very small, involving the very minimum breach of jail discipline.

17. The movement is at present succeeding well; 200 weavers in Chunderkonah wished to learn; but only 20 from Chunderkonah, eight from Kheerpoy, three from Ramjeebunpore, and three from Kuanpore could be taught from the jail loom and paid daily wages while learning. The rest must learn from them; and the Deputy Collector has received authority to advance jute and take back gunny cloth, and advance thread and take back cloth from all distressed weavers, fixing the quantity on the principle of allowing a profit of nine to ten pice a day for a full day's gunny work and seven to eight pice a full day's cloth work. The extra profit for gunny is both to compensate the gunny workers for the novelty of their work, and to offer some inducement to them for learning it; and also because the committee infer from the orders of Government on the subject that they will be able to dispose of the gunny cloth with greater facility.

No. 9—S.R., dated Burdwan, the 9th April 1874.

From C. T. Buckland, Esq., Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honour to submit herewith the fortnightly narrative for the fortnight ending 6th April 1874, which have been received up to date.

2. *Hooghly.*—The Collector's report is carefully drawn up, and needs few remarks. There has been no change of prices and no marked progress towards distress. The total number of persons employed on public relief works under the district road committee is given as 1,650, whilst 7,812 persons are employed on private works; but of these only 2,147 are returned as local labourers. 109 tanks are being excavated or improved by them. In addition to these 718 labourers are employed on 85 tanks in the Hooghly and Chinsurah municipality, and 90 men on 8 tanks in the Serampore municipality. Altogether, including some other works, the Collector in paragraph 22, shows that 12,808 persons are obtaining public or private employment, but there is some apparent inaccuracy in the figures as totalled.

3. As the bulk of the rice exported from Chandernagore by railway is chiefly for distances over 150 miles, it is clear that it passes towards Behar and beyond this division.

4. Charitable relief is being administered through 136 sub-committees, and the numbers receiving relief are given as 234 men, 472 women, and 195 children, or less than 1,000 persons daily. In addition to the sub-committees, there are four serais for supplying food to needy travellers, and these are managed by the police, and this appears to be the best arrangement as explained by the Collector.

5. *Howrah.* The Magistrate of Howrah has submitted a very brief report, but he will be requested to state in future the number of persons employed on public roads as relief works; for instance, on the Juggutbullubpore road, and also to notice the proceedings of his charitable relief sub-committees at Khanakool and Juggutbullubpore.

6. *Bankoorah.*—The report of the collector is not so full as I could wish. He does not state the price at which rice is being sold in pergunnah Moheshara, which is the most distressed part of the district, although in other parts of the district prices have a tendency to fall.

7. In the fifth paragraph the collector refers to certain information which I sent him on some Bankoora labourers who appeared at Burdwan, saying that they could get no relief in their own country. Their statements turned out to be rather exaggerated, and when they were provided with work at Burdwan they soon recovered from the exhaustion of their journey to Burdwan. The statement shows that 2,740 persons are being employed on public relief works, and of these, 679 are on the Gungajulghatty and Saltora road, and 688 on the Moroolee and Mejia road, which roads are intended to provide for the wants of the Moheshara pergunnah.

8. The statement in paragraph 6 regarding persons seeking work from Maunbhoom is probably an exaggeration, similar to that of the Bankoorah people at Burdwan. But provision is being made for a considerable expenditure on a road from Bankoora to Purulia, to meet any possible wants towards the Maunbhoom frontier, and I have applied for a special grant of Rs. 16,000 for this purpose.

9. Charitable relief is being given to about 1,200 persons daily, and about one-third of these are in the Bankoora station, and about one-fourth of the number are at Mejia. The proceedings of the charitable relief committee are reported separately, and sent for publication in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

10. I have sent my special assistant, Mr. Larymore, to make a further inspection of the arrangements going on in pergunnah Moheshara for public works and charitable relief, and shall submit a special report if there is anything requiring the interference of Government.

11. *Beerbhoom.*—The report of the Collector notices a tendency to a rise in prices, but it is very slight, and the average rise in price is only five chittacks in the rupee. The Collector, however, anticipates further pressure; and I have been urging him demi-officially to make full provision to meet it by road relief works and charitable relief organisation. I also sent my special assistant up from Burdwan to meet Mr. Hime and the executive engineer at Bhulpore, which is about the centre of the distressed part of Beerbhoom, and he brought back a satisfactory report of what he saw, no distress being as yet visible or unrelieved. I have nothing to add to the collector's report except to notice that the export of rice by the railway still continues.

12. The reports from Burdwan and Midnapore will be forwarded when received. The latter is necessarily a day behind the others, as the dawk takes two days from Midnapore to Hooghly.

No. 2, dated Hooghly, the 4th April 1874.

From F. H. Pellew, Esq., Officiating Collector, Hooghly, to the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

I have the honor to submit the district narrative for the fortnight ending the 4th April.

A.—State of the Country.

2. *Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazars.*—Reports from all thanas state that there is no scarcity of grain in the bazars, only in thana Pandooah, the sub-inspector thinks that the

supply of local rice is diminishing, and that imported rice will take its place sooner or later befor the aous crop is ripe.

Price-current of Food-grains.

1	2	3		4		5		6		7	
No.	NAMES OF PRINCIPAL MARTS.	Quantities per Rupee, by the seer of 80 Tolahs.									
		Wheat.		Barley.		Rice, best.		Rice, common.		Gram.	
		Present week.	Preceding week.	Present week.	Preceding week.	Present week.	Preceding week.	Present week.	Preceding week.	Present week.	Preceding week.
1	Baboogunge in Hooghly	12	12	-	-	10, 10½	10, 10½	12, 12½, 13	12, 12½, 13	12, 13	12, 13
2	Chinsura, Khoroabazar	12	12	-	-	10, 10½	10, 10½	12, 12½, 13	12, 12½, 13	12, 13	12, 13
3	Balore	12	12	-	-	10, 10½	10, 10½	12, 12½, 13	12, 12½, 13	12, 13	12, 13
4	Jeekrapotagunge	13	13	-	-	10, 10½	10, 10½	12½, 13, 13½	12½, 13, 13½	13, 13½, 14	13, 13½, 14
5	Serampore	12	12	20	20	8, 9	8, 9	12, 13,	12, 13,	13, 14	13, 14
6	Chunditolla	-	-	-	-	11½	11½	13	13	12	12
7	Bydobatty	12	12	22	22	8	8	14	14	13½	13½

3. *Amount and kind of grain in stock in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, &c.*—There has been no change in prices in the fortnight. At Dwarbasinee in Pandooah 600 maunds have been added to the stock of 400 maunds already reported as stored by Baboo Joykissen Mookerjee. In Dhuneakhally a total amount of 61,200 maunds is reported to be now in store in the hands of zemindars. In Hooghly 23,343 maunds are reported. As you have expressed an opinion that it is doubtful whether the enquiries into stocks of rice are advisable, I shall order the police to discontinue them. At Govindgunge in the north-east of thanna Balagurh on the banks of the river is a large gunge called Govindgunge, here are stored some 7,100 maunds of imported rice, and about 3,000 maunds are stored at Mugragunge, in Bansberia.

4. *Rainfall.*—Rainfall *nil* at the Sudder station, but there is a slight fall of rain reported from Serampore, Bydobatty, and Chunditolla. A storm with hail and rain occurred on the 24th March in the neighbourhood of Ooterpara, and did some injury to plantain trees.

5. *State of the crops.*—The til reported to have been planted in paragraph 9 of the last narrative is reported to have failed in thana Bansberia, but is growing in the other thanas. Rain is required everywhere for the til, the vegetable crops, puttle turmooz, kakoor, &c., and for the aous sowing. The cutting and crushing the sugarcane is still going on. A good deal of new sugarcane was planted out after the rains of the 16th and 18th March, and there is promise of a good crop next year. The crop now in the mill was a good one. The mango crop is good in some thanas, fair in others, and promises badly in Dhuneakhally, Kristonugger, and Bydobatty. The land is prepared everywhere for aous sowings on a very extensive scale. Four or five good showers will be necessary to get the whole crop in, and such may reasonably be expected at this season.

6. *Condition of the people.*—In Pandooa the police report that the smaller agriculturists require employment to enable them to purchase rice and save their stores, but there is no lack of employment at present. The district superintendant of police who visited thana Balagurh reports that some Boona coolies on Gooptipara Chur, that were settled there in former years by indigo-planters, though reported to be in distress are not actually so. He says—"They will not leave "their churs to look for work. Relief works in that part are not yet a necessity, though a few "persons having no cultivation going on are glad to resort to them." The Joint-Magistrate went out last week and started some road repairs close to the chur to which they can come if they want work.

7. Of Dhuneakhally the sub-inspector writes that about three-fourths of the population are husbandmen. Though the amun rice yield was small, the people were aware that it would be wise to lay in stocks, and did so as much as they could. When rice rose to 9 seers for two or three days in February last the people were alarmed, and much rice was imported. In the west of the thana near the Damoodur there were rich harvests of sugarcane and vegetables, but distress may arise in the east of the thana unless rain falls and the aous be got in. In that case money and grain will be freely supplied by mahajuns and zemindars.

8. Except isolated cases of indigence arising from accidental causes, the number of which is shown under head "Charitable Relief." There is no distress at present in the district. Work is abundant, and yet the local laborers, who avail themselves of it, are not very numerous. Near the Damoodur there is great difficulty in procuring labor, and it is evident that the good crops of sugarcane, &c., have compensated in the tract along its banks for any failure in the rice crop. The Serampore sub-divisional officer says there is no want, unconnected with disease, except in the case of a few high caste women who are lakhirajdars and cannot get in their rents.

9. No cases of starvation have occurred during the fortnight. To prevent all possibility of such cases amongst the numerous travelling population, two more serais have been established on the Bydobatty feeder road, as will be stated under head "Charitable Relief."

10. The figures given in paragraph 10 of the last narrative were reported by the police. Since the establishment of the committees of relief the police have ceased these particular enquiries, and have been instructed to make over their lists to the sub-committees.

11. *Grain thefts and robberies.*—A grain theft of two maunds of rice from a house is reported from Bansberia thana, and another from Kristonugger thana. This last was committed by an old offender. In the former case no clue has been obtained.

12. *Condition of special tracts.*—In the east of Pandooah, in Ballagurh, in the neighbourhood of Bhastara in thana Dhuneakhally, and in parts of Bydobatty, Chunditolla, and Hurripal, cultivators of small holdings are glad to get work. The district superintendent of police visited Hurripal on the 24th ultimo. He says that the rains have facilitated the planting of sugarcane and vegetables, the potato crop has turned out much better than was expected, and the sugarcane, of which a good deal is grown, was a fair crop. The profit per beegha of potatoes has been Rs. 40, and of sugarcane Rs. 35. On the immediate banks of the Damoodur there were good crops of all kinds, and his conclusion is that, notwithstanding the failure of the main rice crop, there will be no more distress than at present unless prices rise again.

14. The Collector of Howrah will give the Howrah works separately.

15. Of the village roads taken up, the most important are the Jamgram to Moolye and the Kulapara to Nischindipore roads which open up Culna market to the people of Ballagurh and Pandooah, respectively.

16. The following statement of works undertaken by private persons, independently of Government assistance, is prepared by the police, to whom person undertaking such works were requested to furnish information. It is of course defective, but it shows a very large amount of privately undertaken land improvement. I have excluded the Kotrung brickmakers as well as all mill hands.

—	Station.	Number of Coolies.	Remarks.
Sudder Sub-division	Bansberia	795	Of these 278 are local.
	Ballagurh	416	248
	Pandooah	1,064	182
	Dhuneakhalee	827	254
	Hooghly	523	334
Serampor Sub-division	Serampore	1,505	241
	Bydobatty	1,088	109
	Hurripaul	501	166
	Chunditolla	780	184
	Kristonagore	318	151
	Total	7,812	2,147

17. The work on which these laborers are employed is almost exclusively tank-digging or re-digging. 109 tanks are being thus excavated or improved.

18. Besides this, Baboos Joykissen Mookerjea of Ooterparah, and Rajkissen Banerjea of Telinipara, are employing a daily average number of 142 coolies, of whom 53 are local, on the excavation of the Ghea Nuddee at their own expense.

19. In the Hooghly and Chinsurah Municipality 718 laborers are employed on 85 tanks at the cost of the proprietors, after notice under Act III. (B.C.) of 1864. Of the laborers, 492 are men and 226 women. In the Serampore Municipality the number of laborers thus employed is 90 on 8 tanks.

20. Under the Executive Engineer, northern drainage and embankment division, the following works are in progress:—

Thana.	Name of Work.	Daily Average of Laborers.	Condition.	Remarks.
Bydobatty	Canal to connect Kananuddee and Saruswati.	314	Good	All foreign laborers.
Ditto	Dankoonee works	Not returned.	Ditto	Half local, half foreign.
Dhuneakhalee Kristonagore Huripaul	Ordinary repairs	208	Ditto	Chiefly local coolies.*
	Total	517		

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* *N.B.*—In last return I stated that the ordinary repairs were done by foreign coolies. The Executive Engineer now states however,—"Ordinary repairs to embankments are chiefly done by local coolies, who combine the work with rice cultivation."

21. On 28 tanks being dug or improved from tuccavee advances, a daily average number of 1,879 laborers, of whom 369 are local, are being employed, as reported by the recipients of the advances.

22. The work going on may be summarised as follows:—

	No. of laborers.
(1.) Government works in Hooghly excluding Howrah—	
Road committees' work under Executive Engineer - -	1,408
Ditto ditto supervised by private parties - -	242
Embankment and irrigation works - - - -	517
(2.) Works under advances from Government - - -	1,879
(3.) Works undertaken by private parties under orders of municipality - - - - - - - -	808
Spontaneously, including Ghea Nuddee - - -	7,954
Total - - - -	12,808

C.—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

23. Private importations still continue. The roads are in good order. The transport of food grains by railways are as follows:—

Fortnight ending 28th March 1874—

UP.—Outward traffic, *i.e.*, despatched from Station.

—	Under 150 miles.	Over 150 miles.	Over 300 miles.	Total.
RICE.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Serampore - -	—	734	6	740
Chandernagore - -	159	2,651	10,312	13,122
Hooghly - -	—	—	592	592
Muggrah - -	—	17,022	—	17,022
Pandooah - -	—	310	—	310
Total -	159	20,717	10,910	31,786
OTHER FOOD-GRAINS.				
Serampore - -	—	375	315	690
Chandernagore - -	644	—	—	644
Hooghly - -	—	—	—	—
Muggrah - -	—	—	—	—
Pandooah - -	—	—	—	—
Total -	644	375	315	1,334

DOWN.—Inward Traffic, *i.e.*, put down at Stations.

—	Under 150 miles.	Over 150 miles.	Over 300 miles.	Total.
RICE.	Mds.			Mds.
Serampore - -	6	—	—	6
Chandernagore - -	262	—	—	262
Hooghly - -	—	—	—	—
Muggrah - -	—	—	—	—
Pandooah - -	4	—	—	4
Total -	272	—	—	272
OTHER GRAINS.				
Serampore - -	—	—	—	—
Chandernagore - -	2	—	—	2
Hooghly - -	—	—	—	—
Muggrah - -	—	—	—	—
Pandooah - -	36	—	—	36
Total -	38	—	—	38

24. There was no up-inward traffic or down-outward traffic, that is to say, no rice or grain brought from Howrah or Calcutta by train was taken out of any of the stations in the Hooghly district, nor was any rice despatched at Hooghly stations towards Calcutta or Howrah. The 31,786 maunds of rice sent up-country from the various stations is, I suppose, Eastern Bengal ice brought by boat to Serampore, Chandernagore, Hooghly, and Muggrah, and in hackeries om Culna and Govindgunge to Pandooah. The Muggrah khall has always two or three boats

laden with rice from the eastern districts, and several large merchants are engaged in the trade there.

25. The other food-grains sent up country are chiefly from Chandernagore station. The grain probably comes from Bhuddessurgunge.

26. I have not hitherto given these figures, as the transport of grain by railway through this district did not appear to me to come within the scope of heading C., as detailed in Circular No. 80. I have merely, therefore, remarked in former narratives that large quantities of grain are transported up-country from Muggrah and Chandernagore.

D.—STORAGE OF GRAIN AT GOVERNMENT RELIEF WORKS.

27. Nil.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

28. Under heading E. advances are to be included under three heads according to the directions given in circular No. 80, viz., advances for grain, advances to municipalities, and tuccavee advances. I give separate figures for each—

	Rs.
Advances for grain already reported	18,000
In fortnight	
Total	18,000
Advance to municipalities	Nil.
Advances under Tuccavee Act up to commencement of fortnight	25,911
During fortnight.	
March 27th, Goluk Nath Pyne	200
Ditto 30th, Sreeram Sircar	400
April 2nd, Bulloram Ghose	150
Total	26,661

29. The paucity of advances is due to the unsatisfactory nature of the securities tendered by the petty lakhirjdars and mokurareedars, who chiefly have presented applications, and to the difficulty in getting the consent of superior holders when the security is not manifestly an independent saleable interest. Those applicants who offered sufficient security and showed good titles got their advances in a very short time.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

30. Under the orders contained in circular No. 1251—S.R., of 5th March, I have the honor to submit a statement:—

Number of Committee and Sub-Committee as yet appointed.	Number of special relief sub-divisions opened and officered.	Number of regular relief circles opened and manned by special officers.	Number of work-houses or centres for distribution of food, &c.	Number of men, women, and children (with total) in receipt of gratuitous relief in any shape through the charitable relief organisation, daily.
1 District Committee 1 Sub-Divisional Committee. 136 Sub-Committees	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Men - 234 Women - 472 Children - 195

31. The district committee was established on the 28th February. The subscriptions paid in to date have amounted to Rs. 5,387, and the disbursements to Rs. 1,775-11-9.

32. The sub-divisional committee was subsequently formed, all sub-committees in the Serampore Sub-division have been made over to it. It receives subscriptions which are paid into the sub-divisional treasury and reported to the district officer, in order that a Government grant of equal amount may be credited, and it expends money from advances made to it by the district committee.

33. The sub-committees at present working are as follows:—

Thana Dhuneakhally	13	Directly under district committee.
„ Hooghly	8	
„ Bansberia	6	
„ Pandooah	17	
„ Bullagurh	10	
Hooghly and Chinsurah Municipality	26	
Thana Bydobatty	3	Directly under sub-divisional committee.
„ Huripaul	21	
„ Chunditolla	11	
„ Kristonugger	11	
„ Serampore	10	
Total	136	

34. Besides this serais have been established on a small scale for the relief of travellers on the main roads in the district as follows:—

On Grand Trunk Road	Muggra and Serampore.
On Old Benares Road	Bassooree and Sheakhalla.
On Bydobatty Feeder Road	Nalikul and Tarkessur.
On the banks of the Hooghly	Telinipara.

At these a meal is given to travellers who appear to be in want and wish for relief.

35. These serais are established at police outposts or thanas and are under the police. An establishment of a cook and a sweeper is maintained at each. In paragraph 11 of your letter to Government forwarding my last narrative, you state that they should be made over to relief committees. I would respectfully beg that they may be allowed to remain as they are for several reasons. First, the relief sought at the serais is generally urgent, and it cannot be expected that the members of the sub-committee should be at a relief house day and night, whilst the police must be there; secondly, I have tried to get two committees to take charge of such serais, and the result was a failure.

Dated Howrah, the 4th April 1874.

From T. Grant, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Howrah, to C. T. Buckland, Esq., Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

In continuation of previous fortnightly reports I have now only to say again that I have nothing whatever to bring to your notice that has not already been reported. Things remain in all respects unchanged. I have no material whatever from which to make a new report. I could only repeat my two last preceding narratives without addition or variation, and there is nothing for me to say except that those communications are as applicable to the present date as to the dates they bear.

No. 16, dated Bankoora Collectorate, the 6th April 1874.

From W. R. Larminie, Esq., Officiating Collector of Bankoora, to the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

I have the honour to submit my narrative for the fortnight ending the 6th April 1874.

State of the Country.

2. Rice, wheat, barley, &c. are to be had in sufficient abundance throughout the district except in Moheshra, which, as I have already observed, is dependent upon imports for its supply. Baboo Ragunath Ghosh has during the last fortnight sold a large quantity of rice in the pergunnah at lower rates than those at which the people there had been before able to purchase it. I am still of opinion that money should have been advanced for the purchase of rice in that pergunnah, and I think that the absence of this commodity pinched more than the want of work, for road-making in Moheshra commenced as early as the 15th February, and disinclination to go more than a few miles from their houses was the only obstacle to procuring employment.

3. Prices have been stationary, but the tendency is to a fall. Best rice is selling in Bankoora at 12 seers per rupee, common at 13½, and coarse at 14 seers, 6 chittacks. Prices at Bishenpur are slightly lower; new wheat and barley are selling respectively at 15 seers and 24 seers, 8 chittacks per rupee.

4. The rubbee crops have been reaped; cotton, til, and indigo are doing well.

5. There has not been much alteration in the condition of the people. The poorer classes are, as might be expected, more or less pinched, and, where work has been provided, I think the labouring classes are better off than the smaller agriculturists. In consequence of information furnished by you that some persons, residents of Meliara, in this district had been found destitute in Burdwan, I instituted enquiries, and found that work in tank-digging, &c. was available in Meliara, and that charitable relief was being given within 4 or 5 miles of that place. I have now commenced a road running from Barjora to Gangajalghati, through Meliara. In my last report I mentioned works being ready for the Moheshra people, if the two roads now in progress were insufficient. I referred to the roads from Mejia to Barjora and from Gangajalghati to Barjora, which had been previously reported to your office; these would be, in fact, continuations of the two roads which are being made. There have been no cases of death from starvation, and no grain thefts or robberies have been reported.

6. It may not be out of place to mention here that some 30 or 40 people came from Manbhoom crying out for work, and stating that none was to be had in their part of the district.

Relief Works.

7. A table is annexed shewing the various works in progress and the number of people employed. I have been endeavouring to get similar returns from private persons, but they come in irregularly, and are often inaccurate. However, I estimate the total number thus employed at about 2,000 daily.

8. A road will shortly be opened to meet the Purulia road at Moheshra, in the Chatna thana. The Manbhoom authorities have commenced work on their side.

9. It will, I think, be necessary to give more work in Onda thana when the road from that place to Taldangra is completed, or even sooner, and the road cess committee are of opinion that the best line would be from Bankoora to Taldangra, viâ Kurpa, as the circuit would thus be completed.

10. From what I have seen myself, and from the reports of others, I believe that the labourers are in good condition. They receive the ordinary wages in actual cash.

11. Besides the regular relief works, we have arranged, from the funds at the disposal of the district relief committee, to re-excavate three tanks, one at Saltora, and one near each of the lines of road under construction, at a point about midway between extreme ends. On these works, those only are to be employed who from physical weakness are unable to earn a sufficiency of food by piece-work on the road.

Transport of Food.

12. Rice is still being imported from Midnapore. The conveyance of rice to Moheshra is the only transport agency requiring notice.

Advances to Private Parties.

13. The number of applications for tuccavee advances has now reached 373, and sums aggregating Rs. 28,803 have been granted, of which Rs. 21,211 have actually been drawn. The making of new tanks or the re-excavating of old ones are almost the only purposes for which the money is being spent.

Charitable Relief.

14. The total number of persons receiving charitable relief is now about 1,200 daily, as per list annexed. According to promise made in my last report, I visited Mejia and its neighbourhood. The number of persons receiving relief had increased so much that I thought it best to open three new relief centres in the pergunnah, and I have since arranged for the opening of a fourth. All the Moheshra relief centres are now managed by paid overseers, supervised by an officer specially deputed for the purpose, all acting, of course, under the direction of the various sub-committees.

15. The arrangements for relieving weavers have now been completed in Bankoora itself, and the Bishenpoor sub-committee is arranging for the requirements of that town.

Statement of Charitable Relief.

(1.) One central committee.
(2.) Eleven sub-committees.
(3.) Four.
(4.) None.
(5.) Fourteen.

Statement showing average daily number relieved during the past week.

—	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Bankoora	45	237	126	408
Mejia	48	160	83	291
Onda	24	70	83	177
Taldangra	11	57	40	108
Gangajalghati	6	29	14	49
Bishenpoor	7	25	10	42
Saltora	8	17	19	44
Chatna	8	15	9	32
Joypur	2	3	2	7
Burjora	9	—	2	11
Other returns not received	—	—	—	—
Total	168	613	388	1,169

Besides these, about 270 persons received casual relief from the Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors.

Statement of Labour employed, Bankoora District.

Name of Work.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Bankoora and Sonamookhy Road	30	10	5	45
Ditto to Raghunathpore	205	42	35	282
Ditto to Birsingpore	40	20	5	65
Ditto Station Roads	20	3	—	23
Bishenpore to Namchurra (Joypore)	160	70	20	250
Kalianpore to Joyrampore	20	10	2	32
Onda and Taldangra Road	76	43	—	119
Gangajalghati to Saltorah	406	213	60	679
Morooloo and Mejia Road	400	200	88	688
Municipal work in Bankoora	181	326	—	507
Ditto in Bishenpore	40	10	—	50
Total	1,578	947	215	2,740

W. R. Larminie, Officiating Collector.

No. 18, dated Soory, the 6th April 1874.

From R. D. Hime, Esq., Officiating Collector of Beerbhoom, to the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

I have the honor to submit my district narrative for the fortnight ending 4th instant.

A.—State of the Country.

Prices continue almost stationary since last report, but exhibit now a rising tendency; the temporary fall was probably due to the payment of the March Government "kist" forcing rice into the market. There will now, I expect, be a gradual steady rise of prices, and a constantly increasing demand for employment till the commencement of the rains withdraws the labouring population from public works to agricultural operations. Every effort is being made to meet this demand by starting new relief roads and keeping others in readiness for any emergency. There is as yet no difficulty in procuring supplies at the current bazar rates (*vide* Appendix 1). No grain robberies have occurred, and no cases of starvation have been reported during the fortnight. Helpless want is being relieved by the charitable organization as it shows itself.

B.—Relief Works.

Three new relief works, Nos. 6, 7, 8, are set on foot since last report, viz., the road from Ilambazar to Doobrajpore (No. 6), that from Burdwan to Panchthoopee (7), and that from Gonootia to Kotasoor (8). The last is undertaken by Mr. Jones, Manager of the Gonootia silk concern. Three more relief roads, viz., those from Poorunderpore to the river Adjai (the Burdwan road), from Bulpore to Benglehatra, and from Laghata to Kolgram, will shortly be commenced. I have also under consideration a proposal from the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Pergunnahs to construct the portion of a proposed road from Doomka to Mullarpore railway station, which will come within my district. The surveys for this road will shortly be made. The number of laborers on district works of all kinds is shewn in the Appendix, Form C.

C.—Transport of Grain.

Exportation continues; that of the fortnight ending 28th ultimo was 10,655 maunds.

D.—STORAGE OF GRAIN.

The charitable relief committee is buying up 1,000 maunds of rice for storage at Soorool in anticipation of emergencies.

E.—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES.

Shown in Appendix, Table 11.

F.—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Continues on the system previously reported (*vide* Appendix, Statement 2). The disbursements up to 28th ultimo are Rs. 2,764-7-10. No fresh subscriptions have been received during the fortnight. Independent relief operations are carried on in Doobrajpore by Baboo Ram Runjun Chuckerbutty, zemindar of Hetumpore, regarding with a separate report is submitted.

Enclosure No. 8.

No. 874½, dated Chota Nagpore, the 31st March 1874.

From Colonel E. T. DALTON, C.S.I., Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, to C. BERNARD, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit my relief report for the fortnight ending Monday, 30th March.

2. The area in which a pressure from scarcity is hard on the people has no doubt increased rather than diminished since last report. In about a third of the Maunbhoom district, in Hazareebaugh, and Palamow, the high prices of food are more or less felt by all classes; but it is only in places where food is not only dear but difficult to procure that bad symptoms of distress have been noticed, and our recent action has chiefly been to introduce both employment and food into such localities.

3. The weather has been during the last fortnight, on the whole, bright and favorable. The mowha crop received less injury than was anticipated from the rain which fell at the commencement of the period under review. Accounts received from all quarters, except from some parts of Hazareebagh, give fair expectation of its probable yield of flower, which is just now falling. A good mango season is still expected, and the rubbee crop, which is now nearly reaped, will give in most places an average return; but the area of land cultivated this year being so much less than usual, the supply of food thus obtained will not materially affect prices. The prospects of the mowha and the rubbee harvest have, however, temporarily reduced the number of people employed on relief works. For two months or longer the chief food of the poor classes will be mowha.

4. Relief committees have been formed in all the districts and sub-divisions of districts and other places where they were likely to prove of use.

5. *Hazareebagh.*—Mr. Beadon on returning to Hazareebagh, after consultation with me, was met there by information that ten deaths had occurred in the north-east of Kodarma, it was alleged from starvation, and a pilgrim was reported to have died from the same cause on the Grand Trunk Road. Further inquiry locally made by Mr. Beadon himself or by his assistant, Mr. Tobin, showed that, with three exceptions, each of the deaths could be traced to ordinary disease. The exceptions being (1) Ramni Goalin, a lone woman who lived in an isolated position, and the cause of whose death was uncertain; (2) a woman of 60 years of age who apparently, from all that was known, had sunk under privation; and in regard to the third, it could not be ascertained that any such person had ever existed. Mr. Beadon says, all who died were "old, infirm, friendless, and isolated." There are no doubt many people so situated and circumstanced in the sparsely inhabited portions of the district, unknown and unthought of till death ensues. It is not an easy matter to find out how such people sink or to know in time that they are in want of food.

6. It was not considered till this occurred that Kodarma was at all in a precarious position. As a Government estate it had met early attention. Mr. Beadon visited it himself in January, and Baboo Rajgopal Roy, Deputy Collector, was subsequently sent there to make advances and to give employment, and a tehsildar was appointed in whom Mr. Beadon had great confidence. Irrigation works projected by Rajgopal were opened in several places; but, notwithstanding the indigence now disclosed, very few sought employment. The people on whom the scarcity most told were of the non-working class, and arrangements have now been made to supply such persons gratuitously with cooked food. There is no want of work; the road from Burhee to Gowa, which will go right through Kodarma, has been commenced, worked both ways from its centre in Kodarma. Orders for opening it had been issued a fortnight before, but the services of the Assistant Engineer, Mr. Pereira, were required to align it, and he could not be spared sooner from other important works. The latest accounts show only 50 persons employed. From this it would be inferred that there cannot be widespread distress; but Mr. Tobin remains in Kodarma, and I have desired that a special report on the condition of the people there may be forthwith submitted. The Kodarma ryots have just received payment from the opium department of a large amount, and this is, no doubt, the reason that few of them care to work.

7. But the inspection tour made by Mr. Beadon in North Khurruckdea forced on him the conclusion that the ordinary means of supply was inadequate to meet the deficiency of food in some portions of that tract and on the Grand Trunk Road, and this induced him to telegraph to Government for 28,000 maunds of rice. The Government have promptly responded, and have ordered by rail to Pachumba 25,000 maunds, which is rapidly arriving. This will, I think, be sufficient, and Mr. Beadon, in a letter dated the 27th, says he will require more unless his projected pilgrim road is sanctioned. He proposes to distribute the rice as shown in the margin. He will have, besides, stores of grain in the bhandars of the Ward's estates, Dunwar and Gowan. Mr. Beadon is most anxious to undertake the pilgrim road recommended in my letter No. 239T, of the 25th February last. It would certainly be a most useful work, and Mr. Parkinson, who has not much to do at present, could be directed to survey and mark it out.

Distribution of Government rice.

3,000 maunds at each of the chuttees on the Grand Trunk Road, viz., Chowparun, Burhee, Barkotta, Bugodhur, and Doomree.

2,000 maunds in Kodarma and 10,000 maunds in reserve at Pachumba.

8. Mr. Beadon has advanced to merchants Rs. 33,000 to stimulate and ensure a larger rice importation for Hazareebagh station and other parts of the district south of the Grand Trunk Road, and has also arranged with the zemindar (styled rajah) of Koonda for the storage of rice as a reserve in the western parts of the district. The arrangements now effected will, I think, prove sufficient, but if more be necessary, the Ranchee merchants are quite ready to engage to store rice here for Hazareebagh.

9. I have proposed to them that they should confine their operations to the importation of rice from Gangpore (where a fortnight ago it was selling at 32 seers for the rupee), and from Sumbulpore, where I believe it is cheaper. The Palamow traders are now doing this, but for them it is a three months' journey. If the Ranchee and Lohardugga traders will follow my advice (and if necessary they might be assisted by loans) it would greatly economise carriage and accelerate the delivery. Palamow pack-bullocks travelling only as far as Lohardugga would carry thence the rice imported from the southern districts, and the Hazareebagh traders would transport it from Ranchee.

10. A road has been projected as an additional work in Dhunwar (Khurruckdea), from Dhunwar to Dorundah (Khurruckdea), to cost Rs. 700,* half of this cost borne by the road committee and half by the estate. This I have sanctioned subject to confirmation by the Board.

* Sanctioned by Board.

11. *Lohardugga.*—On the 28th instant a meeting was held at Ranchee to establish a District Relief Committee; this was not called for by any distress in Chota Nagpore Proper, but as a measure of precaution and to obtain funds for general as well as local relief purposes. Upwards of Rs. 3,000 were subscribed at the meeting.

12. I have, with permission of Government, availed myself of the services of Mr. F. T. Peppe, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, who volunteered to act as an agent to make advances under the Land Improvement Act in certain detached villages in valleys of Tamar to the south and in Tori to the north-western corner of the Chota Nagpore zemindary. Tori is the only considerable portion of Chota Nagpore which appeared to me likely to need assistance. I reported on it in my letter No. 49T of the 16th January 1874. The manager, Mr. G. K. Webster, has been employed there for some time making settlements. He has opened some small works, sanctioned at the cost of the estate, which gives present employment, and we have road projects which will give more. Mr. Webster reports under date the 28th instant, that with the mowha there is no want of food at present, though in June and July pressure may be felt. This we shall have no difficulty in meeting.

13. *Palamow.*—Since date of my last report Lieutenant Grey and Baboo Gopal Chunder Mitter have been deputed as relief officers to Palamow, the latter with a portion of his establishment as Special Commissioner, including a good native surveyor and Baboo Prosunno Coomar Daniary, Assistant Engineer, passed through this station on his way to Palamow by dawk, on the 26th instant.

14. Mr. Forbes continues to give unfavourable reports on the condition of the Palamow people resorting to the works. He says when they first make their appearance that many of them are in an emaciated state, but pick up after working a few days, and are then able to do a full complement of work. This would indicate that the wages of their labour gave them sufficient sustenance, but he finds the price at which the rice is retailed by the bunias to the workpeople employed give them only 8·55 seers for the rupee, and they were clamouring for higher wages. So long as it is found that those who come on relief works thin recover their condition and others retain it I would deprecate any increase. It appears that it was only at one place, Turhassi, that the Assistant Commissioner found that the rice was being retailed st 8·55 seers for the rupee. He should have interposed and supplied rice from the nearest store at 10 seers. This would have brought down the retail price, for it is to be observed that at the open markets in Palamow proper the highest quoted is 12·36.* Mr. Forbes informs us that hitherto the market prices, which he calls the wholesale prices, have been given in the price current statements, and determines in future to give these bunia prices. This I object to, but he may give both as he does in the table in paragraph A. of his report of the 21st instant. The bunias in some places set up their shops where the labourers are working, and this of course gives them some claim to add to the market rate.

* And have since fallen.

15. My last report gave 12,562 as the total number employed on the Government relief works; these figures were taken from the February return. The return of the 7th March gives 7,866, and Mr. Forbes' report of the 21st ultimo 7,936. The decrease is said to be owing to the withdrawal of the agricultural labourers for the rubbee harvest, and it is probable that the number

will not rise to the February figure till the mowha, which is yielding well, is exhausted. Mr. Forbes is however of opinion that it will reach 20,000 at an earlier period.

16. The harvesting of the cold-weather crop appears to have caused a lull in importation of rice for a short time which made the Assistant Commissioner fear it was falling off. But I am credibly informed it is now brisk as ever, and I have been assured by the traders here that there is no fear whatever of its subsiding. I have however moved for sanction to make further advances to stimulate importation up to Rs. 50,000,* which we can use if we find the trade slackening. I have been informed that rice bought in Gangpore at 32 seers for the rupee was conveyed on pack-bullocks to Gurwah, and might without loss to the importer have been sold at 25 seers, but it was disposed of at from 13 to 14 seers. With such a profit we must expect that the importation of rice from the south will continue till the supply from thence is nearly exhausted.

* Since sanctioned.

17. The Deputy Commissioner received my instructions some months ago to watch narrowly the export trade from Chota Nagpore Proper to Palamow, and he is of opinion, in which I concur, that it is going on satisfactorily.

18. My latest information is in a letter from Lieutenant Grey, dated the 25th instant. On his way to Daltongunge he passed a body of about 400 people going to work, the majority women and children, who said they had been sent to work by the head of the family as there was not food in the house sufficient for all its members. Lieutenant Grey found this to apply to other places and gangs seen by him. Only a portion of the family seek work, and I hope it will be found that the withdrawal of so many will leave sufficient in the house to sustain the remainder. A few destitute people were seen in the town of Gurwah whom the local committee relieved, and on road-work Lieutenant Grey noticed four women claiming to be Rajputins by caste and one Brahmani, but they were people who had long been accustomed to work in the fields. On the whole, the people did not appear to Lieutenant Grey to be very emaciated, and he found them particularly patient.

19. Mr. Forbes tells us of a report that a number of respectable Mahomedans of Hosenabad, most of them widows, were in dire distress, and the Assistant Superintendent of Police was deputed by the relief committee to inquire, and it is presumed to relieve them if necessary. Mr. Forbes has also, he says, been informed by a zemindar, that grain-thefts are occurring daily, though not reported to or by the police, and that 75 heads of cattle had been slaughtered, he supposes by chamars, for the meat and skins. He has directed inquiry by the police, but he must also report how such things, if true, are not known to and reported by the police.

20. *Manbhoom.*—The condition of this district is apparently better than that of Palamow. Grain is still exported from the eastern pergunnahs, and as yet we have had no reason to suppose that the southern zemindaries were in distress. The bad parts are on both banks of the Damoodur, and between the Burrakur and Damoodur, and by the latest accounts extend to the common boundary of the Hazareebagh district. The Deputy Commissioner, in his report of the 25th to Government, observes that there is no appearance of any general distress as yet amongst the people, but isolated cases of suffering for want of food are becoming more common than they were, the great difficulty in the distressed parts of the district was to obtain food, for though in the estimate of the Deputy Commissioner there is still a good stock in the hands of the grain-dealers, they are still keeping it back in the expectation of higher prices, it is difficult in many places to obtain what is required for the people on the relief works. I believe that when the Government grain now daily arriving at Burrakur has been distributed amongst the several selected places for storage that the great pressure now felt will cease and all danger will for a time be averted. Colonel Rowlatt has arranged for having 5,000 maunds at Rughoonathpore, 5,000 at Govindpore, 5,000 at Nirsha, 1,000 at Poddardih, 1,000 at Jherriah, and 10,000 will be kept in reserve at Burrakur. I do not think more will be required.

21. The number of people on road relief works is represented in Colonel Rowlatt's report of the 25th as 2,642. He informs me that the labourers are in very good condition, which he thinks is due to the early period at which work on bandhs and roads was provided; but considering that Manbhoom has a floating population of two or three hundred thousand people of low caste, whose ordinary condition is that of the labourer, the number given as taking to road work appears very small. I am inclined to think that one cause of the comparative paucity of workpeople in Manbhoom may be found in the system of contract under which road works are done there. Of course the contractor takes his fair share of work out of each man, and it may be that he is not very partial to weak or sickly workpeople. Colonel Rowlatt's attention will be requested to this.

22. The report of the 25th gives no estimate of the numbers employed on the works for which advances have been given under the Land Improvement Act. Colonel Rowlatt tells me that from want of supervising agency he is unable to obtain accurate returns, but he roughly estimates that there are on all works not less than 20,000 people employed.

23. With my No. 760, of the 25th March 1874, I submitted to Government a report which Mr. Mackenzie, the Extra Assistant Commissioner of Gobindpore sub-division, had received of death of the four boys at villages near the Damoodur, in Jherriah, it was alleged, from starvation. These casualties have not yet been tested. The zemindar of Jherriah reported that he had heard of two deaths only, and was of opinion that the starvation may have been superadded by the villagers to excite commiseration. If this be so, the ruse was successful as the zemindar, Rajah Rasbehari Singh, has started a tank as a work for the people of the distressed villages, and opened a relief-house within easy distance of them. A branch committee has been established for Jherriah, and subscriptions raised sufficient to meet the relief measures immediately required. This zemindar is apparently doing his duty to his people, and the Sandra Rani is behaving with her usual liberality. I have given my sanction to an additional relief work in the Gobindpore

sub-division. A road from Gobindpore, through Beliapore Baghmara, to cross the Damoodur near Ghurbur, which is well calculated to give effective relief to the distressed villages adverted to above. The line has been examined by Colonel Rowlatt and Mr. Mackenzie. By this new route a considerable saving of distance will be effected between Gobindpore and Purulia. I need say no more about Manbhoom as the Deputy Commissioner's report of the 25th, now before Government, is full and clear, and I have no later information of importance except what is above given.

24. *Singbhoom.*—I have received no report from Singbhoom since the 18th ultimo. Captain Garbett has been in camp all the time, and on the date of the latest letter I have received from him, the 20th ultimo, he was, I am sorry to say, suffering from fever. He says he has been making a thorough inspection of all the new Kolhan reservoirs, and that they are getting on famously. He calculates that about 4,000 people are employed on them daily. This is in addition to the road works, so that labour has been provided for a very fair proportion of the inhabitants of the Kolhan. Captain Garbett concludes as follows:—

"I do not now believe, as I at one time feared, that we shall have general and severe distress in the Kolhan. I am, however, quite sure that but for the assistance rendered we should have now had sore trouble."

No. 2275—S.R.

From A. MACKENZIE, ESQ., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the COMMISSIONER of CHOTA NAGPORE.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR, Calcutta, the 10th April 1874.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 874½, dated the 31st March 1874, being your report on the state and prospects of your division for the fortnight ending 30th March 1874.

2. The salient points in this report have, the Lieutenant-Governor observes, been already dealt with in the Government order passed on the District Narratives for Palamow and Maunbhoom, and on the special reference regarding Hazareebaugh.

3. In my separate letter No. 2230 of yesterday's date, you have already been informed that over 20,000 maunds of rice have been sent up to Giridhi for the use of Hazareebaugh district. I am to request that you will be good enough to report whether you wish any further quantity to be sent up to the same place. In the meantime further despatches have been stopped.

4. An extract (paragraph 7) of your report will be communicated to the Public Works Department of this Government, with a request that the services of Mr. Parkinson, who is a good energetic man, may be fully utilised.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 2276—S.R.

Extract paragraph 4 of this letter, with extract quoted, forwarded to the Public Works Department of this Government for information and guidance.

No. 2277—S.R.

Extract paragraph 3 forwarded to Mr. Toynbee for information and guidance.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. MACKENZIE,
Calcutta, the 10th April 1874. Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 610, dated Purulia, the 6th April 1874.

From Colonel E. A. ROWLATT, Deputy Commissioner of Maunbhoom, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Scarcity and Relief Department.

With reference to paragraph 3, Government circular No. 154—S.R., dated the 16th January last, I have the honour to submit my narrative for the fortnight ending the 4th instant.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Since the importation of Government rice has commenced and the mohwa flowers have begun to fall, the price of rice has in some few places become somewhat easier, and supplies are more readily obtainable, as those who have stocks of grain begin to see that it is of no use holding out for excessive high prices. In remote and inaccessible places especially, where there are no bazars or large dealers, great scarcity still prevails, and in these it is reported that the lower classes are living almost entirely on mohwa, which has begun to fall most opportunely, and will yield a full crop in the southern parts of the district, and not much less in the centre of it. It is variously estimated that the mohwa crop will last the people for from one to two months, according as trees abound or are scarce. It unfortunately happens, however, that in the worst parts of the district there are but few trees, in fact that along the road between Raghunathpore and Chandankiari on the Hazaribagh road, which I rode over a few days ago, I saw but very few trees, and in Torang and Hesla, I was told they had all been cut down for firewood. In the sub-division of Govindpore mohwa trees are pretty thick, and the crop is reported to be a good one. As the consumption, however, of mohwa will be greater this year than is ordinarily the case, it will not last so long as usual, and very little will be left for storage and consumption hereafter.

The prices of rice and pulses by the last reports received from the police up to the 4th instant are as follow:—

Names of Places.	Coarse Rice.	Fine Rice.	Pulses.
	Seers.	Seers.	Seers.
Raipore - - - -	17	16	15
Manbazar - - -	16	15	11
Burrabazar - - -	16	12	10
Echagarh - - -	18	16	12
Jhalda - - - -	14	13	12
Purulia - - - -	15	12	10
Govindpore - - -	13	12	13
Raghunathpore - - -	12	11	10
Nirsha - - - -	12	11	10
Gaurandih - - -	12	11	11

The mango crop will be almost an entire failure.

There are now no crops on the ground except the sugarcane, which has been lately planted. A small quantity of cheena seed has been procured from Arrah with which to make an experiment, but it is too soon yet to know whether it will succeed or not.

The only people who are at present suffering from actual want of a sufficiency of food are the beggars, numbers of whom abound in all the towns and large villages. These find it no longer possible to pick up a scanty subsistence in their usual haunts, and are therefore flocking into the relief centres, where large numbers are being fed daily on cooked food. The laboring classes are still in most places pretty well supplied with work, but many of the reservoirs and tanks for which tuccavee advances have been made are now finished or nearly so, and large numbers, hitherto employed on these works, will soon be without employment, so that the resort of larger numbers to the roads until rain again falls may surely be expected. As soon as rain again falls ploughing, which has now almost ceased, will recommence. It is reported that a large number of those just above the class of out-of-door laborers are now living on one meal a day, and distress is, I fear, likely to increase amongst this class.

Cases of distress have been reported from several localities, especially all along the borders of the Damudah river in pergunnahs Nowagarh, Jherria, and Pandra, but for all these work has been provided in the construction of reservoirs and on roads undertaken as relief works. In some villages in pergunnah Chelliama great distress is said to prevail, and Captain Samuells, the relief officer at Raghunathpore, has proceeded there with a supply both of food and money, and will make the necessary arrangements for the relief of these villages through the sub-committee at Chelliama, which has lately been established. Distress has also been reported in some villages in the north-east of pergunnah Charra, to where rice will be sent to-morrow; and from pergunnah Bagdah 33 persons have been sent in by the police to Purulia, who, being beggars, were entirely destitute of the means of subsistence. Several cases of deaths from starvation have been reported, but these, I am happy to say, after full inquiry, have been found to be deaths from disease, and were evidently reported by the villagers as deaths from starvation in order to excite sympathy, and in the hopes of obtaining gratuitous assistance in food and money.

Thefts of grain have increased, and one case of plundering has taken place at Hudlachak in pergunnah Chelliama, the object of which was clearly to obtain food. The number of persons in hajat is also increasing, and getting beyond the powers of the present staff of officers to deal with. An officer with full magisterial powers to take up the police cases is urgently required.

The tracts referred to in my last narrative still continue the most distressed, and I am sorry to say the area still continues to increase by the addition of distress in pergunnah Nowagarh in the west of the Govindpore sub-division, and that of Bagda to the south-east of Purulia, which is now in as bad a state as any of the other pergunnahs of the north-east portion of the district.

B.—Relief Works.

The number of roads now in progress of construction as relief works amounts to 12, and sanction has just been received from the Commissioner to continue work on the Govindpore and Purulia road, which will afford employment to those in distress in pergunnahs Cheliama and Jheria, through which it passes, and in which this road has yet to be completed. The district, however, is suffering for want of supervising agency, as for all these works, measuring 252½ miles in length, we have only one executive engineer, one supervisor, and four road overseers, who are quite unable and insufficient in number to superintend the work properly, and orders have been received transferring the supervisor to Singbhoom.

The roads are as follows, and their length, and the number of laborers employed on each, is given as near as the returns, which are still imperfect, will admit. I believe that very many more are being employed, and hope shortly to get correct returns of the numbers actually at work on them:—

No.	Name of Road.	Length in miles.	Numbers employed.
		Miles	
1	Purulia and Chaibassa road - - -	36	521
2	Branch from Chaibassa to Burrabazar - -	18	118
3	Purulia and Manbazar road - - -	28	708
4	Purulia and Bankoora road - - -	27	922
5	Branch from Charra to join at Singhbazar -	4½	120
6	Ludhurka and Gaurandih road - - -	17	552
7	Raghunathpore and Hazareebagh road - -	37	1,100
8	„ Bankoora road - -	15	685
9	„ Ranigunge road - -	14	800
10	Govindpore and Giridih road - - -	21½	792
11	Nirsha and Jamtara road - - -	7	126
12	„ Tenkupi road - - -	12	—
13	Govindpore and Purulia road from Chelliama -	16	—
	Total - - -	252½	6,444

The roads numbered 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11 have been completely marked out, and parties are at work all along them. Nos. 3 and 7 are marked out except in a few places, which will soon be done; the work, however, is not interrupted in consequence. No. 10 has been marked out as far as Tundihnagar, and I am now in correspondence with the Deputy Commissioner of Hazareebagh whether it should go on straight to Serampore or join the Hazareebagh and Giridih road at the crossing over the Burrakur river. Nos. 12 and 13 have still to be marked out, and orders have been sent to place laborers on these roads as soon as possible from the distressed villages along the Damudah, and not wait to do so till the whole lines can be completely laid out. The laborers obtain their supplies at the bazars, hâts, and shops in the vicinity of the works, and some of the contractors have also established depôts from which the laborers draw their supplies at the current rates of the neighbourhood. The condition of the laborers on the roads is satisfactory; they are paid, if they work as daily laborers, at 6 pice the men and 4 the women, whilst those who take the task-work make about the same or a little more if they work hard. There has been a difficulty in procuring tools in sufficient numbers fast enough, but this has been pretty successfully met by purchases made at Râneegunge, Bankoora, Jhalda, and other places in the district. The smelters and blacksmiths of the district have been kept in full employ much to their advantage, as the price of kodals has risen from 7 or 8 to 10 or 11 annas each, and the numbers of kodals and picks purchased for use on the roads, tanks, and reservoirs has been very large indeed.

The excavation of three large tanks in Purulia from the municipal loan lately made by Government has been commenced, on which 125 people are employed, and one other has been commenced on as a relief work by the district relief committee, on which 263 persons are employed, who are not able to do a full day's work.

TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

Food is still being brought up largely from Singhboom and the south and south-west of the district into the central and north-eastern pergunnahs both by pack-bullocks and carts. There appears to be no deficiency of carriage, and every effort it was possible to make has been resorted to in order to improve the road leading from Chaibassa to Purulai after it enters this district at the Mankoi ghat on the Subarnarekha river. The Government grain delivered at Burrakur by the East Indian Railway has been rapidly transported along the Grand Trunk Road to Nirsha and Govindpore, and by the Burrakur and Purulia road to Rughunathpore. To show the immense advantage of having a good road to make use of in a case like the present, I may mention that carts loaded one day at Burrakur delivered the grain the next morning at Rughunathpore, a distance of 21 miles, which, had there been no road, would have taken them at least three days; and this they did although they had to halve the loads and make two trips each across the sands of the Damudah, to prevent the necessity of which, and to guard against the possibility of a block there, in case it may become necessary to transport large quantities of grain from Barrakur to Rughunathpore, a temporary light causeway is being made across the bed of the Damudah, which will effectually prevent any such block taking place.

STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN.

Between the 28th March and 3rd April, 11,742 maunds of Government rice have been delivered by the East Indian Railway at the Bunakar station, which has all been despatched by cart and stored, at Nirsha 2,542 maunds, at Govindpore 2,766 maunds, at Raghunathpore 5,434 maunds, and 1,000 maunds have been sent to be stored at Poddardih in Pandra pergunnah for the use of the sub-relief committee at that place. Golahs are being constructed at all the above places, and in the meantime storage accommodation has been arranged for in various private and public buildings which have been taken up for the purpose. The sub-district relief committee at Manbazar is also arranging for the storage of 1,000 maunds of rice at that place for the use of the branch committees subordinate to it.

Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

Advances for the purchase of grain have now been made by me to 45 individuals, amounting altogether to Rs. 17,595, out of the lakh of rupees placed at my disposal by the Government for that purpose, and applicants are still coming forward.

A loan of Rs. 4,000 has been received by the Purulia municipal committee with which a debt of Rs. 1,000 has been paid off, and the balance is being expended in the clearing out and improvement of several large tanks in the town, which hitherto have been sinks of filthiness and hot beds of disease. Advances to the extent of Rs. 53,550 have also been made to 228 private parties for land improvements, which have been expended in the construction of reservoirs and excavation of tanks. Most of the persons who have taken these advances have applied them faithfully to the purpose for which the loans were granted; a few, however, have done either little or nothing; and one or two instances have been reported in which the money has been applied to other purposes, such as paying off debts, getting married, &c. I therefore have directed a prosecution under Section 417, Indian Penal Code, to be instituted against one person who has thus been guilty of obtaining a loan under fraudulent pretences, which will, I have no doubt, have a very salutary effect, and act as an effectual stimulant on those who may have intended to apply the money to a different purpose from that for which it was advanced. I fear very few others will now apply for advances to whom such could be safely made.

Charitable Relief.

On the 11th of March a district relief committee was established at Purulia, and shortly after sub-divisional committees were formed at Govindpore and Raghunathpore; and on Saturday, the 4th instant, I presided at a meeting at Manbazar, where a sub-divisional committee was also formed and arrangements made for setting sub-committees at work at four places in subordination to it. It was arranged that a store of 1,000 maunds of rice be laid in at once, and depôts established at Manbazar and Bagda for the supply of cooked food to all persons in distress who are unable to work, and also to render assistance to all others who might be in need of it. Cooked food is also being supplied daily at Purulia, Govindpore, Podardih, and Raghunathpore, to about Rs. 600 indigent and diseased persons, who are quite incapable of working, and are no longer able to procure alms in their villages. The arrangements at present are sufficient to meet the necessities of the times; but should distress increase to a greater extent further measures will have to be adopted, and more officers will be required to carry them out.

At the present date there are the district relief committees at Purulia, three sub-divisional committees at Govindpore, Raghunathpore, and Manbazar, and 22 sub-committees at work spread over the district from the north-west to the south-east part of it, and at present these will suffice. To each of the sub-divisional committees Rs. 1,000 have been sent in aid of the subscriptions they have raised, to enable them to commence relief operations at once. The most intelligent and respectable persons of the neighbourhood have been selected to form the sub-committees. Where cooked food is supplied, the members of the committees are each provided with a certain number of blank tickets, which are given by them to those seeking such relief, on which the name of the person is written. With these the persons admitted to receive food go to the depôt, when the ticket is numbered, and the number and name of the party entered in the register, and then all who can show a ticket get food and no others receive any. By this means every case is properly inquired into before relief by cooked food is supplied, and none who are able to work are admitted, but are sent to labour on the nearest relief works. Sheds are being built at the depôts for the accommodation of the lame and blind, and those who are unable to return to their villages after taking their food.

Cotton will also be given out to poor women of respectable families, who may be in distress to spin into thread, for which they will be paid in rice, and this thread will then be made over to indigent weavers to weave into cloth, for which they also will be paid in rice, and the cloth then be sold or given away on charity to those who are unable to procure any themselves. This will, I consider, be necessary even for decency's sake, as it is pretty certain that those who cannot feed themselves will also be unable to provide clothes. It is also intended to assist indigent silk-weavers in the same way by supplying them with cocoons.

Total expenditure from the district and sub-divisional treasury, as shown in last narrative, Rs. 24,146-6-3.

Expenditure during the Fortnight under Report.

		Rs.	A.	P.
Relief Work	No. 1, 1st section, Chaibassa road, Purulia to Kantadihi -	176	0	3
Ditto	No. 2, 1st ditto ditto Kantadihi to Chota Urma -	37	9	3
Ditto	No. 3, 3rd ditto ditto Chota Urma to Jajodi -	107	13	0
Ditto	No. 4, 3rd ditto ditto Jcjodi to Jamdi - -	296	12	0
Ditto	No. 5, 4th ditto ditto Jamdi to Subarnarekha -	864	10	0
Ditto	No. 6, road from hospital to English school - - -		—	
Ditto	No. 7, 1st section, Bancoorah road, from Purulia to Singbazar	817	8	0
Ditto	No. 8, 2nd ditto ditto Singbazar to Ludhurka -	302	0	0
Ditto	No. 9, 3rd ditto ditto Ludhurka to Hoorah -		—	
Ditto	No. 10, 4th ditto ditto Hoorah to Chatnah -	356	8	0
Ditto	No. 11, Chara junction - - - - - -	193	0	0
Ditto	No. 12, road from Damda to Burra bazar - - -	134	7	3
Ditto	No. 13, 1st section, Manbazar road, Purulia to Kenda - -	736	14	0
Ditto	No. 14, 2nd ditto ditto Kenda to Manbazar -	690	4	10
Ditto	No. 15, Govindpore and Lundih road - - - -		—	
Ditto	No. 16, road from Nirsa towards Jamtara - - -		—	
Ditto	No. 17, Roghunathpore sub-division - - - -	902	8	3
Ditto	No. 18, road from Ludhuka to Gaurandih - - -	532	5	9
	Total - -	6,148	4	7
	Advance to Captain Hare for transport of grain from Burrakar - -	600	0	0
	To Captain Samuells for construction of grain—			
	Golah at Roghunathpore and contingent charges - - - -	500	0	0
	Payment of establishment at Burrakar - - - -		—	
	On account of advances made for purchase of food—			
	Total advances made during the fortnight to trustworthy residents to purchase grain - - - - - - - - -	1,000	0	0
	To traders for purchasing grain - - - - - -	2,510	0	0
	To zemindars to assist their ryots - - - - - -	1,000	0	0
	To zemindars and others for land improvements - - -	4,230	0	0
	Total of fortnight's expenditure -	15,988	4	7
	Total to end of fortnight -	40,134	10	10

RESOLUTION.

Scarcity and Relief Department.

Calcutta, the 9th April 1874.

Read—

The Maunbhoom Narrative for the fortnight ending 4th April 1874.

1. The falling of the mohwa crop, and the importation of Government rice are said to have had the effect of rendering prices easier in this district. Common rice is now nowhere dearer than 12 seers per rupee, and in the south of the district can be got at 16, 17, and even 18 seers. The mohwa crop has made a material addition to the food-supply, estimated at from one to two months food, according as the trees are scarce or abound. Unhappily they are scarce in the north where distress is worst. Only the begging class are suffering from actual want, and are flocking to the relief centres and eating cooked food without scruple. Work is provided for all the labouring poor. All the cases of deaths from starvation that have been reported, have proved on inquiry to be deaths from disease.

2. Colonel Rowlatt complains of the weakness of his supervising staff. The wants of more severely distressed districts prevent his getting more men; but if he can find locally any persons fit for employment as sub-overseers, he may entertain them. The returns show only 6,444 persons on road work, but the Deputy Commissioner believes that there are in reality very many more. He must arrange to obtain complete information on this matter, which is one of primary importance; any failure in obtaining this information will be regarded by the Lieutenant-Governor as an administrative shortcoming. It is expected that the next report will give a full and correct return. 388 persons are employed on other works.

3. The Government grain received (11,742 maunds), has gone easily forward and been stored. The Commissioner believes that this district will not require more than 27,000 maunds.

4. It is satisfactory to learn that most of the money advanced to private parties has been properly utilised.

5. The arrangements for charitable relief seem now complete and capable of further expansion if need be. About 600 indigent and diseased persons are in daily receipt of cooked food.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 2245—S.R.

COPY forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Maunbhoom, and to the Commissioner of Chota Nagpore.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
A. MACKENZIE,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, the 9th April 1874.

Enclosure No. 9.

No. 3M.A., dated Calcutta, the 7th April 1874.

From LORD H. ULICK BROWNE, Commissioner of the Presidency Division, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL, Scarcity and Relief Department.

In continuation of my No. 40M.A., dated 26th March 1874, submitting the fortnightly narrative of the Collector of Nuddea for the fortnight ending 23rd March 1874, I have now the honour to submit the collector's report for the fortnight ending 6th April 1874.

2. *Heading firstly, advances to import grain.*—Blank.

3. *Heading secondly, public works relief.*—There is so much employment afforded by the tank-digging carried out by private individuals, that comparatively few relief works are required on the part of Government. This is an excellent thing, as the road work will be useful when the rains set in and put an end to tank work. The last labor return I have received shows rather less than 4,000 people known to be employed on tanks and road work, and 800 less than were shown in the return for the previous week. This is probably owing to some demand for labour in connexion with sowing or preparations for sowing the aous crop.

4. *Heading thirdly, provision of food for relief works.*—Blank.

5. *Heading fourthly, charitable relief.*—The collector has not yet sent me a list of the proposed members of the district relief committee, though I have reminded him on the subject more than once.

He has, however, been in communication with some of the gentlemen selected, and I expect to receive the list at any moment.

6. *Heading fifthly.*—Land-owners and land-holders continue to take out tuccavee loans for tanks.

No. 368—S.R., dated Kishnaghur, the 6th April 1874.

From C. C. STEVENS, ESQ., Collector of Nuddea, to the COMMISSIONER of the PRESIDENCY DIVISION.

I HAVE the honor to submit the following report on the condition of the district during the fortnight ending this day.

2. The reports received from the several sub-divisions show that there is sufficient grain everywhere except in thana Jaguli, where the trade of rice and paddy is very limited. But as most of the zemindars have paddy-lending concerns, and there are also mahajuns who give out paddy to the ryots, there is little or no chance of there being any actual want of food. The sub-divisional officer of Kooshtea reports that "the stock of grain is sufficient to meet the local demands at the current rates." The assistant collector of Meherpore says that, as a general rule, there is no great difficulty in getting rice. The deputy collector of Ranaghat believes that except in thana Jaguli grains are plentiful everywhere else. The assistant collector of Bongong say that "it may be confidently asserted that there is little or no chance of there being any actual want of food in this sub-division." The sub-divisional officer of Chooadanga reports that the coarse varieties of rice are to be had in plenty at all the principal hâts of the sub-division, and that a brisk importation of the better qualities is going on, and the bazars are invariably well supplied. The supply of rice in the north of the Sudder and west of the Meherpore sub-divisions is scanty.

There has been one slight shower of rain in the last fortnight, but it appears to have been very unequally distributed. The latest news from Kooshtea and Meherpore show a considerable fall of rain on Saturday last. Almost all the rubee crops have been removed from the fields, and the yield has been more than was expected. The ploughing of lands for the great sowing (aous) of Baisakh has been vigorously prosecuted everywhere, and the land will probably be unusually well-tilled this year. Sowings of aous crop in low lands have commenced in Meherpore.

3. There has been no great fluctuations in the prices of grain. They have continued steady, and the following are the rates of coarse rice which have prevailed in the several principal marts:—

	Per maund.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
Meherpore	2	9	0
Bongong	2	4	0
Ranaghat	2	8	0
Santipore	2	8	0
Chogda	2	8	0
Haringhati	2	12	0
Kishnaghur	2	13	0

4. In by far the greatest part of the district I do not think that anything more than "pressure," and that not very severe, is felt. In the north-west of the district, however, there is no doubt that the middle class people are beginning to suffer want, and measures are now being taken for their assistance. The people of a class accustomed to field labour are somewhat better off in consequence of the large quantity of work being provided for them both from Government funds and from tuccavee loans.

5. The means of transport are sufficient. In Kooshtea, about 8,000 maunds of food-grains have been reported to have been imported, and about 10,000 maunds have been passed through that sub-division during the fortnight. From Chooadanga the through traffic has been reported to have been very considerable; about 20,000 maunds are estimated to have been imported, and 590 maunds exported. In Bongong both the import and export trade has considerably decreased, as the mahajuns everywhere are said to have now opened their golahs. In Ranaghat the supplies received are estimated to be 514 maunds of rice, 365 maunds of paddy, besides other kinds of grains. The Meherpore sub-division is said to have been supplied with 7,000 maunds of rice from Eastern Bengal. The export of rice from the district generally has received a natural check from high prices.

6. The portion of the district which is suffering most has been alluded to above. It is satisfactory that, from the manner in which work has been spread, the people have been enabled to attend carefully to their cultivation. I regret to say that there is a good deal of cholera in the distressed parts, and that I have had to provide three native doctors for that tract alone.

7. *Storage of Government grain.*—None; nor is any needed.

8. A relief committee has been organized, and subscriptions are being raised, chiefly with the view of affording employment to people who will spin cotton and to the weavers.

9. Twelve case of grain-thefts have been reported by the police. No cases of death or starvation have come to light.

10. Of the tanks undertaken from Government funds, those at Chandghur, Mira, and Hatgacha have almost been finished. More work will have to be provided in those neighbourhoods. The average daily number of persons on the Government works in the distressed parts is about 1,150, and is not at present increasing.

No. 2379—S.R.

From A. Mackenzie, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner to the Presidency Division.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,

Calcutta, the 14th April 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 3M.A., dated the 7th instant, submitting a copy of the Nuddea district fortnightly ending 6th idem,

2. With reference to the above, I am to say that the summary of results recorded therein affords satisfaction to the Lieutenant-Governor, and his honor will be glad to have the names of the individuals, who having distinguished themselves by providing tank-work for the relief of the distressed in this district.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. Mackenzie.
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

ENCLOSURE No. 10 TO THE 15TH SPECIAL NARRATIVE.

Return of Men, Women, and Children employed on Relief Works on Districts of Rajshahye, Patna, and Bhagulpore Divisions for the fortnight ending 7th April 1874.

Name of District.		Total number of persons employed during the 14 days.				Mean daily number of persons employed during the 14 days.				Number of persons employed on the last of the 14 days.				Remarks.
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	
Rajshahye Division.	Moorshedabad - - -	52,524	4,157	1,850	58,531	3,750	297	132	4,179	3,452	339	136	3,927	45 per cent. non-labouring class.
	Dinagepore - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Statement not received.
	Maldah - - - -	36,020	5,517	2,105	43,642	2,609	400	151	3,160	2,753	374	198	3,325	38 per cent. non-labouring class.
	Rajshahye - - - -	46,790	1,378	10,654	58,817	3,332	97	749	4,178	12,49	99	111	1,459	No information regarding non-labouring class.
	Rungpore - - - -	11,918	—	2,022	13,935	1,040	—	167	1,207	1,042	—	337	1,379	Ditto ditto ditto.
	Bograh - - - -	98,346	91,157	118,707	308,210	6,660	6,509	7,622	20,791	9,868	11,244	17,244	38,386	98 per cent. non-labouring class.
	Total -	240,598	102,204	135,338	478,135	17,391	7,303	8,821	33,515	18,364	12,086	18,026	48,476	
Patna Division.	Patna - - - - -	50,821	72,780	27,690	151,291	3,641	5,216	3,633	12,490	3,958	5,813	1,991	11,762	11 per cent. non-labouring class.
	Gya - - - - -	9,699	11,851	4,250	25,800	726	894	328	1,948	929	1,808	806	2,543	All labouring class.
	Shahabad - - - -	27,212	12,612	4,698	44,522	1,944	901	335	3,180	2,427	1,117	344	3,888	27 per cent. non-labouring class.
	Tirhoot - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Statement not received.
	Sarun - - - - -	688,644	473,547	497,423	1,659,614	49,831	34,887	35,384	120,102	56,534	38,844	39,671	135,049	33 per cent. non-labouring class.
	Chumparun - - - -	575,422	361,069	174,168	1,110,659	40,864	25,691	13,419	79,974	35,648	29,656	13,739	79,043	43¾ per cent. non-labouring class.
	Total -	1,851,798	981,859	708,229	2,991,886	97,006	67,589	53,099	2,17,694	99,496	76,738	56,051	232,285	
Bhagulpore Division.	Monghyr - - - -	23,916	12,981	4,284	41,181	1,701	921	296	2,918	1,630	1,068	373	3,071	14 per cent. non-labouring class.
	Bhagulpore - - - -	71,936	23,910	14,950	110,796	7,203	2,657	1,539	11,399	8,045	3,130	1,954	13,129	No information regarding non-labouring class.
	Purneah - - - -	173,122	15,995	31,007	220,124	12,366	1,143	2,250	15,759	14,357	1,504	2,559	18,420	93 per cent. Girhasts.'
	Sonthal Pergunnahs - - -	34,170	22,050	7,278	63,498	2,434	1,568	514	4,516	2,763	1,763	678	5,204	No information regarding non-labouring class.
	Total -	303,144	74,936	57,464	435,544	23,704	6,289	4,599	34,592	26,795	7,465	5,564	39,824	

J. E. T. NICOLLS, Col. R.E.,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department.

Calcutta, the 14th April 1874

No. 2446—S.R.

From A. Mackenzie, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Scarcity and Relief.

Sir,

Calcutta, dated 17th April, 1874.

In continnation of Mr. Bernard's letter No. 2271—S.R., dated 10th April, submitting a report on cases of known deaths from starvation up to the 10th instant, I am directed to state that, in paragraph 16 of the Tirhoot Narrative for the fortnight ending 4th April (enclosure No. 4 to the 15th Narrative), several deaths are reported to have occurred in Madhoobunnee sub-division, of which perhaps five may be fairly attributed to privation. The three deaths in Hathi sub-division, noticed in the last letter, are now reported to have been deaths of persons actually in receipt of gratuitous relief, who died from diarrhœa (possibly the consequence of previous privation); they certainly did not die from starvation. The two deaths from Simrahi, also noticed in the letter of the 10th April, are the same as those described in the Bhagulpore Narrative (enclosure No. 5 of the 15th Narrative) in the words quoted in the margin. But it is now stated by the Deputy Collector that there had been great irregularity in the payment of wages to the work-people on this tank, which is Court of Wards' (Durbhunga Raj) work, and he seems to attribute the deaths to this cause. The Commissioner has been directed by telegram to look into the matter at once, and report the real facts and parties to blame, after remedying any defects of this kind in the system of payment.

"Two deaths have been just reported at the Mullarh tank: a child of 13 months from inanition, and one of the working coolies. The Deputy Collector Baboo Ramsunker Sen says he received the body, and considers starvation to have been the cause; but Mr. Duff (the Relief Superintendent) does not say so. The deceased's wife and three children were working at the tank as well, and were not newcomers."

2. From Durbhunga the sub-divisional officer reports three deaths; one a child in arms whose mother was unable to suckle it; a second that of a laborer on the Bahera road in receipt of daily pay; third that of a man found dead on the road between Durbhunga and Bahera. The cause of the death in the last case is not stated, and looking to the ample provision for relief afforded in that part of the country, and the many thousands who are taking advantage of it, the probabilities are that the death was not directly due to starvation at all. None of these Durbhunga deaths seem to fall within the category of known starvation deaths.

3. To sum up, if we deduct from the 17 cases reported up to 10th instant, the three deaths in Hathi, now ascertained to have been due to disease, and add the five deaths now reported from Mudhoobunnee, and the two cases from Simrahi (which, if the sub-divisional officers account of them be true ought perhaps to be included), we get a total, up to date, of 21 deaths attributable mainly to privation.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. Mackenzie,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 24 of 1874.

Government of India.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

Famine.

To the Most Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Marquis,

Calcutta, the 24th April 1874.

In continuation of our despatches on the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal, we have the honor to forward the Supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 22nd instant, containing the usual statements of prices current and of the condition and prospects of the crops. It will be noticed that in prices there is scarcely any change, that the cold weather crops in Behar are for the most part harvested, and that in Chota Nagpore considerable relief is being afforded by the mohwa crop.

2. Sir Richard Temple is still in North Tirhoot, and we learn from him by telegraph that although in that district and in Chumparun distress is gradually increasing everywhere, it is effectually met, and preparations are being matured to arrest any sudden increase in it. The local authorities, acting under the

Lieutenant-Governor's orders, are making great efforts to break up the large gangs of labourers on relief works, and to draft the infirm and the old—women and children—to their villages, retaining the able-bodied men on the roads. These measures will effect a large reduction of the numbers on the roads, and will bring a consequent strain on the village circle system, which is being strengthened to meet the pressure so caused. The Lieutenant-Governor adds that the health of the people is good, and their physical appearance improving since the relief operations commenced. We trust to submit to Your Lordship the details of all these measures in the next special narrative.

3. No fresh cases of known deaths from starvation have been reported during the week, as will be seen from the enclosed letter from the Government of Bengal.

4. We forward herewith the *Allahabad Gazette* of the 18th instant, containing the prices current and the district reports of the North-Western Provinces. On the whole, and excepting the district of Goruckpore, these reports continue to be very satisfactory. The enclosed correspondence with the North-West Government will further inform Your Lordship of the measures of relief adopted in Bustee and Goruckpore, and of our opinion of those measures.

5. In our despatch of the 27th ultimo,* we forwarded a correspondence with the Chief Commissioner of Oudh, relative to the measures taken to mitigate scarcity in that Province. We now learn from Sir George Couper, who has recently visited the distressed tracts, that the relief works are in full operation, giving employment to about 25,000 persons, that a temporary reduction of these numbers will be caused by the gathering of the mohwa and the mango crops, which are good, and that if the usual rain sets in seasonably there will be no further fear of famine. *Part IV., pp. 3 and 5.

6. From the Government of Madras we have received the accompanying papers† relative to the partial failure of the crops in certain districts and to the measures there taken to avert distress. We await the result of the report to be submitted by the officer deputed to visit the districts concerned; it will be noted that in the opinion of the local Government the distress will not be severe. †Page 156.

7. In continuation of paragraph 7 of our despatch, No. 14 of the 6th ultimo,‡ we enclose a comparative statement§ shewing the quantity of food-grains, in detail, exported from the Presidency of Bengal in the six months, from 1st October to 31st March, in the official years 1872-73 and 1873-74. ‡Part II., page 184. §Page 168.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient and humble Servants,
NORTHBROOK.
NAPIER OF MAGDALA.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.
J. F. D. INGLIS.

No. 2608—S.R.

From A. Mackenzie, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

Sir, Calcutta, dated the 23rd April 1874.

In continuation of my letter No. 2446—S.R., dated 17th instant, I am directed to state that no fresh cases of known deaths from starvation have been reported during the week in the sub-divisional returns, most of which are now to hand. In the Dinagepore district narrative for the fortnight ending 20th April, Mr. Lowis, however, writes,—"Two deaths from starvation were "reported to me" (in thana Beergunge of that district, where distress had not been anticipated); "on enquiry it turns out that these men did not actually die of starvation, but of sickness, still "there is no doubt that their deaths were hastened by want of proper nourishment. The officer "who went to enquire, was also told that one old beggar woman, who had no one to look after "her, had died from want of food, her usual alms being refused her by the villagers." The real facts as regards this last case, if it occurred, do not appear to have been ascertained. None of those cases can, perhaps, be classed as known starvation deaths, but are of the character of those described in Mr. Bernard's letter No 1835—S.R., dated 26th March.

I have the honor to be, &c.

No. 348A. of 1874.

From C. A. Elliott, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to the Secretary to Government of India, Revenue Department.

Sir, Dated Allahabad, the 16th April 1874.

I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency, the Governor-General in Council, a copy of my letter to Commissioner of Benares, No. 341A, dated 16th instant, being a review of the reports of a committee appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor to visit the districts of Goruckpore and Bustee on the condition and prospects of those districts.

I have the honor to be, &c.

No. 341A. of 1874.

From C. A. Elliott, Esq., Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, to the Commissioner, Benares Division, Scarcity Department.

Sir, Dated Allahabad, the 16th April, 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, Nos. 51A. and 51B., dated the 22nd and 30th March, containing the views of the Travelling Famine Commission which was appointed to report on the condition of the Goruckpore and Bustee Districts.

2. Mr. Simson and yourself, with Colonel Davidson, entered the district of Goruckpore at Burhul Ghat, and marched northward to Nichloul, then westward to Bansee, thence diverged towards Mendhawul, and finally proceeded southward to Bustee. All the gangs and poor-houses were visited; the officials and native gentlemen consulted; and a full report is now submitted with proposals for the relief of both districts.

3. Throughout this tract the northern half is by far the most distressed. Rice is there the main staple and it entirely failed. Where winter crops are ordinarily sown for a second harvest, after the rice has been reaped, these also, from the early cessation of the rains, were not sown. The loss therefore, over all this northern area, has been most disastrous. But it is more complete in the Goruckpore District than in Bustee. The Maharajgunge Tuhseel in Goruckpore is the worst: towards the west things are not so bad. It is gratifying to observe that this improvement westward is in some degree due to Messrs. Bridgman and Peppe's irrigation works having preserved much rice on their estates, of which the former lies in both districts, and Mr. Peppe's estate in Bustee.

4. The Committee have closely inspected the labor gangs and also the poor-houses, and their instructions have been on all points judicious. The gangs in Goruckpore were found to be remarkably efficient and orderly. Mr. Lumsden deserves great credit for all his arrangements, which are characterized, as you say, "everywhere by forethought, care, and supervision." Mr. Peart, the District Engineer, has also done excellent service, which has been acknowledged by promotion in his department.

5. The organisation of the labour gangs was not found to be so efficient in Bustee, chiefly through inattention on the part of the District Engineer. Another officer, Mr. Tait, has now been sent to take his place; the errors and defects noticed by you have been duly remedied; and it may be hoped that the department will now be worked effectively. Mr. P. Wigram's health has broken down under the anxiety of the district charge, which he has administered with much care and good judgment. To Mr. Elliot, who has already had some experience of the district and of the distressed parts, the Lieutenant-Governor looks to see that all the arrangements connected with the relief and supply of grains are adequate and well regulated.

6. The supervision in both districts seems to be for the present sufficient, but if any material increase of labourers should occur, some additional agency may be needed. This will be readily granted. Mr. Mills, an officer of police, has been deputed to Goruckpore, and he will be able to take the oversight of some of the heavy gangs; he is well qualified for this work by his experience in similar duty at Lullutpore in 1868-9. The stationing of a European officer at Nichloul is most necessary; and the Lieutenant-Governor would impress on both magistrates the necessity of having the gangs frequently visited by their European staff and their superior native officials.

7. In a tract so extensive, and in which the failure both of the spring and of the autumn crops has been so general, it may be feared that the present harvest will not bring the relief which it is doing elsewhere; and that the numbers on the works will, especially in Goruckpore, continue to increase till the new crops of rice come. There are, by the last reports, above 24,000 already on the works in Goruckpore, and 21,000 in Bustee; and material relief and abatement are hardly to be looked for till September. It is to be feared that large crowds will be dependent on us

throughout the rainy season, and it is a point for timely and serious consideration in what way shelter and suitable work can then be provided for them during the rains. This question should engage the forethought both of Messrs. Lumsden and Elliot. No relief works have yet been opened in Deoree Tuhseel, which is said (para. 12) to be next worst after Maharajgunge, and which adjoins a peculiarly bad tract in the Sarun District. The estate of this tuhseel should be looked to by the Joint Magistrate of Kussya, and projects for relief work should be matured and held in readiness, to be set on foot whenever they may be found necessary.

8. In regard to the sufficiency of grain in the country, there seems little doubt that Bustee will not suffer anywhere from scarcity of stocks. Still Mr. Elliot should satisfy himself personally on this point, although your conclusions seem based on satisfactory grounds. In Goruckpore, on the contrary, the markets to the north, in the Maharajgunge Tuhseel, may run short at a time when importation is difficult in the rains. The population of this tuhseel is about 325,000 souls; of this, Mr. Lumsden calculates that private stores will provide for three-fourths, but that a fourth, or, say (80,000), may have to be provided for by aided importation for five months, say, at half a seer per diem all round, or about 150,000 maunds. To secure this, two courses are proposed: first, to advance money (repayable within a year) free of interest to traders, who will guarantee to store grain at points indicated by the Magistrate. The rate is to be the average prevailing between 15th April and 15th May next, and for every 40 seers so calculated, the contractor is to lay down 30 at the required depôts. The grain is to be imported from the more prosperous tracts, and is to be inspected by the magistrate. The Government will have power to take whatever quantity of grain they require from these stores, at the rate above indicated, up to 15th October, after which date the contractor may sell the balance as he likes. The advantages of the plan are fully detailed in paragraph 19 of your report.

9. Besides this, advances without interest, but repayable within six months, will be offered to grain merchants, who will import food from the more prosperous tracts into the Maharajgunge Tuhseel, which they can sell at their own discretion. This plan is the more to be commended, because it will interfere as little as possible with private enterprise and trade.

10. Mr. Lumsden will, from time to time, report his proceedings under this authority; and he will, as noted in paragraph 15 of the report, hold his hand at discretion as he finds the pulse of the market growing full and satisfactory. He is, however, responsible for providing that at least 150,000 maunds shall be laid down in the northern depôts, unless he has satisfactory grounds (which should be communicated to Government) for believing that so large a quantity is not needed.

11. The next proposal is the advance of tuccavee for seed grain. This is an anxious subject: for if seed-rice is only procured with great difficulty the consequences to agriculture may be serious. The Government of India will be asked to secure the good services of the Nepal Durbar to allow seed-rice to be exported to our zemindars, they supplying other grain, as wheat and barley, if necessary, in lieu of it. A lakh and a half of rupees may be advanced without interest to the zemindars for this purpose (paragraph 14, Goruckpore Report). In Bustee the same measure will be necessary, but to a lesser degree (paragraph 31). Half a lakh of rupees may be authorized on this account (without interest for one year), the amount in each case to be regulated by the area of rice cultivation. The operations under this head will be reported to the board, and regulated by them, both as to terms and period for repayment.

12. There remains the question of remission or suspension of part of the revenue demand. The settlement in Goruckpore is, as a rule, very light; but the greatness of the calamity, and the present prostration of agricultural interests, fully justify the Commission in their proposals for a partial remission, which, to inspire confidence and heart, should, as proposed, be definite and final.

13. The calamity having been uniform in its intensity throughout the Maharajgunge Tuhseel, Mr. Lumsden thinks that the remission should also be uniform. This will avoid detailed investigation and all inducements to bribery and corruption. The Collector is right in holding that this measure may be made irrespective of the means of individual zemindars. One half of the rubbee demand in that tuhseel, or one quarter of the year's revenue, estimated at about Rs. 66,000, may, accordingly, be remitted. The principle of Section 23, Act XVIII. of 1873, will be applicable, in order that the relief may with certainty reach the cultivator. In the rest of the district the collector will treat each case upon its own merits, making such recommendations for remission or suspension as the circumstances may justify.

14. Similar considerations, but with somewhat less severity, apply to Bustee. The arrangements settled by you with the Collector will place this matter on a satisfactory basis. The area recorded in the settlement records as under "Jurhun" and "Bhudowee" (or late and early) rice, will be noted, and a proportionate reduction made in the demand. The circumstances here not being so urgent as in Goruckpore, it will be open to the collector to consider whether the relief should be by temporary suspension or permanent remission.

15. It would be useful if the Government and Board were in possession of a map, shewing in colored outline the tracts most affected, or as they are called in Bengal in "black," or worst tracts, and the "grey," or less severely afflicted tracts, and this should be prepared by Messrs. Lumsden and Elliot as soon as they have leisure. The expenditure up to the end of March has been about Rs. 51,000.

16. It is roughly estimated that the relief works may cost half a lakh of rupees a month in each district up to September, or (say) six lakhs of rupees. The Government of India and the Accountant-General will be apprised of this estimate, including the works in progress or that may hereafter be required in other districts. It is hoped that the whole expenditure may not

exceed, both in labour and (contribution to) charitable relief, seven or eight lakhs of rupees; but this estimate is dependent on the full and timely setting in and continuance of the coming rains.

17. The Deputy Surgeon-General, Allahabad Circle, will be requested to see that all reasonable requisitions for native doctors and medicines are promptly met. The arrangements of the Committee for Hospitals and for the segregation of infectious and other diseased persons are judicious.

18. I am to request that the thanks of Government may be conveyed to Mr. Warren for his public spirit in undertaking charge of the works at Gopalpore. Orders are under issue, through the Board, directing that a covenanted assistant magistrate from each district should be stationed in direct supervision of the works in the north.

19. During the Lieutenant-Governor's tour in Goruckpore and Bustee, the subject of utilizing the streams running from the Terai was considered by His Honor, and some correspondence ensued. But the Irrigation Department could not spare an officer for the survey at the time. The project will now be taken up again by the Public Works Department, but any design of the kind will take time to mature, and will, it is feared, hardly afford labor soon enough to meet present requirements. It will not, however, be lost sight of.

20. Finally, Sir William Muir's cordial thanks are tendered to Mr. Simson, yourself, and to Colonel Davidson, for the admirable manner in which you have carried out his instructions. Your inspection has been thorough and scrutinizing; your directions have been full and judicious; and by aid of the information and advice thus rendered the Government is enabled to look forward with confidence to the issue, and to believe that the principle enforced by the Government—that there shall be no loss of any single human life which can, by any reasonable efforts or means at the disposal of Government, be saved—will be carried out fully and effectively, and yet without any unnecessary expenditure of the Government resources.

I have the honor to be, &c.

No. 1384.

From **Arthur Howell**, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of the North-western Provinces, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Agriculture and Horticulture.—Famine.

Sir, Dated Calcutta, 23rd April 1874.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 348A of the 16 instant, enclosing the Lieutenant-Governor's review of the reports of the Committee appointed to enquire into the condition and prospects of the districts of Bustee and Gorruckpore.

2. In reply I am to state that the Government of India approve of the measures adopted, and especially of the particular attention that has been paid to procuring seed rice of proper quality. The Government of the North-Western Provinces have already been informed that the Nepalese Government have agreed to give facilities for the supply of seed grain from Nepal.

3. This correspondence will be published in the *Gazette of India* and reported to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Letter from **C. G. Master**, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.—No. 412, dated 1st April 1874.

I am directed to forward, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, the papers noted in the margin, furnishing the information as to the failure of the harvest and the consequent scarcity of food grains in the districts of South Arcot, Trichinopoly, and Coimbatore.

Go. O.,	13th January	1874, No.	52.
„	10th February	„ „	181.
„	24th „	„ „	251.
„	3rd March	„ „	302.
„	3rd „	„ „	304.
„	10th „	„ „	330.
„	17th „	„ „	358.

2. This Government, it will be seen, have ordered the commencement of relief works and the establishment of relief houses where necessary, and have deputed Mr. Banbury, Second Member of the Board of Revenue, to South Arcot to report on the condition of the district and the measures which should be adopted to mitigate the effects of the scarcity.

3. The crops in the districts of Chingleput, Madura, and Tinnevelly have also failed to a large extent, and in these, as well as in the districts already named, considerable remissions of land revenue will have to be made.

4. From the further information which has reached them there is not, in the opinion of Government, any probability of severe distress. Mr. Banbury has completed his inquiry, and the Government expect his report in a few days.

Proceedings of the Government of Madras in the Revenue Department,—No. 52, dated 13th January 1873.

Read the following:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,—No. 8733, dated 20th December 1870.

Read the following:—

LETTER from J. B. PENNINGTON, ESQ., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the SECRETARY to the BOARD OF REVENUE,—No. 8733, dated Trichinopoly, 15th December 1873.

With reference to my season telegram of the 9th instant, I think it desirable to apprise the Board of the possibility of a considerable failure in the harvest to the east of the Trichinopoly Taluq, chiefly in the villages dependent on the great *Kuttapar* Tank which is now empty.

2. As intimated in my telegram, there has been a practical failure of the monsoon almost all over the district; for, though we had a considerable fall of rain (from the west) in October, as noted in the margin, the weather cleared up at the beginning of November, and there has been no rain to speak of* in this part of the district since. One consequence of this failure of the rain that is expected here in November and the beginning of December has been that the Cauvery has been too low to furnish a full supply to the channels, and yet too high to permit of the construction of Corumboos; so that the first constructed (on the 27th ultimo) was breached almost immediately.

Inches 16.

* Inches only 1·12.

3. It has been successfully repaired at last, and water is again coming down the channel; but whether it will reach Kuttapar in time to save the crops remains to be seen.

4. The Tahsildar has just returned from the head of the Weyacondan, and is now on his way to Kuttapar, the channel being full again. Every effort is being made to expedite the flow of water by clearing out the channel; a revenue inspector has been sent to the villages affected to report daily on the state of affairs, and I am making special inquiries as to the condition of the crops in the Illupur Division to the south where, I am afraid, the season has been peculiarly bad and the tanks are all rain-fed.

5. A capricious season like the present clearly proves how much these long and ill-regulated channels require subsidiary reservoirs such as that described in Mr. Banbury's Report to the Board, dated 29th December 1868, No. 266, to the importance of which I drew attention in forwarding* a copy on 10th June 1873. As it is, the land affected is practically as much dependent on the local rainfall as that under any purely rain-fed tank.

* *Vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 1864, dated 23rd July 1873.

6. There was slight rain here yesterday, but it seems to have passed off again.

P.S.—I have just learnt that water is flowing freely into the Kuttapar tank, and trust that the crops may nearly all be saved. There is also some slight prospect of rain to-day, but the accounts from the south are not hopeful.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board are glad to say they have heard that rain has fallen in Trichinopoly since this letter was written.

ORDER thereon by the GOVERNMENT OF MADRÁS.

The Government are glad to hear that later accounts are more favourable.

2. These papers will be communicated to the Department Public Works, for early consideration of paragraph 5 of the acting collector's letter.

PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, REVENUE DEPARTMENT, No. 181 dated, 10th February 1874.

Read the following:—

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD OF REVENUE,—No. 220, dated 4th February 1874.

Read the following:—

LETTER from J. B. PENNINGTON, ESQ., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly to the SECRETARY to the BOARD OF REVENUE,—No. 18, dated Viralimalei, the 27th January 1874.

I very much regret to have to report that the harvest in the southern part of the Trichinopoly Taluq (commonly called the Illuppur Division), comprising the villages marginally noted (with a population of 17,807 by the last census), has almost entirely failed.

1. Kottrapatti.
2. Kottargudi.
3. Isvarankovil.
4. Yennai.
5. Illuppur.
6. Yidayapatti.
7. Papukudi.
8. Pungunipatti.
9. Irundevipatti.
10. Vattukadu.
11. Vellaiyar.
12. Virapatti.
13. Rappusal.
14. Perunallur.
15. Velur.
16. Alundur.

2. There has been no rain to speak of since October, and in many villages it is not too much to say that the whole harvest of wet and dry grains will not produce one measure of seed for next year; and, except perhaps in one village (Rappusal), the few fields that have escaped have been saved by unremitting labour at wells, and it is doubtful if the outturn will repay the expenditure.

3. I have suspended collections on rice-land, and am having careful accounts prepared of the crops that have actually perished from want of water; and having seen many of the villages with my own eyes, shall have no hesitation in remitting the assessment on them entirely under Board's Circular Order No. XX of 1872 (S. O. No. 137-31.

4. There does not, however, appear to be any great scarcity of grains as yet, partly owing to the harvest of last year having been good, and partly to the fact that, within five miles of Illuppur (at Annavasal in the Puducottah territory), the crops are magnificent and paddy will be abundant; so that prices have not risen materially as yet.

5. I do not, therefore, propose any remission on dry land though, I believe, the crop has not been more than 1-16th of the average); but, as there may be a lack of work for agricultural labourers, I have requested the district engineer to prepare estimates for repairing one tank in each village by way of providing employment if it is required. It is said that many of the pullers have gone already to Dindigul and the new line of railway to get work, and Ceylon is a well-known labour-market close at hand, to which they will resort if necessary; so that I do not anticipate anything like actual starvation.

6. I have, however, requested the deputy collector to proceed to Illuppur to watch the progress of events, and shall get him to spend some of the money that has already been allotted for the improvement of the water-supply in villages in clearing out and enlarging the drinking-water tanks of Illuppur and the surrounding hamlets. At present the want of good water is their greatest grievance.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The part of Trichinopoly on which Mr. Pennington reports always suffers first and most when there is a drought. The measures which he has taken in sending the deputy collector to Illuppur and preparing to give work to the villagers (if necessary) on their village tanks seem to be sufficient and the best that can be made. The Board think Mr. Pennington should be authorised to have the work on any tank commenced without waiting for the estimate to be prepared, if he thinks it necessary to do so.

3. There seems to be no need to fear any great scarcity of food at present, but the progress of events should be carefully watched.

4. The Board observe that Mr. Pennington does not intend at present to recommend any remission on dry land, though he believes the yield has not been more than 1-16th of the average. If there is any great distress, this matter will, of course, be reconsidered.

ORDER thereon by the GOVERNMENT of MADRAS.

The measures contemplated by the Collector for the employment of farm labourers, who are likely, under present circumstances, to be thrown out of work, are judicious. It is observed, however, that great numbers of these people are obtaining work in Ceylon and on the new line of railway in the adjoining district.

2. The Board's suggestion that the relief works may be at once taken up as emergent, if necessary, is approved.

PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT of MADRAS in the REVENUE DEPARTMENT,—No. 251, dated 24th February 1874.

Read the following:—

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE,—Dated 23rd February 1874.

Read the following:—

LETTER from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the SECRETARY to the BOARD of REVENUE.—No. 82, dated Cuddalore, 19th February 1874.

As the Board in their proceedings of the 2nd instant throw on me the responsibility, as a matter of course, of foreseeing any scarcity which may be coming on, and of providing against it, I have the honor to state that I do anticipate scarcity during the months of April, May, June, and July in some parts of this district, more particularly in the western and north-western portions, and I, therefore, beg to have the sum of Rs. 30,000 at once placed at my disposal for the purchase of grain and for defraying the expenses attendant on its storage, distribution, and the establishment of relief houses.

2. The sum asked for may seem large, but I fear it is not more than what the necessities of the case may require. The present prices of the staple food-grains at the very moment of harvest are, as set forth in the table given below, side by side with the prices ruling at this time last year, and in the last year of scarcity, very high:—

Grains.	Number of Local Measures sold per Rupee.						
	1874. February.	1873. February.	1872. February.	1866 (Famine Year).			
				February.	June.	July.	August.
Rice, 1st sort	6½	11¾	11¾	7	6½	5¾	5
„ 2nd „	7	—	12½	7½	7¼	6	5¼
Paddy, 1st sort	15	27	25	16	15	12	11
„ 2nd „	15½	—	30	18	16	13½	11¾
Horse-gram	10½	10	14	12¼	10¼	7¾	6½
Cholum	11	—	40½	15	13	7¾	8
Cumboo	11¼	18	29	13½	11½	8¼	8
Ragi	11½	19	32	14	12½	8½	6½
Varagu	—	12	57	24½	18	15	6
Salt	10¾	11	10½	13½	13	18	12½
Wheat	4¼	4½	5¾	4	3¾	3¾	8½
Ulundu	6¼	7½	9¼	7	5¾	5	4¼

3. Large quantities of rice are being exported, viâ Porto Novo, to Ceylon; and it is but too manifest that prices will rise, thus putting it altogether beyond the power of the poorest classes to purchase those grains which they are accustomed to eat, and I, therefore, think the present moment should be seized to buy and store up in those parts where the scarcity is likely to be most severely felt a sufficient quantity of grain, wherewith to pay and feed those who may come to the Government for food, and are able to work for it, and to feed those who may not be able to work.

4. Twenty thousand rupees laid out at once in buying paddy, ragi, and cambu will purchase enough to feed about 1,200 persons for four months, and I shall consider myself very fortunate if there are no more than that number to be assisted during that period throughout the district. Should the number be less and the grain not required, it can easily be sold without any loss; but it will be of little use granting money hereafter if food is not to be bought. Now is the time to take measures against any possible famine by storing food, and, therefore, I do not hesitate to take on myself the responsibility of asking for funds.

5. The jamabundi will not be over till the middle or end of April throughout the whole district, and till then I cannot expect to receive the reports from the divisional officers which I called for in my circular memorandum, of which a copy was sent to the Board; so that I shall not be in possession of detailed information, gathered from all the village officers of the district, as to the stocks of grains in their villages, and the prospects of scarcity in their vicinity, till such scarcity has actually begun, and it will then be too late to take preventive measures; so that in the present crisis, time being an element of the greatest value, and detailed official reports not being available, I am obliged to act on such information as I can get; and from what I learnt yesterday in a long conversation with the Trikalore tahsildar, who has just finished a three-month tour throughout his taluq (during which he has revised the ayacuts of all the tanks in his taluq which required revision), there seems to be little doubt that in the western portion of that taluq and throughout much of Trinomalay, and in the Gingee Frikah of Tindivanum severe distress from scarcity of food will be felt.

6. I propose, therefore, that if the sum I ask for be granted, to place most of it at the disposal of the divisional officers for the purpose of at once buying and storing in the centres of the tracts most likely to be affected all the grains of different kinds which they can for the sums placed at their disposal, arranging for the employment of all persons who can work and who require relief as much as possible on the repairs of their own village tanks and channels, payment being always made in grain. For those who cannot work food would have to be supplied at relief houses. The rest of the funds would be held in reserve to meet contingent expenses.

7. I have again called on the divisional officers for immediate reports as to the probability of scarcity in their divisions, and hope soon to receive them. They will be at once forwarded to the Board.

8. I deprecate the employment on new works of such persons as may be employed as labourers receiving relief, because, in the first place, as they will probably be for the most part people accustomed to agricultural labour, they will all the more readily and easily devote themselves to repairing tanks and clearing channels, while this work will prove certainly more remunerative to Government than any other, and will admit of supervision by village officers.

9. As to the source from which the funds asked for may be supplied, I cannot think of any better one than Local Fund balances, which, up to the end of last month, amounted to a sum of Rs. 2,10,766 for the two circles in this district, after making provision for all charges, except that of Department of Public Works supervision which may be set down as under Rs. 75,000.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Collector of South Arcot, referring to the Board's intimation in their Proceedings of the 2nd February 1874, No. 198, that "the Collector will, of course, be careful that if a scarcity "is really coming it is foreseen and provided against," reports that he expects scarcity in the western part of Trikalore, in a great portion of Trinomalay and in the Gingee part of Tindivanam, and applies for sanction to buy Rs. 20,000 worth of grain, and spend Rs. 10,000 more in storing and distributing it, and establishing relief houses. He proposes to employ the distressed on tanks and channels and pay them in grain, and to establish relief houses wherever they may be necessary. He suggests that the Rs. 30,000 may be taken from the Local Fund balances.

3. The price list given by the Collector, which states the number of "paddies" (each of which is equal to 1·68 imperial seers) selling for a rupee, is ominous, inasmuch as it shows that prices are rising rapidly, and have reached the level which they attained at the same time of 1866, "the famine year;" but it is not, as the Collector thinks, a significant fact that prices are so high at the very time of the harvest, for the experience of the Settlement Department shows that prices are not lower during the ryots' selling months than during any other part of the year. The exports of grain, so far as the Board can gather from a hasty inspection of the returns before them, are unusually large. The exports of rice from Cuddalore and Porto Novo from November to January in 1872–73 were valued at Rs. 13,304. In the same months in 1873–74 they were valued at Rs. 34,129.

4. Beyond the rise in prices and activity in exports, the Collector has no definite information, and he does not expect to have such information in time.

5. His chief reason for applying for leave to purchase grain immediately seems to be that it will become dearer, but this is not enough. A large purchase of grain in the local market would make prices rise suddenly, and would probably cause a panic. The mere raising of prices would enormously increase the number of people unable to buy grain enough to support life. Nothing would justify such a disturbance of trade, except a reasonable assurance that the stock

of grain in the afflicted areas is too small, and that the creation of a demand for it by distributing money will not attract grain in the ordinary course of trade. This is not proved. On the contrary, the areas which are threatened are small, and within three or four days' journey of the coast, so that grain can be carried into them promptly, either from the ports or from the surrounding tracts. Even if it ever becomes necessary for the Collector to buy grain, the Board think he should import it from Madras or one of the northern ports.

6. The Board resolve to recommend Government to authorize the Collector to proceed with all works (situated in the threatened tracts) which are entered in the Local Fund Budget for 1874-75, which is now before Government, and to begin as relief work the cleansing of tanks and channels in any villages which may appear to be in a specially bad condition. Payment must, of course, be made in money as long as grain can be bought by the labourers. The cost of these relief works, the Board think, should be paid from Imperial Funds. It may eventually be necessary to establish relief houses, and this also should be left to the Collector's discretion.

ORDER thereon by the GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

The Government approve of the Board's proposals, contained in the last paragraph of their proceedings, for the execution of Local Fund works in anticipation of the budget being passed, and for the commencement of relief works of the nature described where absolutely necessary. The question of provision for the latter will be referred to the Department Public Works for consideration. Should it prove necessary, relief houses must be opened.

2. Further particulars regarding the state of this tract of country should be submitted on receipt.

PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, REVENUE DEPARTMENT,—No. 302, dated 3rd March 1874.

Read the following:—

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD OF REVENUE,—Dated 27th February 1874.

Read the following:—

LETTER from J. H. GARSTIN, ESQ., Collector of South Arcot, to the SECRETARY to the BOARD OF REVENUE,—No. 92, dated Porto Novo, the 21st February 1874.

I have the honour to forward, for the perusal and consideration of the Board, the enclosed translation of a petition presented to me by the inhabitants of this place. They find it very hard to get grain, and it is to them an exasperating thing to see it being exported to Ceylon. A French vessel, the *Volta*, sailed only the day before yesterday with 5,000 sacks of rice (not paddy) equal to 750,000 lbs. of ordinary food.

2. The petitioners ask either to have the export trade stopped, or that all rice brought into the town on fair-days should be ordered to be sold in the local market. In an interview with me they asked to have as an alternative at least a proportion of all the rice brought here sold to the people, while the rest only might be exported.

3. I pointed out to them I had no power to do what they asked, but promised to refer their petition to higher authority, and send it to the Board accordingly. It would no doubt be much better for the district if no export trade in rice existed at present; but I do not consider the petitioners have made out a case for forbidding exports. Government can, in effect, stop them best by buying up the rice now.

4. The value of the petition, however, in my opinion, consists in its showing only too clearly that the high prices of food are already beginning to be severely felt, and to demonstrate the necessity for laying in stores of grain for the use of the poorer classes, while the opportunity still offers of getting it at prices which are reasonable, compared with what they will hereafter rise to.

5. The tahsildar of this taluq (Chellambram) tells me, he anticipates distress in the western and northern parts of his taluq before long.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The request of the petitioners is, of course, inadmissible.

ORDER thereon by the GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

The Government concur with the Board.

PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, REVENUE DEPARTMENT,—No. 304, dated 3rd March 1874.

Read the following:—

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD OF REVENUE, No. 1470, dated 2nd August 1873.

Read the following:—

LETTER from H. E. SULLIVAN, ESQ., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to the SECRETARY to the BOARD OF REVENUE,—No. 184, dated 30th May 1873.

In my letter, dated 26th instant, No. 183, I had the honour to reply to the Board's Proceedings, dated 5th February last, No. 157, with reference to the proposed increase in the numbers and emoluments of Revenue Inspectors; and the report called for in the same proceedings in regard to the necessity of revising the taluq establishments generally will follow as soon as I get in the necessary information from the divisions. As, however, a considerable time must elapse before the much-needed reform in these respects can be given effect to, I would urge the Board to take up for separate and early consideration the claims of the Kullakurchi Taluq to be put on a similar footing at once in regard to the establishment with the neighbouring taluq of Virdachellum.

2. I append a comparative statement showing the area, number of villages, beriz, and population of the two taluqs :—

—	Area in Acres.	Number of Villages.	Beriz.	Population.
			Rs.	
Virdachellum - - - - -	3,62,323	304	3,91,929	1,80,411
Kullakurchi - - - - -	3,88,819	413	3,59,548	1,97,912

Kullakurchi is the only taluq in the district where there is not a Deputy Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate to relieve the Tahsildar of a portion of his magisterial work. During the past year 489 cases were tried by, and five cases committed by the Sub-Magistrate. Moreover, there are only three Revenue Inspectors against four Revenue Inspectors employed in Virdachellum.

3. The necessity of putting the establishment of this taluq on a more efficient footing has been repeatedly urged on me by the Sub-Collector, in whose division it is situated, and I enclose an extract from a letter of his on the subject dated so far back as June 1872. I did not bring it forward at the time, because in my letter, dated 23rd July 1872, No. 220, in reply to the Board's Proceedings of the 8th January 1872, No. 52, I expressed my opinion that the time had arrived for a thorough revision of establishments throughout the Presidency, and I observe, with satisfaction, that a step is being made in that direction; but, as remarked above, so long a time must necessarily elapse before the measure can be carried out, that I do not feel myself justified in delaying any longer to submit for consideration the necessity for early action in this particular case.

4. The additional establishment asked for this taluq is as follows :—

	Rs.
1 Deputy Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate - - -	70
2 Gumastahs, at Rs. 15 - - - - - -	30
1 Massalchee „ 5 - - - - - -	5
2 Peons „ 6 - - - - - -	12
1 Dufterbund „ 7 - - - - - -	7
1 Revenue Inspector - - - - - -	20
	44 per mensem.
	or 1,728 „ annum.

5. A copy of a later communication on the same subject from the Sub-Collector, dated 25th ultimo, No. 176, is also enclosed for the Board's information.

Enclosure No. 1.

EXTRACT from a letter from the ACTING SUB-COLLECTOR to the ACTING COLLECTOR of SOUTH ARCOT.—No. 261, dated 25th June 1872.

7. Though this letter is in answer to a call on a general question, I wish to bring to notice the under-handed state of Kullakurchi Taluq. It is the only taluq in the district where there is no out-station Sub-Magistrate and Deputy Tahsildar. The taluq has an area of 579 square miles, and is larger than Trikalore or Virdachellum, with nearly the same beriz. Besides being without a Deputy Tahsildar, there are only three Revenue Inspectors and nine Taluq Gumastahs against four Revenue Inspectors and nine Taluq Gumastahs in Virdachellum.

8. I have no hesitation in saying that the revenue agency in Kullakurchi Taluq is inadequate for satisfactory revenue administration. Why should Rs. 159 a month (irrespective of the difference in the pay of the Tahsildars) be paid to subordinate revenue servants in Virdachellum Taluq in excess of that paid to the revenue servants in Kullakurchi Taluq?

9. It is hardly safe to hazard prophecies in an official letter; but the Curnams have it all their own way in Kullakurchi, and I cannot doubt that a proper establishment would lead immediately to increased revenue.

10. I trust, therefore, you will advocate Kullakurchi being put on the same footing as the sister taluqs of Trikalore and Virdachellum. Even Trinamallay has a Sub-Magistrate at Chengum, but I do not wish to have a Rs. 50 Sub-Magistrate at an out-station, and would rather be without one at all. I ask for a Sub-Magistrate and Deputy Tahsildar on Rs. 70 a month with a proper office establishment of two Gumastahs on Rs. 15 each, a Dufterbund on Rs. 7, two Peons on Rs. 6 each, and a Massalchee.

Enclosure No. 2.

Letter from A. L. Lister, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Acting Collector of South Arcot,—No. 176, dated Porto Novo, the 25th April 1873.

I have the honor to ask your attention to paragraphs 7–10 of my letter No. 261 of the 25th June last, and to request you to move Government to appoint a Sub-Magistrate to Kullakurchi Taluq.

2. This is a separate question from the general one of increasing the subordinate revenue agency, and I hope you will make it the subject of a special reference.

3. After ten months' further experience, I wish again to declare my opinion that satisfactory revenue administration is impossible with the inadequate staff at the Tahsildar's disposal in Kullakurchi Taluq ; the Curnams are complete masters of the situation.

4. If you decide to address Government about this, there is one disadvantage South Arcot labours under, which might be represented; while in all the surrounding districts (Chingleput, Tanjore, Salem, North Arcot, and even Trichinopoly) there are one or more Sub-Magistrates' posts on Rs. 100, there is not a single one in South Arcot. Trivady and Manargoody are important stations.

It would be useless to apply to Government for this increase in the establishment of one taluq at present. The letter must lie over for consideration with the general subject; but, in the meantime, the Board, who recognise the force of the Collector's recommendations, will receive favourably any proposal that may be made for strengthening the establishment of Kullakurchi by transfers from other taluqs without increasing the total charge.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,—Dated 3rd March 1874.

Read the following papers:—

Letter from J. H. Garstin, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue,—No. 96, dated 24th February 1874.

In forwarding the enclosed copy of a letter from Mr. Lister, Acting Sub-Collector, dated 21st February 1874, No. 104, and translation of an arzi to that officer from the Tahsildar of Kullakurchi, I have the honor to request that the application for an additional establishment for that taluk may be sent on at once to Government. The case is of such a pressing nature, looking to the probability of great scarcity in parts of the taluq, that I trust the Board will modify the views expressed in their proceedings of the 2nd August last, No. 1470, and forward the application for the favourable consideration of Government, with a view to immediate sanction being accorded for the entertainment of the establishment asked for.

2. It appears to me that the necessity of placing the taluq establishment of Kullakurchi on a proper footing is, even in a fair season, a question quite apart from the general one of the revision of taluq establishments, and that in a bad season like the present one the necessity becomes imperative.

3. The force of Mr. Lister's figures and arguments has been already admitted by the Board in the proceedings above quoted, and if it had been possible to act on the Board's suggestion to transfer the necessary establishment from other taluqs, I would have done so, but such an arrangement is, I fear, impossible.

Letter from J. H. Garstin, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue,—No. 97, dated 26th February 1874.

I have the honour to forward copies of a report * from the Assistant Collector in charge of the Cuddalore Taluq, and its three enclosures, for the Board's information.

* Dated 24th February 1874, No. 39.

2. I do not consider that the Tahsildar's estimates of the numbers to be fed, or the cost of feeding them, are to be relied upon; both, I fear, will prove to be under the mark if relief houses have to be established in this taluq.

3. With my letter of the 24th instant, No. 96, I sent to the Board a copy of the Sub-Collector's letter on the state of the Kullakurchi Taluq, and a translation of the arzi of the Tahsildar of that taluq.

4. I have not yet received detailed reports regarding the other six taluqs, but expect them hourly. In the Villapuram Taluq I learn from the Head Assistant Collector, demi-officially, that the crops on about 450 acres of wet land under the Valavanur tank, which has the largest beriz of any in the district, have perished.

Letter from C. Sri Baliah, Deputy Collector, General Duties, South Arcot, to the Collector of South Arcot,—No. 68, dated 24th February 1874.

In reply to your circular memorandum No. 135, dated 17th instant, I have the honor to inform you that from inquiries I have made personally and from those of the Tahsildars who had recently to make long tours in their respective taluqs in connexion with the work of revising the tank ayacuts, there is strong reason to believe that scarcity of grains will be severely felt in several places in this division just after the present cutting should be over. Should the season change for the better, the earliest dry crop we can hope for is cumboo, which will come to hand about the end of August. Till then the difficulty will be more or less felt according as the season continues as at present or changes for the better.

2. Relief houses may, therefore, be required in the months of April to July in the localities named in the margin. I am of opinion, however, that a great saving might be effected by opening certain famine works reproductive in their nature, and this would prevent the transfer of able-bodied men to congee-houses. We already read in the newspapers that workmen in Bengal have removed to Tirhoot and other places to be fed in relief houses in preference to earning their means of livelihood by some occupation or other.

Trikalore Taluq.	*Trinomallay Taluq.*
1. Manalurpett.	1. Trinomallay.
2. Trikalore.	2. Pachel.
3. Ulandurpett.	3. Eryur.
4. Elavanasur.	4. Chinniampett.

3. I would recommend that relief houses be open to old and helpless men and children, and where no famine works are available within easy distance; and that the works to be hereafter detailed be commenced or sanction obtained for their commencement when relief operations become inevitable.

Atmanadha Mudaliar recommends three works:—

(1.) Excavating a channel, about eight miles in length, to conduct the surplus water of the river-fed tank of Eryur village, in Trinomallay Taluq, to the large tank of Samudram village and to several intermediate tanks.

(2.) Widening the river-channel feeding the tank of Keelavannakkambadi, and also the channel taking its surplus water to the tank of Radhapuram; and

(3.) Continuing the Chekkadi road from Thandramput to Salem frontier viâ Chinniampett.

4. As to the first-mentioned work, the ryots concerned have repeatedly asked for it, and although the levels seem to have been taken some time ago by the officers of the Public Works Department, nothing has been done towards carrying out the work. The channel, it would appear, has to be taken through a rocky soil some distance, but the work for which I learn there is sufficient fall would prove a great boon to the ryots in that portion of the dry taluq. The Tahsildar informs me that the overseer who inspected the line thinks the work a feasible and remunerative one, and I would strongly recommend that some competent officer be desired to report specially on this proposal.

The second work requires no comment.

3rd Item.—The Chekkadi tract is singularly devoid of roads. There is but one isolated line of about ten miles in length, and being out of the way, it does not seem to receive any attention from the superior officers of the department.

The road from Trinomallay to Thandramput was formed in the famine season of 1868, and was intended to be taken into the heart of Chekkadi, and to this day it goes by the name of Chekkadi road. The opening of the works (1) and (3) would obviate the necessity for opening relief houses at Pechel and Chinniampett, except perhaps for the old and helpless.

5. I am collecting information as to relief works required in the Trikalore Taluq, and will shortly submit my proposals.

Endorsed by the Collector of South Arcot,—No. 102, dated Cuddalore, the 28th February 1874.

Forwarded to the Revenue Board for their information, in continuation of the collector's letter of the 24th instant, No. 96.

In these papers, information is given as to threatened distress in the taluqs of Cuddalore, Kullakurchi, Trikalore, and Trinomallay.

2. In Cuddalore the assistant collector states that there has been a considerable failure of dry and wet crops throughout the taluq and an entire failure of dry crops in 58 villages, with a population of 29,679 (the total population of the taluq is 284,849). There is likely to be a scarcity of food-grains from the beginning of April to the beginning of July. The stock of last year's paddy is said to have been destroyed by "some insect." A large amount of grain can be had at cheap rates in Trivady.

3. The Tahsildar thinks that Government interference will only be required in the 58 villages referred to above. The assistant collector can think of no other work to employ the people on than clearing tank-beds and channels and repairing bunds. He recommends that relief houses, costing Rs. 7 each, should be erected at Kurinjepady, Trivady, and Cuddalore, and that arrangements should be made for feeding 845 people for three months, at a cost of 10 pies a-head per diem for food, the total expenditure at the relief houses being altogether Rs. 4,100.

4. Mr. Garstin, in sending on this report, merely remarks that, if relief houses are established, the estimate limiting the number relieved to 845 will be exceeded. The Board agree with him. Just as workmen at Calcutta are said to have left for the famine-stricken province of Tirhoot when they heard that rice was to be got there for nothing at the Government relief houses, so the establishment of relief houses at Cuddalore, Trivady, and Kurinjepady must, even under the most careful restrictions, foster vagrancy and pauperism. Government have already said that relief houses must be opened if it proves necessary to do so. The opening of such houses must be deferred as long as it safely can be, and until scarcity has weakened the population, so as to make it inexpedient to demand the ordinary tale of work as a condition of relief, the distribution must be strictly limited to those who are incapable of work by reason of age or infirmity. Even then, professional beggars, the most undeserving of the population, will reap more benefit than the industrious.

G. O., dated 24th February 1874, No. 251.

5. The statement that last year's stock of grain has been destroyed by insects should form the subject of careful inquiry.

6. In the meantime, Government have given the Collector discretion to institute relief works. The officials should endeavour to project more extensive schemes than the repair of village irrigation works.

7. In Kullakurchi (population 119,644), the Tahsildar says that some dry lands have been left waste for want of rain, that some have yielded nothing, and that the rest have only yielded a half or at most a three-quarter crop. He thinks a 25 per cent. remission will be enough, but the sub-collector advises a remission of the March, April, and May kists, or 5-16ths of the whole. Scarcity is likely to be felt, and prices are very high. The sub-collector urges very strongly the necessity of at once strengthening the taluq establishment by appointing temporarily a sub-magistrate and deputy tahsildar on Rs. 70 and two revenue inspectors on Rs. 30, with a peon each on Rs. 6, to relieve the tahsildar from his heavy sedentary duties, and assist him in the inspections and supervision which the threatened scarcity calls for. The facts recorded in Board's proceedings, 2nd August 1873, No. 1470, show that the existing establishment is utterly insufficient for ordinary business, and the conclusion that it must be strengthened now is inevitable. The Board accordingly resolve to recommend Government to allow the entertainment of the officials named above for five months, and to let their sanction be communicated to the collector by telegram.

8. As for prices, the Board understand that they are now beginning to fall, the exceptional demand in Ceylon having greatly diminished.

9. In a remarkably well considered letter, the deputy collector on general duties, Sri Baliah, reports on the state of Trikalore (population 131,390) and Trinomallay (population 97,953). He anticipates scarcity from the harvest now being cut until August, when a cumboo crop may be expected; recommends that reproductive relief works should be commenced as soon as the necessity for them arrives; and thinks that four relief houses in Trikalore and four in Trinomallay may have to be kept open from April to July for old and helpless men and children, and where no famine works are available within easy distance.

10. He mentions three works which might be undertaken in Trinomallay:—

- (1.) Excavating a channel from the Eryur tank to Samudram.
- (2.) Widening the channel from the river to Keelavannakkambadi and from thence to Radhapuram.
- (3.) A continuation of the Chekkadi road which now stops at Thandramput.

11. The Board think these works are well chosen, and the commencement of them, in anticipation of the sanction of estimates, &c., should be allowed.

12. The Board await Mr. Garstin's application with respect to Punjab remissions.

13. He will be good enough to report what works are in progress in connection with the new railway, and what demand for labour is furnished in this way.

ORDER thereon by the GOVERNMENT of MADRAS.

With reference to the continued bad reports of the state of South Arcot. His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to direct Mr. Banbury, Second Member of the Board of Revenue, to procced at once to that district for the purpose of drawing up a special report on its condition, and the measures which should be adopted to mitigate the effects of the scarcity which has begun to show itself.

2. In the meantime the three works in Trinomallay, the commencement of which is recommended in the 10th paragraph of the proceedings recorded above, should be at once taken in hand in anticipation of regular estimates. The District Engineer will be directed in the Public Works Department to give every assistance in the laying out and supervision of these works.

3. The entertainment for a period not exceeding five months of a temporary Sub-Magistrate and Deputy Tehsildar in the Kullakurchi taluq on Rs. (70) seventy and two Revenue Inspectors on Rs. (30) thirty each is sanctioned, and a telegram accordingly will be sent to the Collector. Four peons on Rs. 6 are also sanctioned, two for the Deputy Teshildar, and one for each of the Revenue Inspectors.

4. The Government concur in the Board's remarks about the opening of relief houses. Great discretion should be exercised in this respect. As sanction has already been accorded in General Order 24th February last, No. 251, no further orders are now called for on this point.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT, REVENUE DEPARTMENT,—No. 330, dated 10th March 1874.

Read the following:—

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD OF REVENUE,—Dated 10th March 1874.

Read the following letter:—

LETTER from A. WEDDERBURN, ESQ., Collector of Coimbatore, to the SECRETARY to the BOARD of REVENUE,—No. 53, dated 8th March 1874.

Copy of Head Assistant Collector's letter, No. 48 of 7th March 1874.
Letter to ditto, No. 236 of 8th March 1874.

I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Board of Revenue and of Government, a letter I have just received from my Acting Head Assistant Collector, Mr. Rice, and reply thereto regarding an "anticipated scarcity to some extent."

2. A full report on this subject will be forwarded; but, in the meantime, whenever any anticipations of scarcity are entertained, the nature of relief to

be afforded, if such anticipations are realized, requires previous forethought and decision; a scarcity well provided against in such cases results in good effects of a permanent nature, instead of an ineffective scattering of money.

3. Any relief to be of use should be very prompt, and if the nature of it be previously determined on it can be so.

4. I speak from experience on this point, as when on my joining Bellary in 1866 I found immediate measures of relief required, I had to provide work for about 14,000 persons, 6,000 under my own supervision; and to provide suitable and instant work was a matter of great difficulty.

5. I have indicated in my letter to the head assistant the work which will be found most suitable. There are many desirable works connected with the supply of water, but, as noted, these are the province of a separate profession who are never unemployed owing to the progress of agricultural improvements, and consequently do not require relief.

6. The repair of village lanes, which from long neglect have become even difficult of passage, seems to be the most suitable work from its being so widely extended, and so near the residences of the presumed distressed parties, and from its not being undertaken by the Local Fund, and so not competing with ordinary work.

7. When I took charge of this district in 1868, my predecessor had advertised a scarcity when three works had been proposed; the clearance of the silt of a tank, the construction of a road, and the clearance of an obstructed jungle-canal.

8. The first would have been an utterly unprofitable expenditure of money; the second was undertaken, but it confined the relief to a small area; and as the third happened to be in an uninhabited country it was not undertaken at all at the time. These were the results of hurried proposals and tahsildar's suggestions; and that expenditure in the present occasion may be useful is the object of the present reference. A few thousand rupees (say, within ten) will probably meet any demand; this can be at once arranged when rough estimates are prepared, but the plan of relief is submitted for early sanction of Government. Expenditure will not exceed requirements.

LETTER from A. WEDDERBURN, ESQ., Collector of Coimbatore, to the ACTING HEAD ASSISTANT COLLECTOR of COIMBATORE,—No. 236, dated 8th March 1874.

With reference to your letter of the 7th instant, No. 48, I have the honor to request you will inform me, at an early date, the grounds on which you apprehend scarcity in your division during the year, noting in detail the failure and to what extent, of crops.

2. So far as I am aware, raggi is the staple of food; this is grown chiefly as a garden-crop under wells; whether wells have dried up and so caused loss of any of such crop should be stated. In such cases, a suitable relief would be the advance of money to deepen the wells.

3. I believe that the dry ground crops have been poor from the absence of rain; if scantiness of crops has affected the cultivators, and has been very general and to a great extent, it becomes a question of remission or postponement of demand.

4. If again there are such numbers of destitute poor, whose livelihood is the collection of grass for sale, or daily miscellaneous labor, which is impeded or for which there is not a demand, this fact should be separately stated.

5. Careful inquiries into these details are necessary when announcing a "scarcity to some "extent," for upon these details depends the sort of relief.

6. As regards periodical reports on the state of the season, there is no ground for expecting a change of season at this time of year. The cultivating season is over, and at least two months must elapse before it is renewed. Crops are nearly all harvested, so that whatever distress has to be met must depend on present actualities, and not on future prospects.

7. It seems most probable to me that the poor may be pinched from the rise of the price of grain which may be expected; but here again, the rise will chiefly be in paddy or rice which this district imports to some extent; it is not a staple which affects the poor.

8. It would be of use if you ascertain any authentic rise in the price of grains consumed by the poor.

9. It is always objectionable to commence work in a hurry, and without sufficient forethought; and to leave the selection of work to the tahsildars is not, in my opinion, a correct procedure. The works to be undertaken should be considered at once.

10. Ordinary road repairs are generally the usual mode of relief as applicable to unskilled labour; irrigation works and well sinking belong to a professional class who are fully employed in all seasons, and who, therefore, seldom experience distress.

11. In my opinion any special measure of relief should consist in the repair and improvement of ittaries or village lanes. These are not undertaken by the Local Fund, and they are specially suitable as affording work to people in the immediate vicinity of their villages.

12. If you will, therefore, find out in what parts distress exists and to what extent, *i.e.*, affecting what proportion of the people, and get estimates prepared of the cost of improving such ittaries or lanes, including the clearance from them of obstructions as prickly pear, a permanent good will be effected, and a work supplied suitable to the class for whom it should be undertaken.

LETTER from R. RICE, ESQ., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the COLLECTOR of COIMBATORE,—No. 48, dated 7th March 1874.

I think it right to bring to your notice that there are reasons for apprehending scarcity to some extent in the taluqs comprising my division. I have directed the tahsildars to keep me informed, from time to time, of the state of the season, &c. in their taluqs, and I have, at the same time, thought it well to direct them to prepare a list of works on which people might be employed in case my apprehension turn out well-founded.

Submitted to Government with the recommendation that Mr. Wedderburn be authorized to open simple relief works whenever and wherever he may be satisfied of the necessity for them, and that a sum of Rs. 10,000 be placed at his disposal for that purpose.

2. There can be no objection to the repair of village lanes being one mode of relief; but the deepening of wells, the clearance of channels, and the repair of tank bunds are all works of public utility, and capable of being performed by all classes.

3. Of course Mr. Wedderburn will stimulate all Local Fund works within the area in which distress may appear.

4. At this season of the year, if distress is coming, it will be felt immediately, and Mr. Wedderburn should be provided with means and be prepared to act at once if any action is necessary.

5. Mr. Rice must endeavour to see as much of his division as he can personally, and the Board hope soon to have before them some at least of the information which, as has been pointed out by the Collector, ought to be furnished when scarcity is feared.

ORDER thereon by the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council accordingly authorizes a sum of Rs. (10,000) to be placed at the disposal of the Collector of Coimbatore for the purpose stated in paragraph 1 of the proceedings above recorded.

2. Mr. Wedderburn will submit at an early date detailed information regarding the tracts in which scarcity and distress are anticipated.

3. The observations contained in his letter to Mr. Rice are appropriate.

PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS in the REVENUE DEPARTMENT,—No. 358, dated 17th March 1874.

Read the following:—

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD OF REVENUE,—dated 17th March 1874.

Read the following:—

LETTER from J. H. GARSTIN, ESQ., Collector of South Arcot, to the SECRETARY to the BOARD OF REVENUE,—No. 115, dated Cuddalore, 9th March 1874.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's proceedings of the 3rd instant, relative to the threatened scarcity in this district and the measures to be taken with respect thereto.

2. In those proceedings the Board say they await my application with respect to punjah remissions, and call on me to report what works are in progress in connection with the new railway, and what demand for labour is furnished in this way.

3. I am unable to make any application with respect to punjah remissions at present, because I have no facts to go on except as regards the Cuddalore Taluq (of which I am doing the Jummabundi), and only partially for it. I am awaiting the report of the Deputy Collector on remission duty, but fear I shall not get it for some months for the whole district.

4. In the meantime, the different divisional officers will be pushing on with the settlement of their respective taluqs, and have power to direct the suspension of the collection of the March, April, and May punjah kists. They will, I trust, as directed by me note carefully all cases of complete punjah shavi brought to their notice, and in this way assist the Remission Deputy Collector who will then make his own suggestions for the different tracts that have suffered.

5. As far as I am able to judge, in many, if not in most, instances if the remission is to be proportionate to the loss of crop, it will have to be total; but if such an idea is repugnant to the Board, then no simpler plan could be devised than to give a general remission of the three remaining punjah kists wherever in a village there has been shavi or short produce of punjah crops on more than half of the whole dry cultivation. This, however, would render any action on the report of the Remission Deputy Collector almost unnecessary.

6. As to railway works, I have ascertained from Mr. Logan, the Chief Engineer of the Carnatic Railway, who happens to be here, that there are four railway divisions in this district in which a great deal of the earth-work has been already completed, and that about 580,000 cubic yards remain to be done, but generally of a very light description. These works have been, for the most part, given out on contract, so that any interference with them as regards labour is difficult. I do not consider, therefore, that as a relief work the railway, except in the Villapuram Taluq where earth-work has not been yet commenced, will be of much service as a relief work.

7. I am selecting some extensive works in each taluq for execution as relief works in case of necessity.

8. I enclose translations of two reports on the insect which did so much damage last year to paddy in store, received from the Tahsildars of Villapuram and Kallakurchi in August last, and of one from the former officer in December last. Further inquiries will be made on this subject.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board think Mr. Garstin has mistaken the orders of Government about the Special Deputy Collector. It was not intended that he should report on the whole district, and that the settlement of remissions should await his report. He was rather intended as an extra Assistant to the Collector, to be employed anywhere where his services were most needed in settling remissions. Mr. Garstin should send in his proposals for each taluq as soon as he has materials for doing so. It is most desirable that remissions, when they are likely to be extensive, should be settled promptly.

3. Mr. Garstin thinks that railway works which have been given as contract cannot be counted as relief works; but contractors must employ labour and pay for it, so that their operations will be of great assistance in the anticipated crisis. It would be interesting to know how many men are employed on railway works in the different railway divisions of the district, and what kind of work remains to be done. The Collector will be good enough to ascertain and report further particulars.

4. Mr. Garstin's action in selecting works in the different taluqs is approved. He should send in lists of the works and localities when selected.

5. His further report on the attack of insects on last year's grain is awaited. A description of the insects should be given so as to enable those conversant with the subject to identify it.

Order thereon by the Government of Madras.

The Board's proceedings are approved. They are quite right in their view of the object of the appointment of an extra Deputy Collector.

2. Specimens (living and preserved) of the insect referred to should be obtained and forwarded to Mr. Bidie, Superintendent, Central Museum, who will be requested to submit his opinion on the subject after examination.

Statement showing the quantity of Rice (distinguishing table and other kinds), Paddy, Wheat, Gram, and other Food-grains exported from the Presidency of Bengal in the six months from 1st October to 31st March in each of the official years 1872–73 *and* 1873–74.

WHITHER EXPORTED.	IN THE SIX MONTHS FROM 1ST OCTOBER TO 31ST MARCH.																	
	1872–73.									1873–74.								
	RICE.		Paddy.	Total of Rice and Paddy.	OTHER FOOD-GRAINS.				Grand Total of all Food-grains.	RICE.		Paddy.	Total of Rice and Paddy.	OTHER FOOD-GRAINS.				Grand Total of all Food-grains.
	Table.	Other kinds.			Wheat.	Gram.	Other kinds.	Total.		Table.	Other kinds.			Wheat.	Gram.	Other Kinds.	Total.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
To Ceylon - - - - -	39	47,588	1,497	49,124	17	765	284	1,066	50,190	22	35,028	1,817	36,867	—	601	1,035	1,636	38,503
To Mauritius, Bourbon, and West India Islands.	1,152	68,727	—	69,879	370	,34	2,411	4,129	74,008	1,255	43,311	—	44,566	1,771	2,472	3,120	7,363	51,929
To other Foreign Countries - - -	14,745	69,972	26	84,743	1,027	171	115	1,323	86,066	28,686	29,973	1	53,610	9,829	252	127	10,208	63,818
Total to Foreign Countries - - -	15,936	186,287	1,523	203,746	1,424	2,284	2,810	6,518	210,264	42,913	108,812	1,818	135,043	11,600	3,325	4,282	19,207	154,250
To other Presidencies (beyond Bengal) -	20,273	53,050	8,803	82,126	716	1,470	2,035	4,221	86,347	1,304	21,684	5,888	28,876	638	969	4,350	5,957	34,833
Grand Total -	36,209	239,337	10,326	285,872	2,140	3,754	4,845	10,739	296,611	26,217	129,996	7,706	163,919	12,238	4,294	8,632	25,164	189,083

NOTE.—The figures for table rice represent those for the Port of Calcutta only, as those for the minor ports cannot be distinguished; but it is believed that the exports of table rice from the latter ports are unimportant.

R. B. CHAPMAN,

Financial Department, the 17th April 1874.

Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department.

No. 25 of 1874.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Agriculture and Horticulture.
Famine.

To the Most Honorable the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, P. C., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS, Calcutta, the 24th April 1874.

WE have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 10, Revenue, of the 19th March.*

We have to express our sincere acknowledgments for the approval which your Lordship has conveyed of the policy which we have hitherto pursued, and for the assurances we have received of the cordial support of Her Majesty's Government.

* See Part II. page 248.

2. We fully share your Lordship's anxiety that no precaution should be neglected by which the danger still impending over many millions of people may be effectually averted. In spite of a sudden and severe outbreak of distress in a portion of Tirhoot before the measures in course of preparation to meet it were quite complete, we think that Sir Richard Temple is fully justified in saying, in the words of the last special narrative, "that the famine has been "got well in hand, and will, it may be hoped, be effectually met and averted."

3. Our recent despatches have furnished more complete information than was contained in the telegram of March 4th, to which your Lordship alludes in the despatch under reply.

The information with respect to the famine, which we have forwarded home, although very voluminous, has been necessarily sent somewhat in a fragmentary condition. We have been anxious to give your Lordship the latest information before us at the date of the despatch of each mail. We fear, therefore, that the information which we afforded was not sufficiently explicit on some points of importance.

4. In our despatch, No. 17 of the 20th March,† we reviewed the policy of Government and gave a summary of the general position of affairs. We propose in the present despatch to enter into some further explanations which are suggested by the remarks in your Lordship's despatch of March 19th, and, in doing so, we trust that we shall be able to remove at any rate a portion of your Lordship's anxiety.

†See Part III. page 160.

5. Your Lordship observes in the 3rd paragraph of the despatch that the "deficiencies of transport, from which your present difficulties have principally "arisen, will scarcely be diminished as time goes on, but will, on the contrary, "be rather aggravated when the rains have fallen and the roads have become "less serviceable. Against this danger you have provided, at least partially "by commencing a Railway from the riverside opposite the Barrh station to "Durbungah." If our intention had been to send into the distressed districts from time to time a sufficient quantity of grain to meet their current wants, the difficulties in connection with local transport would, without doubt, be greatly aggravated after the rains commence. This, however, is not the actual position of affairs. Our arrangements have been made with the object of storing in the interior of each district before the rains commence a sufficient supply of food to last until after the rains have ceased. Your Lordship will observe, therefore, that we hope that, although other difficulties connected with the distribution of food may remain, those connected with the transport of food to the principal local depôts will, for the most part, have been overcome before the commencement of the rains.

The Railway from Barrh to Durbungah was not intended as a reserve means of transport by which to enable us to supply Eastern Tirhoot during the rai although it may be useful after the monsoon sets in; it was recommended by Sir Richard Temple as a reserve means of transport, in the event of the contract for the conveyance of grain by road failing, to secure a sufficient quantity of grain in Eastern Tirhoot before the commencement of the rains. The wisdom of Sir Richard Temple's proposal has been clearly shown, for the contract for transport has partially failed, and without the Railway the supplies for North-Eastern Tirhoot could not have been completed before the rains.

6. We are as yet unable to say with certainty whether we shall be completely successful in storing the whole of the allotments of grain at the local depôts within the given time, but we trust that we shall be able to do so. Sir George Campbell's note on the transport arrangements, which is attached to the fifteenth special narrative, states that the solution of the problem very much depends upon the carrying power of the East India Railway; but he anticipated that "if the " Railway can take without fail 2,500 tons a day as now arranged, we may " expect that all the grain will be stored before the rains, if the monsoon sets in " at the usual time." The officers of the East India Railway Company have exerted themselves to the utmost, and for some weeks that Railway has been taking an average of fully 2,500 tons a day. The total amount despatched by the line up to the evening of the 22nd instant was about 203,000 tons, and there remained about 74,000 tons to go. By the Eastern Bengal Railway about 63,000 tons had been despatched up to the evening of the 22nd instant, and there remained only about 3,500 tons to go.

7. In respect to the amount of our reserve, to which your Lordship alludes in the 5th, 6th, and 7th paragraphs of your despatch, the figures have undergone such frequent, although unavoidable, changes by a revision of the estimates, and by making fresh allotments and fresh purchases, that we fear they are somewhat confusing. The matter now stands as follows:—According to Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 66 of March 28th,* 10,550,000 maunds, or about 388,000 tons, were allotted to the Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye divisions. In addition to the above, the following allotments have since been made:—

	Maunds.
To the Patna district - - - - - -	67,500
" Hazareebagh district - - - - -	25,000
" Manbhoom district (probable, but not final) -	150,000
" Palamow sub-division (Lohardugga district) -	10,000
" Moorshedabad district - - - -	5,000
Total - - -	257,500

or about 9,500 tons.

The total amount of grain allotted to the several distressed districts is, therefore, about 397,500 tons, of which about 50,000 tons are a reserve over and above the calculations of the estimated requirements. We have purchased, or authorised the Government of Bengal to purchase, in all about 490,000 tons. Our unallotted reserve will, therefore, amount to about 92,500 tons, and the total reserve to about 142,500 tons.

Sir Richard Temple's estimates, on which we have mainly relied, have generally been in excess of those made by the local officers; they have been based on an average daily consumption of ¾ths of a seer all round for men, women, and children, which is a high average. Credit, moreover, has not been taken for the very considerable stores of grain which have been imported by zemindars and others with money advanced by Government.

8. We gather from the remarks contained in the 6th paragraph of the despatch under reply that your Lordship is under the impression that when, on the 4th of March, we spoke of the number of persons who are expected to be "on the hands of Government," we intended to include only those who would be likely to be in the receipt of wages or alms, and not that portion of the general public to whom, by reason of the absence of supplies in the local markets, we should have to sell

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* See despatch No. 21 of April 10th, 1874.

grain. Such, however, was not our meaning. When we spoke of the number of persons who would be "on the hands of Government," we included all those for whom we thought it probable we should have to provide food, whether by payment in kind on relief works, by the distribution of food in the form of charitable relief, or, lastly, by the sale of grain. Your Lordship will observe from a perusal of the several minutes which Sir Richard Temple has written that the percentages of the population for whom he recommended that provision should be made in the most distressed districts are very high, being not unfrequently as much as 50 per cent. of their total population. In those tracts we are prepared to sell,—and we believe that the provision we have made will enable us to sell,—sufficient food to provide for the people until supplies are available in the ordinary course of trade.

9. We are now in a position to state that if we succeed in laying down the amount of grain already allotted to the several districts before the rains commence, we shall be able to meet demands considerably in excess of our estimates. Although, according to the latest returns, about 1,185,000 persons are employed on relief works, and over 116,000 are in receipt of charitable relief, the issues of grain from Government stores have, up to the present time, been inconsiderable. The local reserves of food have, therefore, practically been increased by the quantity which we provided for the month of March and a part of April, most of which, as a matter of fact, still remains in the Government store-houses.

10. In the 7th paragraph of the despatch under reply your Lordship alludes to our rough estimate made last November that we might have to provide for 2½ millions of persons for seven months. That estimate was based more on the general results of past experience applied to the whole area affected by the drought than on any attempt to calculate in detail the future liabilities of particular districts. At that time the great rice crop of 1873 had not been all harvested, and the yield was still to some extent a matter of uncertainty. The spring crops were only in course of being sown, and it was impossible for any one to predict with accuracy what the outturn of those crops would be. The estimate was the best which we could make at the time, but it was, of course, liable to subsequent alteration and amendment.

11. Our present estimate, as will be seen from Sir Richard Temple's Minute No. 66 of the 28th of March,* is that about ½ millions will, at the worst period *Page 49. of scarcity, require aid from Government; on the other hand, during a portion of the period of seven months, for the whole of which we estimated that 2½ millions of people would require support, a very much less number will be upon the hands of Government. We are now in the middle of the second month of the seven named in our estimate, and the total number of persons employed on relief works, or in receipt of gratuitous relief, is about 1,200,000, or about half the number for which we estimated last November. The vast majority, moreover, of these have been up to present time supported by money with which they buy food in the local bazars, and not by the issue of Government grain. As your Lordship is already aware, we have thought it desirable to base our more recent estimates on an average daily consumption of three-quarters of a seer a day; hence the necessity arose for increasing our supplies very considerably.

12. As your Lordship has alluded to our expression of disappointment that the arrangements for local transport were in some parts delayed for too long a time, we think that, in justice to Sir George Campbell and his officers, we should make some further remarks upon this subject. The letter from which your Lordship has quoted referred only to the transport arrangements of the Tirhoot district. As your Lordship is aware, the present famine affects more or less severely a very extensive and densely populated tract of country. Over the greater portion of that area we believe the local arrangements for the transport of food and the relief of distress to have been carried out in time. In one limited portion only (Eastern Tirhoot) the distress came on very suddenly, and for a short time outstripped the measures which were in course of adoption to avert it. Although we have thought it our duty to express our sense of disappointment at this partial and temporary failure, we have not considered it necessary, in the interests of the public service, to enquire very particularly upon whom the responsibility rested. We wished to encourage all Government officers to further

exertions rather than to impute blame for any past shortcomings. We fully sympathised with Sir George Campbell and his officers in the great difficulties which they had to encounter,—difficulties which have strained the weak administrative machinery of Bengal to the utmost, and which were more particularly felt in Tirhoot on account of the peculiar habits and characteristics of the people. We felt sure that all, from the Lieutenant-Governor downwards, were exerting themselves to the best of their ability, and that any partial failure arose from errors of judgment, which would be speedily rectified, or from the fact that the difficulties in the way of rapidly organising the necessary machinery complete in all its branches were well-nigh insuperable.

13. In so vast and novel an undertaking it would be unreasonable to expect complete success everywhere. Speaking generally, we are of opinion that the efforts which have been made by the local officers have been very judicious and successful. Moreover, as will be seen from a perusal of the letters quoted in the margin, we have from the first attached the utmost importance to the necessity of making early and complete arrangements for the transport of grain and the organization of the machinery for the distribution of relief; and although we have throughout felt that it would not be in the interests of the public service to interfere or to give minute instructions as to the detail of those arrangements, at the same time we are fully alive to the fact that upon us rested the responsibility not only of giving instructions, but of seeing that they were everywhere carried out. We fully accept this responsibility, and we, therefore, thought that it was unnecessary and, indeed, unjust to the Lieutenant-Governor and his officers to impute serious blame to them on account of the single exception to their generally successful efforts, especially as the failure was temporary, and was speedily remedied.

Despatch to Secretary of State, No. 3 of January 9th, 1874.*

Enclosures to despatch No. 5 of January 16th, 1874.†
- From Government of India to Government of Bengal, No. 82 of January 12th, 1874.
- From Government of Bengal to Government of India, No. 112 S. R. of January 14th, 1874.
- From Government of India to Government of Bengal, No. 83 of January 12th, 1874.
- From Government of Bengal to Government of India, No. 122 S. R. of January 14th, 1874.
- Proceedings at Conference held on January 8th, 1874.

From Government of India to Government of Bengal, No. 126 of January 17th, 1874. (Enclosure to despatch to Secretary of State, No. 6 of January 23rd, 1874.)‡

In respect to Sir George Campbell's personal services, we have already* acknowledged the zeal and ability with which from the first he devoted himself to the arduous task of conducting the operations for the relief of distress, and we have particularly recorded our high appreciation of the manner in which he personally directed and supervised the relief operations on the occasion of his visit to North Behar. As regards the officers who acted under Sir George Campbell's orders, in spite of a temporary failure in one portion of the Tirhoot district, we cannot speak too highly of the zeal, energy, and devotion which they have from the first displayed. These officers deserve our warmest thanks; they deserve, and they will obtain, our cordial support in the performance of their arduous duties.

* Resolution of Government of India, No. 1200 A. of April 8th, 1874. See enclosure 4 to despatch to Secretary of State, No. 21 of April 10th, 1874.§

14. Your Lordship will perceive from the explanations contained in this despatch that since the date of the information, upon which the calculations contained in the despatch under reply were based, we have increased our purchases of grain from 420,000 to about 492,000 tons. We have already bought a larger amount of rice than it will be possible to send up the country by railway before the rains commence. The reserve beyond the allotments which have been already made will be held in store at Calcutta. We have availed ourselves of the discretion which your Lordship placed in our hands as respects further purchases; but, bearing in mind your Lordship's wishes, we shall continue to secure an ample margin to meet contingencies, and we shall not hesitate to order further supplies should there be any probability of their being required. A considerable amount of rice is obtainable from Burma in the months of June and July, when, from the rising of the water in the creeks, rice, which is now stored in the interior, is brought down to the seaports. Moreover, in the abundant markets of Northern India, ample supplies of grain can readily be obtained. We are unwilling to pur-

* See Part I., page 12

† See Part I., pages 138 to 154.

‡ See Part I., page 164.

§ See Parf IV. page 165.

chase largely in those markets, until the necessity has clearly arisen, as by doing so we should raise prices, and thus interfere with the trade between the Punjab and Behar. This trade, although it has lately somewhat fallen off owing to a fall of prices at Patna, is certain to revive again in the very probable contingency of a rise of price at Patna, or a fall in the northern markets.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servants,
(Signed) NORTHBROOK.
NAPIER OF MAGDALA.
B. H. ELLIS.
H. W. NORMAN.
ARTHUR HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.
JOHN INGLIS.

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